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### MEMORANDUM

**Date:** September 21, 2006

**Memorandum to:** All Part D Sponsors (except Employer and PACE Plans)

**From:** Cynthia Tudor, Ph.D., Director, Medicare Drug Benefit Group

**Subject:** Important Schedule Changes for Upcoming 2006 and 2007 Drug Pricing Data Submissions

CMS provided three different opportunities to submit 2007 plan year pricing and pharmacy network data to the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Finder (MPDPF) for testing and plan preview, prior to the submission that will be used for public display on the website. In our review, we have found multiple types of data errors, as well as, discovered that some Part D Sponsors have submitted identical data files to their 2006 submissions. In addition, there are several contracts who have failed to submit any 2007 plan year data.

In order to ensure that Sponsors have ample time to resolve data errors and avoid suppression for the October 12, 2006 launch of the MPDPF web tool, we are now requiring that all Part D Sponsors submit a final set of 2007 plan year pricing and pharmacy network data **on September 27, 2006** (excluding Employer and PACE plans). This additional submission gives Sponsors one last opportunity to perform quality checks on their data, prior to the October 4, 2006 submission that will be utilized for public display. If CMS identifies data errors in the October 4, 2006 submission, there will be no mechanism for plans to correct their files and those plans will have their data suppressed from the MPDPF for two weeks. Attachment A is a revised schedule of important milestones related to the launch of the MPDPF. Attachment B provides technical instructions for the September 27, 2006 submission of the 2007 plan year data.

As a result of this process, the final 2006 plan year pricing and pharmacy network data submission will now take place on September 29, 2006 only for those plans notified as having errors in their September 13, 2006 data. For those plans submitting their 2006 Plan Year pricing and pharmacy network data on September 29, 2006, please submit your files via an e-mail directly to [plancompare@destinationrx.com](mailto:plancompare@destinationrx.com) (and copy [Thomas.Dudley@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Thomas.Dudley@cms.hhs.gov)) in lieu of uploading via the FTP server. Please submit your files before 5:00 PM PST on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2006. **The FTP server will not be available on September 29, 2006.** All other plans will not be able to submit any additional 2006 plan year pricing and pharmacy network data.

We believe this additional opportunity is critical the assuring the accuracy of the data provided to Medicare beneficiaries. We appreciate your continued cooperation in implementing the Medicare drug benefit. Questions regarding this guidance should be directed via email to [Alice.Leemartin@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Alice.Leemartin@cms.hhs.gov) and [Stacy.Matheny@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Stacy.Matheny@cms.hhs.gov).

## Attachment A – Revised Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Finder Milestones

Date	Milestone
September 25-26, 2006	Second preview of 2007 plan year data
Wednesday - September 27, 2006	2007 plan year pricing and pharmacy network data submission
Friday, September 29, 2006	For only those plans that were notified to have errors in the September 13, 2006 submission, corrected 2006 data files must be submitted. These data will be included in the last refresh of 2006 plan year data on October 9, 2006 on <a href="http://www.medicare.gov">www.medicare.gov</a> .
Friday, September 29, 2006 - Tuesday, October 3, 2006	PDP and MA-PD plans will be notified of any data errors found in their 2007 Plan Year data submitted on September 27, 2006. Plans should resolve these errors for the submission on October 4, 2006.
Wednesday, October 4, 2006	PDP and MA-PD plans submit 2007 plan year pricing and pharmacy network data. These data will be used in the public display on <a href="http://www.Medicare.gov">www.Medicare.gov</a> on October 12, 2006.
Wednesday, October 11, 2006	Plans begin submitting bi-weekly (Wednesday) 2007 plan year pricing and pharmacy network data. These data will be posted on <a href="http://www.medicare.gov">www.medicare.gov</a> on October 23, 2006.
Thursday, October 12, 2006 - Monday, October 23, 2006	Plans with data errors from their October 4, 2006 data submission will be suppressed from the launch of the 2007 Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Finder Tool on <a href="http://www.medicare.gov">www.medicare.gov</a> . If corrected files are submitted on October 11, 2006, suppression will end on October 23, 2006.
Thursday, October 12, 2006	Launch of the 2007 plan year pricing and pharmacy network data in the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Finder Tool on <a href="http://www.medicare.gov">www.medicare.gov</a> .

## **Attachment B – Technical Instructions for September 27, 2006 Submission**

The following contains information you will need to conduct your September 27, 2006 data loads for the Medicare Part D Plan Finder application (2007 Plan Year “Test” Pricing Data). Please note that this data load of 2007 Plan Year pricing and pharmacy network submission **will not be used or be available for public reporting**. CMS will utilize the submission to conduct additional analysis for data integrity and synchronization with your HPMS data.

The FTP server will be available from 12:00AM PST until 11:59PM PST on September 27, 2006 for your 2007 plan year pricing data. Below are the user name, password, IP address, and Port # that your organization should use to submit your drug pricing data for the Plan Finder. Plans that are active for the 2006 plan year will use the log in ID and password that they are currently using for the submission of their 2006 plan year pricing data. Plans that are new for the 2007 plan year will use their unique log in ID and password that were sent out in preparation for the 10/4 data submission. Your user name and password are case sensitive; please enter these exactly as shown below:

*User Name:* **Your Contract ID (example H0000, S0001, or R0002)**

*Password:* **The Unique Password sent to your Part D Price File Contacts ( these passwords are case sensitive)**

*Connection Information:*    IP = 64.14.243.108  
  Port = 21234

**You must be running a \*passive-mode\* capable FTP client. If there is an error with your submission or you experience any connection issues, please email [plancompare@destinationrx.com](mailto:plancompare@destinationrx.com) (and copy [Thomas.Dudley@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Thomas.Dudley@cms.hhs.gov)).**