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

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**SUBJECT:** Announcement of Early Summer Software Release

CMS will be implementing software improvements to the eligibility, enrollment and payment systems early this summer to support the Medicare Modernization Act (MMA). As part of this effort, systems changes have been scheduled for implementation as of June 15, 2008 that affect Plan exchanges with CMS starting that same calendar month. This letter provides information regarding these changes so that Plans may assess the impact on their organization and accommodate the changes described below. In general, all Part D Sponsors will see more frequent updates of low-income subsidy (LIS) eligibility. In addition, those Prescription Drug Plan (PDP) sponsors that qualify for auto/facilitated enrollment will see such enrollments at various times throughout the month, rather than just once a month.

The changes for the June release are summarized below.

#### **More Frequent Processing for LIS Deeming and Auto/Facilitated Enrollments**

CMS is committed to promoting effective, timely access to the Medicare prescription drug benefit for low-income beneficiaries. This systems release focuses on increasing the frequency of data submissions from States to CMS to identify dual eligibles needing LIS and auto/facilitated enrollment, and increasing the frequency of CMS processing of those files for those purposes.

CMS relies on data submitted by State Medicaid Agencies to identify individuals who are dual eligible. Specifically, data from monthly MMA State Files are used to deem individuals for the low-income subsidy and to auto-enroll or facilitate their enrollment into PDPs. The MMA State Files are currently submitted once per month, between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. Once the MMA State Files have been submitted by all 51 States, they are processed by CMS early the following month. Plans are notified via the weekly Transaction Reply Report (TRR) of the LIS deeming and auto/facilitated enrollment results. In addition, PDPs that qualify for auto-/facilitated

enrollment are provided a monthly PDP Notification File for Auto- and Facilitated Enrollments. (Please see file layout E.25 in the Plan Communications User Guide for details.) This file includes address and full name data that is not transmitted via the weekly TRR.

In the June release, CMS is addressing the data lags inherent in the current monthly process by implementing functionality for the daily submission and processing of MMA State Files. As a result:

- State Medicaid Agencies will be able to submit multiple files throughout the month and on any day of the month.
- CMS will process files submitted by the State Medicaid Agencies on a daily basis.
- CMS will also perform LIS deeming and auto-/facilitated enrollment on a daily basis.

As a result of these changes, Part D Sponsors will receive information about the result of LIS deeming on the weekly TRRs released throughout the month, not just on the first weekly TRR of the month as is currently the case. Those PDPs that qualify for auto-/facilitated enrollment may receive the PDP Notification File for Auto- and Facilitated Enrollments multiple times each month.

During this systems update, States will still be limited to submitting MMA State Files from June 15<sup>th</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup>, but CMS will begin daily processing of those files on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Then, starting July 1<sup>st</sup>, States will be able to submit data on any day of the month. Thus, starting June 15<sup>th</sup>, plans should expect to receive LIS data throughout the month, and designated PDPs should expect to receive multiple PDP Notification Files throughout the month.

The standard naming conventions for the PDP Notification File will be modified as follows:

**Gentran mailbox:** P.Rxxxxxx.#APDP4.Dyymmdd.Thhmsst.pn

**Connect:Direct (Mainframe):** zzzzzzzz.Rxxxxxx.#APDP4.Dyymmdd.Thhmsst

**Connect:Direct (Non-Mainframe):** [directory]Rxxxxxx.#APDP4.Dyymmdd.Thhmsst

**Note:** The systems changes described above will not change the file layout of the PDP Notification File; only the frequency of the file transmission and the file naming conventions will be impacted.

Plans are encouraged to contact the MMA Help Desk for any issues encountered during the systems update process. Please direct any questions or concerns to the MMA Help Desk at 1-800-927-8069 or email at [mmahelp@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:mmahelp@cms.hhs.gov).