

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
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CENTER FOR BENEFICIARY CHOICES

DATE: August 10, 2006

TO: Medicare Advantage Organizations
1876 Cost Plans
Demonstrations
Prescription Drug Plans

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SUBJECT: Annual Notice of Change (ANOCs) Models

Today we are releasing the 2007 Annual Notice of Change models for Medicare Advantage Organizations, Demonstrations, 1876 Medicare Cost Plans and Prescription Drug Plans. The ANOCs include specific changes in Medicare and plan benefits, plan premiums and plan rules effective January 1, 2007. In particular, the model ANOCs contain information specific to the Medicare Part D benefit, open enrollment period limitations and important information for beneficiaries receiving extra help.

All organizations must ensure that members receive the ANOC with the Summary of Benefits (SB) by October 31, 2006. Medicare Cost plans must ensure that members receive the ANOC (with the SB) by December 1, 2006. Prescription Drug Plans and Medicare Advantage-Prescription Drug Plans must include an abridged or comprehensive formulary with the mailing of their ANOC and SB.

The use of CMS model language is optional. However, organizations are strongly encouraged to use model documents in order to receive a 10-day review. Due to the volume of materials submitted during the fall marketing campaign, submissions of non-model ANOCs will likely take the full 45 days to review.

If you have any questions about the ANOC models, please contact your regional office plan manager or account manager.