



**Office of Beneficiary Information Services**

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**Date:** September 9, 2008  
**To:** Medicare Advantage Plans  
Medicare Cost Plans  
**From:** Anita Panicker, Acting Director, Website Project Management Group  
**Subject:** Plan Preview Dates for 2009 Medicare Options Compare

**Please Note: This memo ONLY pertains to the preview of health and drug benefit information submitted by Medicare Advantage (MA) Organizations and Medicare Cost Plans for publishing on Medicare Options Compare on [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov). MA plans and Medicare Cost Plans that cover the Part D benefit have received a separate memo containing information about the preview of drug pricing information for the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Finder.**

This memorandum gives a timeline and instructions for previewing plan benefit and cost sharing data and out-of-pocket estimates for display in the 2009 Medicare Options Compare (MOC) on Medicare.gov. All MA Organizations and any Medicare Cost Plans that filed a 2009 Plan Benefit Package should preview their plan data for the MOC to ensure that the plan's 2009 data will display accurately on Medicare.gov. The 2009 MOC is scheduled to go live on Medicare.gov on October 9, 2008.

Remember, this preview includes data on Medicare Advantage and Medicare Cost Plans (H# or R#); it does not include data on Prescription Drug Plans (S#).

**Plan Preview Schedule**

The schedule for plan previews through November is as follows. These dates, as well as all dates beyond November, will be posted on the HPMS Home page.

MOC Release Date	Plan Preview Date(s)
October 9	September 11-15 and September 22-25
November 6	October 24-27
November 20	November 6-7

## How to Preview Benefit/Cost Sharing Data

To preview plan benefit/cost sharing data:

- Access the MOC Benefits Preview on HPMS through the following path:  

Plan Bids>Bene Education Data Previews> MOC Benefits Preview>CY 2009
- Review the plan data. If it is accurate, concur during the preview. If anything is wrong with the benefit data, non-concur.
- When you concur:
  - Your plan will be displayed on Medicare.gov. You do not need to take any additional action for the rest of the benefit year in order to have your plan continue to be displayed on Medicare.gov.
- When you non-concur:
  - State the reason for non-concurrence because it significantly increases the likelihood of our being able to work with you to correct anything that may need to be corrected in time to display your plan on MOC in October.
  - Your plan will remain suppressed until/unless you concur in a future plan preview. You must concur in a future preview period when you are ready to have the plan displayed on Medicare.gov.
  - Non-concurrence it means that all benefit and cost sharing data (but not plan contact information) will be suppressed. If the plan covers drugs, it is also suppressed in the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Finder.

## Benefit/Cost Sharing Preview Tips

- **It is to your benefit to preview your data during the first preview period (September 11-15). Don't wait until the second preview!**

If you need to non-concur and do so during the first preview, you may still have time to get any PBP-related problems resolved in time to concur during the second preview and to have your 2009 data displayed on Medicare.gov in October. If you wait until the second preview and find any problems in your PBP, you will not have time to make corrections and will have to have your plan suppressed in October.

- The MOC pulls all plan benefit and cost sharing data from the PBP. If your PBP is wrong, then the data in the MOC will be wrong. Thus, if you determine that your PBP is wrong, you need to non-concur during the preview and work with CMS' Medicare Drug and Health Plan Contract Administration Group (or the Medicare Drug Benefit and C & D Data Group for prescription drug benefits) to get the PBP fixed and re-uploaded as quickly as possible. After the PBP is fixed, re-uploaded, and approved by CMS, then you

should concur during the next available plan preview period so that the plan data will show up on the web.

- If your plan name, contact information or Web Site address is not displaying correctly in the MOC, do not non-concur for that reason. You can easily correct this information and are responsible for changing this information in HPMS so that the MOC will display the correct information.

- To change your Customer Service Contact for Prospective Members phone number (which is what is used on the Web Site), follow this path:

Plan Bids>Bid Submission>Contract Year 2009>Manage Plans>Edit Contact Data

- To change your Plan Name or Plan Geographic Name, follow this path:

Plan Bids>Bid Submission>Contract Year 2009>Manage Plans>Edit Marketing Data

- To change your Organization or Plan Web Site address, follow the appropriate path below:

Organization Marketing Web Site Address

Contract Management> Basic Contract Management> Select Contract Number> Org. Marketing Data

Plan Marketing Web Site Address

Plan Bids> Bid Submission> Contract Year 2009> Manage Plans> Edit Marketing Data> Select Contract Number> Update Plan Marketing Data

## **How to Review Estimated Out-of-Pocket Cost Data**

To preview estimated out-of-pocket cost (OOPC) data:

- Access the MOC OOPC Preview on HPMS through the following path:

Plan Bids>Bene Education Data Previews> MOC OOPC Preview>CY 2009

- Review the data. If you have any questions about the data, send them to [compchart@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:compchart@cms.hhs.gov).

If you have any comments or questions about how your 2009 plan data appears during your preview, please send them to [compchart@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:compchart@cms.hhs.gov). Thank you.