



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Center for Beneficiary Choices
Medicare Advantage Group

7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21244

DATE: January 15, 2008

TO: Current and Potential Medicare Advantage Organizations, Prescription Drug Plan Sponsors, Employer/Union Direct Contract Sponsors, Cost Based Plans and PACE organizations

FROM: David A. Lewis, Director, Medicare Advantage Group /s/
Cynthia G. Tudor, Director, Medicare Drug Benefits Group /s/
Brenda Tranchida, Director, Employer Policy & Operations Group /s/

RE: Industry Training Teleconference Call for 2009 Part C, Part D and Employer/Union-Only Group Waiver Plan (EGWP) Applications

JOIN THE CMS TELECONFERENCE CALL!

Application Training Update
Wednesday , January 30, 2008
and
Wednesday, February 6, 2008
3:30 – 5:00 PM (EST)

On Wednesday, January 30, 2008, from 3:30 – 5:00 PM EST, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will conduct a Part C and D User Group teleconference call that will provide guidance to the industry on the submission of MA, MA-PD and PDP and EGWP Applications for the 2009 contract year. On Wednesday, February 6, 2008, from 3:30 – 5:00 PM EST, CMS will dedicate the entire Question and Answer time of the Part C & D User Group Call to respond to questions about the 2009 application process.

Goal

The goal of this broadcast is to provide Health Plans, Drug Sponsors, Employers and Unions, and other potential applicants with an update on changes and/or revisions on the following topics:

- Overview of the Part C application requirements and process for the 2009 contract year for Coordinated Care Plans (CCP), Private Fee-For-Service (PFFS), Service Area Expansions (SAE), and Medical Savings Accounts (MSA)
- Overview on the Part D application process for the 2009 contract year
- Overview of the EGWP application process for the 2009 contract year (for employers and unions seeking to directly contract with CMS, Part D Sponsors, MA Organizations and

Section 1876 Cost Plan Sponsors seeking to offer “800 series” employer/union-only group waiver plans)

- HPMS automation of the Part C, Part D and EGWP 2009 applications

Target Audience

New and existing health plans, employers, unions, Part D sponsors, and other interested parties, including Medicare compliance officers and information technology staff seeking to submit Part C, Part D or EGWP applications for the 2009 contract year should participate in this teleconference call.

Technical Information

Call-in information will be sent out prior to the meeting dates by Management Solutions Consulting Group (MSCG), the CMS User Group Call contractor. To subscribe to the CMS User Group Calls, potential applicants should register at www.mscginc.com/registration.

NOTE: Plan sponsors must have a valid CMS issued Contract Number to register for the calls.

Handouts

Handouts for the conference calls will be distributed by MSCG prior to each teleconference.

If you have any questions regarding the technical aspects of the teleconference call, please call Christian Bauer at (410) 786-6043. If you have any questions regarding the programmatic content, please call one of the following contacts:

Part C Issues – Kateisha Martin at (410) 786-4651

Part D Issues – Marla Rothhouse at (410) 786-8063

Employer Group Issues – Usree Bandyopadhyay (410) 786-6650