

Summary of HPMS Releases
For the week ending November 3, 2006

Title: Clarification on De Minimis Premium Policy for Low-Income Subsidy Eligible Beneficiaries

Date: 10/27/06

Summary: Clarification on De Minimis Premium Policy for Low-Income Subsidy Beneficiaries. This communication provides additional clarification to the Part D Plan Sponsors on the de minimis premium policy for low-income subsidy beneficiaries.

Title: Change in the Online Enrollment Center Flat File and Expectations for Downloading Enrollments

Date: 10/27/06

Summary: This memo describes a change in the Online Enrollment Center (OEC) flat file and expectations for downloading enrollments.

Title: Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug System (MARx) November Payment – INFORMATION

Date: 10/30/06

Summary: Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug System (MARx) November Payment Information. The correspondence provides information related to the plan's November payment and related MARx processing issues.

Title: Provider Promotional Activity for Special Needs Plan

Date: 10/30/06

Summary: The attached document provides guidance for Provider Promotional Activities for Special Needs Plans (SNP). Providers will now be permitted to feature SNPs in ongoing affiliation announcements. Affiliation announcements or brochures may highlight the provider's affiliation by including SNP specific information such as any special plan features or benefits.

Title: Helping Providers Understand Private Fee-for-Service Plans (PFFS)

Date: 10/30/06

Summary: The memo specifies the actions we have taken or are in the process of taking in order to clearly indicate in our data systems and call centers distinctions between HMOs and especially private fee for service plans. Plans have indicated that providers not familiar with such plans are sometimes unsure of whether they may provide services to plan members, how to bill for the services.

Title: Part D Sponsors Appeals Performance Metrics

Date: 10/30/06

Summary: In our continuing efforts to promote performance improvement, a new module has been developed in HPMS for appeals data. This module can be accessed through the “Contract Management”/“Part D Performance Metrics” page. Part D plan sponsors now have the ability to view appeals information for only their current contracts. These data were calculated based on data reported by the Independent Review Entity (IRE) from January through June 2006.

Title: Low Income Subsidy Matching Activities

Date: 10/30/06

Summary: CMS has now secured a contractor, Acumen, LLC, to support the Low Income Subsidy (LIS) information matching process. This contractor will collect and analyze information on LIS eligible beneficiaries from every sponsor (starting first with PDP sponsors receiving auto-enrollments) to analyze the extent to which the sponsor’s LIS information is consistent with CMS’ LIS information. In the near future, Acumen, LLC, will be contacting your plan on behalf of CMS to begin the process of submitting these data.

Title: 2007 Part D Messaging Themes

Date: 10/30/06

Summary: As we approach the start of the 2007 Annual Enrollment Period, we’d like to share the themes for our 2007 education campaign with Part D sponsors. We strongly encourage you to integrate these themes in your call center scripts, internal training, and education materials. A coordinated, consistent message from both CMS and Part D Sponsors will reduce confusion, call center usage, and complaints.

Title: Implementing our Best Available Data Policy for Low-Income Subsidy (LIS) Status

Date: 10/30/06

Summary: The purpose of this memo is to provide your organization with instructions on how to process LIS systems’ notifications when your organization has contrary information about a beneficiary’s cost sharing status under CMS’ best available data guidance.

Title: Reminder of Part D Transition Policy and Expectations for the Upcoming Contract Year

Date: 11/1/06

Summary: As the time approaches for the annual open enrollment period, and as Part D sponsors are communicating with their beneficiaries, we wanted to remind plan sponsors again of our transition policy for the upcoming contract year. As a reminder, we have prepared the attached summary chart that outlines our policy as it applies to specific subgroups of beneficiaries and our requirements and expectations for Part D sponsors.

Title: Coordinating Benefits with Medicaid Managed Care Organizations

Date: 11/1/06

Summary: This memorandum serves to clarify to Part D sponsors that the Section 402 State Repayment Demonstration Project (State-to-Plan Reconciliation), does not apply to the reconciliation of prescription drug claims paid for by Medicaid managed care organizations (Medicaid MCOs), nor does it apply to non low-income subsidy (non-LIS) claims paid for by state pharmaceutical assistance programs (SPAPs). The demonstration only allows state Medicaid agencies, SPAPs and similar state programs that have directly assisted their dual eligible and low-income subsidy entitled populations in obtaining and accessing Medicare Part D coverage to be reimbursed for their efforts. Other payers of prescription drug coverage, like Medicaid MCOs, are not included in this demonstration project.

Title: Important Notes identifying plans with extended pharmacy networks

Date: 11/2/06

Summary: This memo describes important notes identifying plans with extended pharmacy networks.