



CENTER FOR MEDICARE

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN REQUEST

February 28, 2018

Contract ID: S5795

Legal Entity Name: USABLE MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

Shirl Welch

601 Gaines Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

VIA EMAIL: smwelch@arkbluecross.com

RE: Failure to Comply with CMS CY2018 Bid Instructions

Dear Shirl Welch:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is issuing a request for USABLE Mutual Insurance Company, (“USABLE”), which operates the Prescription Drug Plan (PDP) contract identified above, to develop and implement a corrective action plan (CAP) to address the organization’s failure to comply with CY2018 Part D bid submission requirements.

In the 2018 Call Letter (released on April 3, 2017, via the Health Plan Management System (HPMS)) and in an HPMS memo, entitled *Release of Contract Year (CY) 2018 Bid Upload Functionality in HPMS* (released on May 5, 2017), CMS provided instructions for submitting bid, initial actuarial certification, and benefit certification information. Part D program regulations at 42 C.F.R. § 423.265(c) state that each potential Part D sponsor must submit bids (and supplemental information specified by CMS) that reflect the features (e.g., premium amount, cost sharing) and projected cost estimates of each benefit package it expects to offer. For CY2018, sponsors provided their bid information through three different submissions: a proposed formulary, a Bid Pricing Tool (BPT), and a Plan Benefit Package (PBP) submitted together by the statutory June 5, 2017 deadline. In general, the PBP describes the structure of a proposed benefit package (e.g., co-pay amounts, deductibles) while the BPT describes the underlying basis used to calculate the price of the benefit package. The information in all three of these submissions must combine to reflect a consistent benefit package.

Additionally, pursuant to 42 C.F.R. § 423.505(k)(4), the sponsor’s CEO or CFO must submit a certification (referred to as the “benefit certification”) that the information provided in each bid is accurate, complete, and truthful.

Organizations are responsible for ensuring that complete and accurate CY 2018 bids were submitted by the June 5, 2017 deadline. Yet, the Part D portion of USABLE’s initial PDP bid (specifically, the portion associated with Employer Group Waiver Plans – EGWPs) failed to constitute a complete bid. This deficiency was discovered when CMS’ review of the bid revealed that the EGWP portion was not accompanied by the required PBPs. The need for CMS to work with USABLE to correct its CY2018 bid to include this fundamental plan element indicates that it failed to comply with Part D regulatory requirements and follow CMS bid instructions.

CMS requests that your organization take corrective action to come into compliance. The first opportunity for USABLE to demonstrate that it has taken the necessary corrective action will be the 2019 bid cycle. Therefore, CMS requests that USABLE address these areas of noncompliance in the spring of 2018 leading up to the 2019 bid cycle. CMS will rely on USABLE's 2019 bid submission to determine whether the corrective action plan has been successfully implemented. CMS will consider the CAP closed once the Division of Formulary and Benefit Operations has determined that USABLE's 2019 bid submission demonstrates that it has effectively resolved the issues described above. In addition to the operational consequences stated above, should your organization fail to be in compliance with these requirements in the future, CMS may consider taking enforcement actions in the form of the imposition of intermediate sanctions (e.g., the suspension of marketing and enrollment activities) or civil money penalties or the issuance of a contract termination notice.

Please be aware that this compliance notice will be included in the record of your organization's past Medicare contract performance, which CMS will consider as part of our review of any application for new or expanded Medicare contracts your organization may submit. For past performance analysis purposes, this is considered a Part D issue without beneficiary impact. CMS notes that we are issuing this compliance notice based on information that we obtained from sources other than the sponsor's own self-disclosure.

If you have any questions about this notice, please contact Michael Neuman at (410) 786-7069 or michael.neuman@cms.hhs.gov and copy your account manager.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amy Larrick Chavez-Valdez', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Amy Larrick Chavez-Valdez, Director

Medicare Drug Benefit and C&D Data Group

CC via email:

Eric Hansen, CMS

Scott Nelson, CMS