

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S1-01-26
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



Date: May 3, 2006

To: National Medicare Education Program Coordinating Committee
All Medicare Advantage Organizations
All Medicare Cost Plans

From: Mary Agnes Laurenco
Director,
Office of Beneficiary Information Services, CMS

RE: Redesign of the Medicare Personal Plan Finder

I am pleased to provide you with the opportunity to become involved in an exciting change planned for the Medicare Personal Plan Finder (MPPF) on www.medicare.gov. The MPPF allows Medicare beneficiaries to compare their Medicare health coverage options. The tool includes information on Original Medicare, Medigap policies, and Medicare Health Plans. You can see the current version of the MPPF at www.medicare.gov/MPPF/.

Attached are several documents, which are described below. We would appreciate receiving any comments on the attachments by **Wednesday, May 24, 2006**. Please send all comments to compchart@cms.hhs.gov.

The redesigned MPPF will go live on Medicare.gov on October 12, 2006. The goals of the redesign are to personalize information, simplify benefit descriptions, make it easier to compare plans, and improve interaction with the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Finder on the web. In addition, the tool will let users enroll in MA-only plans online (currently they can only enroll in MA-Prescription Drug plans online), and include estimated out-of-pocket cost information.

We have completed the first round of focus testing and are preparing for the second round later in June. At this point, we are seeking your input on plan benefit descriptions, and on two of the redesigned MPPF screens. We will continue to seek your input on other aspects of the redesign as we proceed with the project.

Attachment A provides important information you'll need to know when reviewing the documents. In addition, we are asking for your input on a new name for the MPPF, and on the benefit categories we plan to include in the Plan Comparison Report. Details about this request are included in Attachment A. Also attached are:

- Attachment B: revised, simplified benefit descriptions for Original Medicare.
- Attachment C: revised, simplified benefit descriptions for Medicare Health Plans.

- Attachment D: online report summarizing benefits for one plan (“Plan Comparison Report”)
- Attachment E: online report comparing benefits among three plans (“Plan Detail Report”)

I hope you will take the time to provide us with your comments, as they are invaluable to our redesign effort. Thank you in advance for your input.