

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



CENTER FOR DRUG and HEATH PLAN CHOICE

TO: All Part D Sponsors

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

SUBJECT: Coordination of Benefits (COB) Notification Process

DATE: July 21, 2009

The purpose of this communication is to notify Part D sponsors of the elimination of a requirement associated with the new coordination of benefits (COB) notification process described in the final 2010 Call Letter issued in March of this year. On pp. 78-79 of the Call Letter, we discussed a new process for COB notification to replace the current beneficiary survey. Based on our receipt of questions concerning the direction to provide notification even when there is no other coverage information on the COB file, we have reconsidered this requirement.

As a result, we are requiring sponsors to request beneficiary confirmation only in those instances when other prescription drug coverage information is present on the COB file. We believe this change is consistent with the problem we are trying to solve; that is, improving the quality of the COB data by depending on the most reliable source(s) of other coverage information.

Part D sponsors electing to use the new approach in 2009 should incorporate this change in doing so. If you have any questions concerning this memorandum, please contact Deborah Larwood at 410-786-9500 or by email at Deborah.Larwood@cms.hhs.gov.