

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Center for Beneficiary Choices
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MEDICARE PLAN ACCOUNTABILITY GROUP

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

FROM: Cynthia E. Moreno, Director, Plan Oversight & Accountability Group

DATE: February 21, 2006

SUBJECT: Contract Year 2007 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 January 2006. CMS has used those comments as well as feedback obtained throughout the course of the year to implement our changes to the PBP/SB software for Contract Year (CY) 2007.

We are now conducting beta testing to ensure that all aspects of the CY 2007 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 2007 PBP/SB. Your input has been critical to the development of the CY 2007 PBP/SB, and we strongly encourage you to participate in this testing process. **Testing will take place from Wednesday, February 22, 2006 to Friday, March 3, 2006.** You may download the test CY 2007 PBP software, detailed list of CY 2007 PBP/SB changes, list of CY 2007 SB sentences, and CY 2007 SB Introduction Templates at the following test website:

http://hpmstest.fu.com/test/pbp2007_beta/home.html

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

The test CY 2007 PBP is being made available on the Internet. As a result, you do not need to access this site via the HPMS on the Medicare Data Communications Network (MDCN). For technical assistance with downloading and installing the test CY 2007 PBP, please call the HPMS Help Desk at 1-800-220-2028.

It is extremely important that you pay close attention to the instructions for downloading in order to preserve your production CY 2006 PBP data.

Once you have completed your testing, you should access the website (listed above) to submit your comments and/or error reports to CMS. For comments, you will be asked to

provide the PBP Section/Function and corresponding comment. For errors, you will be asked to provide the PBP Section/Function, the PBP question, the error message received, whether the error could be duplicated, 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.

If you have difficulties accessing the website listed above to submit your comments and/or error reports, CMS will also accept this information via e-mail at hpms@nerdvana.fu.com by the same due date. Please indicate “**CY 2007 PBP/SB Beta Testing Comments**” in the subject line.

By either method, we must receive your testing results by **COB on Friday, March 3, 2006** in order to complete the CY 2007 PBP software for its production release on April 7, 2006.

Thank you for your assistance with the final testing phase of the CY 2007 PB/SB. We welcome your comments and feedback so that we may continue to improve the PBP/SB.