

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
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CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

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

FROM: Cynthia G. Tudor, Ph.D., Director, Medicare Drug Benefit and C & D Data Group
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SUBJECT: Invitation to Provide Feedback on the CY 2009 Bid Submission Process in HPMS and the CY 2009 Bid Pricing (Actuarial) Requirements

DATE: August 11, 2008

CMS invites all Medicare Advantage (MA), demonstration, 1876 cost, PACE, and Prescription Drug Plan (PDP) organizations and certifying actuaries to provide feedback on the Contract Year (CY) 2009 bid submission process in the Health Plan Management System (HPMS). CMS is also soliciting feedback on the CY 2009 actuarial bid requirements. Specifically, we are seeking comments and suggestions regarding the following areas:

- Plan Benefit Package/Summary of Benefits (PBP/SB) software;
- HPMS Bid Submission module, which includes functions such as plan creation, bid upload, plan and formulary crosswalks, substantiation and actuarial certification uploads, and service area verification;
- Medicare Advantage (MA) Bid Pricing Tool (BPT);
- Prescription Drug (PD) Bid Pricing Tool (BPT);
- Two Year Lookback Form;
- CMS instructions regarding the completion of the BPTs;
- Actuarial certifications, documentation requirements, and any other actuarial issues related to the bidding process; and
- HPMS bid and benefit reports.

CMS has scheduled the feedback period to take place from **Monday, August 11, 2008** through **Friday, September 5, 2008**. As with prior years, an online Internet application is available to support the collection of your comments and suggestions.

To provide comments on the CY 2009 bid process, including the PBP, please visit:
http://hpmstest.fu.com/test/bid2009_lessons_learned/bid2009_lessons_start.asp

To provide comments on the BPT, please visit:
http://hpmstest.fu.com/test/BPT2009_Lessons_Learned/BPT2009_lessons_start.asp

As a reminder, the comment websites are accessible via the Internet. HPMS access is not required.

We strongly encourage you to take this opportunity to provide your feedback. Your comments and suggestions will be invaluable as we work toward making improvements for the CY 2010 bid-related software and processes.

If you have any questions, please contact the HPMS Help Desk at hpms@cms.hhs.gov. Thank you for your participation.