

## ***Key Projected Dates in the implementation of Title I and Title II***

"CMS has outlined important dates for the implementation of the Medicare Modernization Act. This calendar has been posted on the CMS web site at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/healthplans/letters>, and has addressed the timeline for primarily Part C. In an effort to provide more comprehensive information that covers the overall implementation of Title I and Title II, CMS has posted a revised 2006. This new calendar will be updated periodically. We invite you to review the calendar and note the timelines and deadlines for participating in the new Title I program as well as the new Medicare Health Plan (formerly Medicare Advantage and Medicare Cost Plans) program."

Gary Bailey, Deputy Director, Plan Policy and Operations  
(Revised June 2, 2005)

<b>2005</b>	
<b><i>May</i></b>	<p>6 Automated information available on 1-800 Medicare about the extra help paying for Medicare prescription drug coverage.</p> <p>13 CMS posts online information tool on 1-800 Medicare for the extra help paying for Medicare prescription drug coverage.</p> <p>17 <b>Health Plans Open Door Forum</b> – non-specific open forum for managed care plans serving Medicare.</p> <p>20 <b>Drug Coverage</b> - CMS begins accepting 2006 PBP and BPT upload into HPMS. <b>MA</b> -CMS begins accepting CY 2006 Bids via HPMS.</p> <p>20-June 3 Mailing to people with Medicare and Medicaid and Medicare Savings Program enrollees eligible for extra help paying for Medicare prescription drug coverage (except those in FL, IL, MD, SC, VT and WI).</p>

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<b>2005</b>	
<b>June</b>	<p>1 <b>Retiree Drug Subsidy (RDS)</b> – Website is live.</p> <p>6 <b>Employer Bids</b> – Employer/union group bids due for Regional MA-PDs.  <b>Employer Formularies</b> – Formularies for employer/union direct contract PDPs and employer-only group PDPs, MA-PDs and Cost plans must be submitted to CMS.  <b>Drug Coverage</b> – Part D bids are due for all plans offering Part D (including PACE and cost plans).</p> <p>7 <b>MA-MA Organizations</b> should begin to submit ANOCs and SBs for initial review.  <b>Cost - Medicare Cost plans</b> should begin to submit ANOCs and SBs for review and approval prior to the posting of Medicare Personal Plan Finder.</p> <p>8 <b>MA/Drug Coverage</b> – Training conference call for all PDPs and MA-PDs – Provide information regarding the format means of submitting the drug pricing and pharmacy network data to support the price comparison website. CMS will also provide training for PDPs and MA-PDs on the Online Enrollment Center during this training session.</p> <p>9 <b>Retiree Drug Subsidy</b> – Webcast/Satellite Policy Update on the RDS.</p> <p>15 <b>Retiree Drug Subsidy</b> – RDS Center Hosts National Conference Call with Plan Sponsors.  <b>MA - For 2005 local MAO applicants</b>, whose applications were submitted by February 15<sup>th</sup> or March 1<sup>st</sup>, submission of materials to cure state licensure/certification and network adequacy issues is due</p> <p>7-20 Mailing to people in FL, IL, MD, SC, VT, and WI who are automatically eligible for the extra help paying for Medicare prescription drug coverage.</p> <p>20-30 Mailing to people with SSI who are automatically eligible for the extra help paying for Medicare prescription drug coverage.</p> <p>23 <b>Basic Training for Prescription Drug Plans on the Enrollment and Payment Process (CMS Headquarters, Baltimore, Maryland).</b></p> <p>30 <b>MA/Cost-Final day</b> for Medicare Advantage organizations and Medicare cost plans to submit CY 2005 Marketing materials for CMS’s review and approval.  <b>MA-</b> CMS distributes CY 2006 Summary of Benefits instructions to the industry.  <b>Drug Card</b> – Last drug card application date to receive prorated credit amount of \$450.</p>

