



CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES

TO: CEOs of Medicare Advantage Organizations, Prescription Drug Plan Sponsors, Employer/Union-Only Group Waiver Plans, Cost, PACE, and Demonstration Organizations

FROM: David A. Lewis, Director, Medicare Advantage Group, CBC
Cynthia G. Tudor, Ph.D. Director, Medicare Drug Benefit Group, CBC
Paul Spitalnic, Director, Parts C and D Actuarial Group, OACT
Brenda Tranchida, Director, Employer Policy and Operations Group, CBC

DATE: July 6, 2007

SUBJECT: Modified Benefit Attestations for Contract Year 2008

A benefit attestation is required for all approved entities that have completed and submitted a Plan Benefit Package (PBP) for 2008. We are writing to notify you that the benefit attestation language has been modified for Contract Year 2008 for the CEO or CFO of the organization to further attest that he/she has reviewed the bid pricing tools (BPTs) with the certifying actuary and has determined them to be consistent with the PBPs being attested to. See attachment for this modification.

The 2008 benefit attestation is found on the Health Plan Management System (HPMS). HPMS will only allow users to generate a Benefit Attestation for its contracts after all plan bids under the contract number are approved. This year the date for the download for the attestation on HPMS will be on or about August 17, 2007. For instructions on completing and submitting the benefits attestation, go to HPMS, select Plan Bids, and click on Benefit Attestation.

For questions about the actuarial certification of the BPT, please contact Ron McDonald at Ronald.McDonald@cms.hhs.gov or 410-786-7515.

For further information on the Medicare Advantage benefits attestation download and submission to CMS, please contact Daniella Stanley at Daniella.Stanley@cms.hhs.gov or by phone at (410) 786-3723.

For further information on the Prescription Drug benefit attestation download and submission to CMS, please contact Deborah Hunter at Deborah.Hunter@cms.hhs.gov or by phone at (410) 786-0625.

For further information on the benefits attestation download and submission to CMS for organizations with at least one employer/union-only group waiver (i.e., "800 series") plan, please contact Usree Bandyopadhyay at Usree.Bandyopadhyay@cms.hhs.gov or by phone at (410) 786-6650.

Attachment
Modified Benefit Attestation Language

What follows is the modified Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug attestation language for 2008 (modified language indicated in italics) that follows the summary list of all approved plans in the attestation form that all contractors must download from HPMS and submit to CMS:

I attest that I have examined the Plan Benefit Packages (PBPs) identified below and that the benefits identified in the PBPs are those that the above-stated organization will make available to eligible beneficiaries in the approved service area during program year 2008. *I further attest that we have reviewed the bid pricing tools (BPTs) with the certifying actuary and have determined it to be consistent with the PBPs being attested to here.*

I further attest that these benefits will be offered in accordance with all applicable Medicare program authorizing statutes and regulations and program guidance that CMS has issued to date and will issue during the remainder of 2007 and 2008, including but not limited to, the 2008 Call Letters, the 2008 Solicitations for New Contract Applicants, the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Manual, the Medicare Managed Care Manual, and the CMS memoranda issued through the Health Plan Management System (HPMS).

Additional Language for Contracts with at Least One “800 series” Plan Benefit Package (modified language in italics):

I attest that I have examined the employer/union-only group waiver (“800 series”) PBPs identified below and that these PBPs are those that the above-stated organization will make available only to eligible employer/union-sponsored group plan beneficiaries in the approved service area during program year 2008. I further attest we have reviewed any MA bid pricing tools (BPTs) associated with these PBPs (no Part D BPTs are required for 2008 “800 series” PBPs) with the certifying actuary and have determined it to be consistent with any MA PBPs being attested to here.