



PLAN OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY GROUP

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 4, 2008

TO: All Current and Prospective Medicare Advantage, Prescription Drug Plan, Cost, PACE, and Demonstration Organizations

FROM: Cynthia E. Moreno, Director

SUBJECT: Contract Year 2009 Plan Benefit Package/Summary of Benefits Beta Testing

We would like to express our appreciation for the comments and suggestions provided as part of the alpha Plan Benefit Package (PBP) / Summary of Benefits (SB) testing in September 2007. CMS has used those comments as well as feedback obtained throughout the course of the year to implement changes to the PBP/SB software for Contract Year (CY) 2009.

We are now conducting beta testing to ensure that all aspects of the CY 2009 PBP software work as designed, including the generation of the SB sentences. As with past years, we are requesting your assistance in the final testing of the 2009 PBP/SB. Your input has been critical to the development of the CY 2009 PBP/SB, and we strongly encourage you to participate in this testing process. **Testing will take place from Monday, February 4, 2008 through Friday, February 15, 2008.** You may download the test CY 2009 PBP software, detailed list of CY 2009 PBP/SB changes, list of known CY2009 Beta Software Bugs/Errors, list of CY 2009 SB Original Medicare sentences, CY 2009 SB Crosswalk and Sentences and CY 2009 SB Introduction Templates at the following Internet test website:

http://hpmstest.fu.com/test/pbp2009_beta/home.html

Please do not insert a “www” in front of this URL.

For technical assistance with downloading and installing the test CY 2009 PBP, please call the HPMS Help Desk at 1-800-220-2028.

It is extremely important that you pay close attention to the instructions for downloading in order to preserve your production CY 2008 PBP data.

Once you have completed your testing, you should access the website (listed above) to submit your comments and/or error reports to CMS. For comments, you will be asked to

provide the PBP Section/Function and corresponding comment. For errors, you will be asked to provide the PBP Section/Function, the PBP question, the error message received, whether the error could be replicated, and the order of events leading up to the error. CMS will use this information to correct the errors and make critical changes to the system before deployment.

If you have difficulties accessing the website listed above to submit your comments and/or error reports, CMS will also accept this information via e-mail at hpms@cms.hhs.gov by the same due date. Please indicate "CY 2009 PBP/SB Beta Testing Comments" in the subject line.

By either method, we must receive your testing results by **COB on Friday, February 15, 2008** in order to complete the CY 2009 PBP software for its production release on April 11, 2008.

Thank you for your assistance with the final testing phase of the CY 2009 PBP/SB. If you have any questions regarding this memo, you may contact Sara Walters at either 410-786-3330 or Sara.Walters@cms.hhs.gov. We welcome your comments and feedback so that we may continue to improve the PBP/SB.