

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
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CENTER FOR BENEFICIARY CHOICES

To: All Medicare Advantage Organizations, Prescription Drug Plans,
Cost Plans and Demonstrations

From: Gary Bailey, Deputy Director
Center for Beneficiary Choices

Subject: End of the 2006 Part D Enrollment Period – Special Procedures

Date: May 17, 2006

We truly appreciate the efforts made by all plans to make the Initial Enrollment Period for the Medicare prescription drug benefit a major success. Working together, we have achieved our goal of enrolling the vast majority of the Medicare population in a Part D plan during the last 6 months.

Because of heavy last-minute interest in enrolling, CMS is continuing to process a small number of enrollment requests that were made by beneficiaries in a timely fashion but not immediately processed. Thus, over the next few days, CMS will be submitting these enrollment requests to plans via the on-line enrollment center. These requests will include a stamped date based on the time the on-line enrollment process is completed. However, until further notice, please consider all enrollment requests received through the on-line enrollment center as being received on May 15, 2006, and process them accordingly. Plans should be retrieving or downloading these requests on an ongoing basis, but remember that the May 15 receipt date is to be used regardless of when the plan retrieves the enrollment request. Keep in mind that CMS will make a special interim payment in early June for enrollments received by May 24.

Thank you again for your continuing cooperation.