



OFFICE OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

DATE: June 26, 2008

TO: All Medicare Advantage Organizations, Cost Plans and Demonstrations included in the 2009 *Medicare & You* Handbook

FROM: Robin King
Director, Office of External Affairs

SUBJECT: 2009 Medicare & You Handbook – Plan Data Expansion

To ensure that beneficiaries have the information they need to compare plans, CMS is expanding the number of Medicare Health Plan data elements that will appear in the 2009 *Medicare & You* handbook.

In the 2009 “Medicare Health Plans” section, the following information will display about each contract/plan:

- Organization Marketing Name (as you describe it in HPMS.)
- Plan Type (as defined in HPMS)
- One CAHPS measure, if available
- Plan Name (as you describe it in HPMS)
- Prospective Member Customer Service Phone Number (as you enter it in HPMS)
- Plan Service Area (as you describe it in the plan geographic name field in HPMS)
- Monthly Premium (a combination of your Part C & D premiums)
- Out-of-Pocket Limit? (based on how you defined it in your PBP). The language indicates whether the plan has defined any out-of-pocket limits and will read either “Yes” or “No.” General text in the handbook will explain out-of-pocket limits.
- Primary Care Copay/Coinsurance (as you defined it in your PBP). These amounts will include in and out of network costs, if applicable.
- Specialist Visit Copay/Coinsurance (as you defined it in your PBP). These amounts will include in and out of network costs, if applicable.
- Routine Physical Copay/Coinsurance (as you defined it in your PBP, or “No” if this service is not covered as an enhanced benefit)
- Part B Chemo and Other Part B Drugs Copay/Coinsurance (as you defined it in your PBP)
- Ambulance Services Copay/Coinsurance (as you defined it in your PBP)
- Home Health Services Copay/Coinsurance (as you defined it in your PBP)
- DME Item Copay/Coinsurance (as you defined it in your PBP)

As in past years, you will receive multiple memos in August and September regarding your organization’s opportunity to preview how your plan data will appear in the handbook. These memos will include additional information regarding all handbook clusters (that is, Health Plans,

Prescription Drug Plans, Medical Savings Account Plans, and Special Needs Plans). This year, the preview period will be **Monday, September 8th through Wednesday, September 10th**. Please prepare now to review your plan data as early as possible during the preview period to ensure any updates are reflected in the various materials and tools available to Medicare beneficiaries.

Thank you for your participation.

If you have questions related to where this data is captured in the Plan Benefit Package (PBP) software, please contact Sara Walters at 410-786-3330 or at sara.walters@cms.hhs.gov. If you have any questions about the data that appears in the *Medicare & You* handbook, please contact Susan Hollman at 410-786-7852 or at susan.hollman@cms.hhs.gov.