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<b>2005</b>	
<b><i>July</i></b>	<p><b>Drug Coverage</b> – Drug claims training for Part D providers begins – will occur once per week in 4 locations.</p> <p>1 <b>Employer Bids</b> – Employer/union direct contract PDPs, and employer-only group Local MA-PD and cost plan bids due.</p> <p>12-13 <b>Retiree Drug Subsidy –Technical Training Conference (Dallas, Texas)</b></p> <p>14 <b>Health Plans Open Door Forum</b> – non-specific open forum for managed care plans serving Medicare.</p> <p>15 <b>MA</b> – For <b>2006 local MAO applicants</b>, whose applications were submitted by March 23rd, submission of materials to cure state licensure/certification and network adequacy issues is due. One exception to this date is the follow-up pharmacy access analyses which, in accordance with the Part D application, are due August 1, 2005.</p> <p><b>MA/Drug Coverage</b> – PDPs and MA-PDs submit electronic test data files for the price compare website.</p> <p>18-20 <b>Prescription Drug Event and Risk Adjustment Data Submission Training (Baltimore, MD)</b></p> <p>26-28 <b>Prescription Drug Event and Risk Adjustment Data Submission Training (Las Vegas, NV)</b></p>
<b><i>August</i></b>	<p>1 <b>Retiree Drug Subsidy</b> - Retiree drug subsidy applications available to employers/unions on RDS Website.</p> <p>1-3 <b>Prescription Drug Event and Risk Adjustment Data Submission Training (Chicago, IL)</b></p> <p>3 <b>Drug Coverage-</b> Release of National Average Monthly Bid Amount and call for reallocation of rebates for MA-PD plans (if needed).</p> <p>5 <b>MA/Cost-</b> 2006 Model EOCs will be available to all plans, MA and Cost via HPMS.</p> <p>9-11 <b>Prescription Drug Event and Risk Adjustment Data Submission Training (New Orleans, LA)</b></p> <p>29 <b>MA/Drug Coverage</b> – PDPs and MA-PDs submit second round of electronic test data files for the price compare website.</p> <p>29 – September 1 <b>Annual Enrollment and Payment Conference for Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug Plans (Hyatt Regency, Baltimore, MD)</b></p>

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<b>2005</b>	
<i>September</i>	<p>13-15 <b>MA/Cost-</b> MA organizations and, if applicable, Medicare cost plans, preview the 2006 MPPF plan data in HPMS prior to Internet release.</p> <p>14 <b>MA/Drug Coverage</b> – Tentative date for approval of packages.</p> <p>15 MA, MA-PD and PDP contracts signed. <b>MA-</b> MA Orgs should submit ANOCs and SBs for final review. <b>Health Plans Open Door Forum</b> – non-specific open forum for managed care plans serving Medicare.</p> <p>16 <b>MA/Drug Coverage</b> – PDPs and MA-PDs submit third set of electronic test data files for the price compare website. This data set will be used for the final testing and data preview for the PDPs and MA-PDs.</p> <p>Mid Sept <b>MA/Drug Coverage</b>—Enrollment and Payment conference – Baltimore.</p> <p>30 <b>Drug Card</b> – Last drug card application date to receive prorated credit amount of \$300. <b>Retiree Drug Subsidy</b> – Retiree drug subsidy applications due for plan sponsors with benefit years ending in 2006.</p>

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<b>2005</b>	
<b><i>October</i></b>	<p>1 <b>MA/Cost-</b> MA Organizations and Medicare cost plans may begin marketing CY 2006 benefits to Medicare beneficiaries using CMS-approved marketing materials. <b>MA/Cost-</b> MA Organizations and Medicare cost plans are required to include information in CY 2005 marketing and enrollment materials to inform potential enrollees about the possibility of plan changes beginning January 1, 2006. <b>Drug Coverage -</b> Marketing and enrollment of Part D benefits begin.</p> <p>6 <b>MA/Drug Coverage</b> – PDPs and MA-PDs submit electronic production data files for the price compare website. This is the data that will be made available to the public through the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Finder tool on 10/13/2005.</p> <p>7-20 Medicare &amp; You for CY 2006, which will contain health plan benefit and cost information, received in homes.</p> <p>13 Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Finder website goes live. Medicare Personal Plan Finder data goes on web.</p> <p>15 1-800 Customer Service Representatives capable of secure transactions (able to view to personal beneficiary information, such as their premium details, whether or not they are claimed by employer coverage, etc.). <b>Cost-</b> Final day for Medicare cost plan to send non-model ANOCs to CMS Regional Offices.</p> <p>21 <b>Retiree Drug Subsidy</b> – Clean retiree drug subsidy applications received on or before 9/30/05 are approved/rejected.</p> <p>27 - November 10 Autoenrollment mailing to people with Medicare and Medicaid.</p> <p>30 All organizations must cease marketing CY 2005 plans through public media.</p> <p>31 CY 2006 ANOCs (with SBs) are due to all MA members.</p>
<b><i>November</i></b>	<p>15 – May 15, 2006 Open enrollment</p> <p>16 <b>Health Plans Open Door Forum</b> – non-specific open forum for managed care plans serving Medicare.</p>
<b><i>December</i></b>	<p>1 <b>Cost-</b>CY 2006 ANOCs w/ SBs are due to all cost plan members</p> <p>17 <b>MA/Cost</b> Final day for MA organizations and Medicare cost plans to send non-model EOCs to CMS RO.</p> <p>31 <b>Drug Card</b> – Last drug card application date to receive prorated credit amount of \$150.</p>

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<b>2006</b>	
<b><i>January</i></b>	1 Effective date for 2006 plan benefits to begin. 1 - June 30 Except under a Special enrollment period, current members may elect a change in health plans only once.
<b><i>February</i></b>	28 <b>Retiree Drug Subsidy</b> – Retiree drug subsidy payments begin.