

**Clarification for 2007 Retail Pharmacy Access Submission
Guidance for New MA-PD Applicants and MA-PD Applicants Seeking Service Area
Expansions**

This document is provided as a clarification to the 2007 Pharmacy Access Submission due to CMS by close of business on March 20, 2006. MA-PD Applicants completing the Pharmacy Access Submission should follow the instructions provided below for the retail access portion of this submission.

It is a Part D requirement that the relevant retail pharmacy access standards be met at the plan level. The March 20, 2006 Part D application submission and review occurs prior to the PBP and bid submission process.

New MA-PD applicants or MA-PD seeking Service Area Expansions for Part D should submit their pharmacy access analyses at the contract level, including the entire service area for the contract. CMS will review retail pharmacy access at the plan level at a future time, as needed, and as a part of routine audit processes.

GeoAccess reports provided at the contract level should include detailed enrollment (i.e., number of beneficiaries) and provider information (i.e., the number of contracted pharmacies) at the county level. These reports should be provided in a manner consistent with the format and content required in the instructions for Submission of Pharmacy Access Analyses. The only difference being that the reports will be provided for the entire contracted area.

For further information please contact Dennis Hodges at (410) 786-3048.