

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

DATE: November 20, 2007

TO: All Part D Plan Sponsors

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

SUBJECT: Timing of 2008 Enrollment Transactions Requiring 4Rx Submission & Updating of 2008 Payer Sheets

This memorandum is a follow-up to the October 29, 2007 letter entitled “4Rx Data in 2007 Open Enrollment Transactions” to advise Part D plan sponsors on the timing of CMS-generated enrollment transactions. Its purpose is to further facilitate plan readiness to submit 4Rx data in response to these transactions and to communicate the expected availability of 2008 4Rx data in enhanced E1 queries for pharmacies. This letter also serves to remind plan sponsors to update their payer sheets with their trading partners for any billing changes associated with their 2008 Part D benefits.

In August 2007, as part of CMS’ efforts to streamline the enrollment process, we implemented a systems change requiring that enrollment transactions submitted by plan sponsors include 4Rx data. As a result of this change, 4Rx data for plan-submitted 2008 enrollments for new enrollees, beneficiaries switching plans and plan-generated rollovers, as well as for Medicare Advantage or Cost Plan-submitted auto-assigned and facilitated enrollments will be available within 24-48 hours of the CMS processing of these enrollment transactions. The Medicare Advantage–Prescription Drug (MARx) system will begin processing these plan-submitted enrollments in mid-November. Therefore, the 4Rx data for these types of enrollments will be available to support E1 eligibility queries from pharmacies starting on or around November 22 or 23, 2007.

Since plan sponsors must still submit 4Rx data for CMS-generated enrollments including CMS-mapped rollovers, auto-assigned and facilitated enrollments, and reassignments, we have scheduled the processing of these enrollment transactions early to ensure 4Rx data are available timely.

- Auto-assigned and facilitated enrollments will be processed November 19-21 and December 5, 2007. These transactions will be reported to sponsors on the transaction rely reports (TRRs) dated November 24 and December 8, 2007; sponsors must submit the 4Rx data for these beneficiaries within 24-72 hours. Therefore, the 4Rx data will be available for E1 queries no later than November 29 and December 13, 2007.

- Re-assignments generated by CMS also will be processed November 19-21; plan sponsors will be receiving a special TRR on or about November 21 reporting these transactions. Plans must submit the 4RX data within 72 hours of receipt of the special TRR. The 4Rx data for the CMS reassigned beneficiaries, therefore, should be available for E1 queries no later than November 26, 2007.

We also remind plan sponsors to replace 4Rx data for all beneficiaries whose 4Rx information is changing in any way between 2007 and 2008. Even if the CMS contract and PBP numbers remain the same, if there will be a change between 2007 and 2008 in any of the BIN, PCN, GROUP or MEMBER ID numbers at your processor, that beneficiary's 4RX data must be resubmitted to CMS on a change transaction. CMS will continue to monitor and publish the effectiveness of these processes through performance metrics related to pharmacy complaints and 4Rx completeness.

In addition to supporting the 4Rx data updating process, Part D plan sponsors are reminded to update their payer sheets to reflect any billing changes associated with their 2008 Part D benefits. 2008 changes in plan names, BIN/PCNs, or other relevant billing information should be communicated to all contracted pharmacies as soon as possible. While the correct billing information should be available through the E1 query, forcing pharmacies to wait to discover these changes until the enrollee presents, or requiring pharmacies to do an E1 for simple plan changes, is time wasted when this updating could have been done sooner.

Thank you for your attention to these details. If you have any questions concerning these requirements, please contact your CMS account manager.