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

CENTER FOR DRUG AND HEALTH PLAN CHOICE

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 4, 2009

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

FROM: Cynthia G. Tudor, Ph.D., Director
                 Medicare Drug Benefit and C & D Data Group

SUBJECT: Contract Year 2010 Plan Benefit Package/Summary of Benefits Beta Testing

We would like to express our appreciation for the comments and suggestions provided as part of the alpha Plan Benefit Package (PBP) / Summary of Benefits (SB) testing in September 2008. CMS has used those comments as well as feedback obtained throughout the course of the year to implement changes to the PBP/SB software for Contract Year (CY) 2010.

We are now conducting beta testing to ensure that all aspects of the CY 2010 PBP software work as designed, including the generation of the SB sentences. As with past years, we are requesting your assistance in the final testing of the 2010 PBP/SB. Your input has been critical to the development of the CY 2010 PBP/SB, and we strongly encourage you to participate in this testing process. **Testing will take place from Wednesday, February 4, 2009 through Friday, February 13, 2009**. You may download the test CY 2010 PBP software, detailed list of CY 2010 PBP/SB changes, list of pending CY2010 PBP/SB changes, list of known CY 2010 Beta Software Bugs/Errors, list of CY 2010 SB Original Medicare sentences, CY 2010 SB Crosswalk and Sentences, and CY 2010 SB Introduction Templates at the following Internet test website:

http://hpmstest.fu.com/test/PBP2010_Beta/home.html

Please do not insert a "www" in front of this URL.

For technical assistance with downloading and installing the test CY 2010 PBP, please call the HPMS Help Desk at 1-800-220-2028.

You must pay close attention to the instructions for downloading this software in order to preserve your production CY 2009 PBP data. It is imperative that you retain your CY 2009 PBP databases if you intend to utilize the new year-to-year plan copy functionality included with the CY 2010 PBP software. The year-to-year plan copy functionality will not work if you do not have your CY 2009 PBP database, and CMS will not rebuild your local 2009 database.

Once you have completed your testing, you should access the website (listed above) to document and submit any technical errors. You will be asked to provide the PBP Section/Function, the PBP question, the error message received, whether the error could be replicated, and the order of events leading up to the error. CMS will use this information to correct the errors and make critical changes to the system before deployment.

Thank you for your assistance with the final testing phase of the CY 2010 PBP/SB. If you have any questions regarding this memo, you may contact Sara Walters at either 410-786-3330 or Sara.Walters@cms.hhs.gov. We welcome your comments and feedback so that we may continue to improve the PBP/SB.