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MEMORANDUM

Date: September 4, 2007

To: Current and New Medicare Advantage (MA) Organizations,
Medicare Cost-based Plans, and Health Plan Demonstrations

From: David Lewis /s/
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Subject: 2008 Model Medicare Advantage Provider Directory

Today CMS is releasing the 2008 model Medicare Advantage (MA) Provider Directory for HMOs, Cost-based Plans and PPOs. All organizations must mail the 2008 Provider Directory to new members upon enrollment and to existing members on an annual basis. The changes made to the 2008 Provider Directory were very minor clarifications based on existing policy (see Attachment 1).

The model MA Provider Directory is intended for use by all MA Organizations, including MA-PDs, to explain how to receive care and provide a listing of doctors, specialists, hospitals, and pharmacies. While use of the model is optional, organizations are strongly encouraged to use the model language without modification; in which case, the document will be reviewed within 10 days. Use of the model without modification means using the model language verbatim. Organizations that do not use the model will have a 45-day review period.

Throughout the model MA Provider Directory, CMS provides areas where the organization must insert plan-specific language or where the organization has the option to customize language to more accurately reflect its plan arrangement. Inserting this information or customizing it as described in the model does not alter the 10-day review period.

The model MA Provider Directory will be posted on the CMS MA marketing website and in HPMS. The CMS MA marketing website is located at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/ManagedCareMarketing/>.

Questions regarding the review of the 2008 model Provider Directory should be referred to your CMS Regional Office.

Attachment 1

SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO THE PROVIDER DIRECTORY

- Clarified sections regarding urgent and emergency care.
- Added language that identifying Medicare providers in the directory that accept Medicaid will assist dual eligible enrollees in obtaining access to providers and covered services.
- Clarified language regarding how the types of providers can be identified in the provider directory.