

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Center for Beneficiary Choices
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PLAN OVERSIGHT & 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: January 9, 2007

SUBJECT: Contract Year 2008 Plan Benefit Package/Summary of Benefits Alpha Testing

We would like to express our appreciation for the comments and suggestions provided as part of the Contract Year (CY) 2007 Plan Benefit Package (PBP) / Summary of Benefits (SB) Lessons Learned held in October 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 CY 2008.

We are conducting alpha testing to receive feedback on the draft CY 2008 PBP screenshots and SB sentences. Your input is critical to the development of the CY 2008 PBP/SB, and we strongly encourage you to participate in this alpha testing process.

Testing will take place from Tuesday, January 09, 2007 to Monday, January 22, 2007. You may download the draft CY 2008 PBP screenshots, detailed list of CY 2008 PBP/SB changes, and draft list of CY 2008 SB sentences at the following test website:

http://hpmstest.fu.com/test/pbp2008_Draft/home.html

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

Once you have reviewed the CY 2008 draft materials, you should access the website (listed above) to submit your comments to CMS. You will be asked to provide the PBP Section/SB Section and corresponding comment.

If you have difficulties accessing the website listed above to submit your comments, CMS will also accept this information via e-mail at hpms@cms.hhs.gov by the same due date. Please indicate “**CY 2008 PBP/SB Alpha Testing Comments**” in the subject line.

By either method, we must receive your testing results by **COB on Monday, January 22, 2007** in order to continue development on the CY 2008 PBP software to meet the production release on April 6, 2007.

We intend to conduct CY 2008 PBP/SB beta testing in the latter part of February 2007 to ensure the software is working as designed. We will notify you with more details as the date approaches.

Thank you for your assistance with the alpha testing phase of the CY 2008 PBP/SB. We welcome your comments and feedback so that we may continue to improve the PBP/SB.