

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
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## **Health Plan Benefits Group/CBC**

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**To:** Medicare + Choice/Medicare Advantage Organizations

**From:** Cynthia Moreno  
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**Date:** March 3, 2004

**Subject:** Selection of 2005 QAPI project focus

**2005 QAPI Project Focus:** Given the intense activity required of CMS and M+C/ Medicare Advantage organizations to implement the provisions of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003, CMS will not require Medicare Advantage organizations to implement a national QAPI project in 2005. Instead, Medicare Advantage organizations must undertake a project of their own choosing or participate in a local marketplace initiative as described in chapter five of the Medicare Managed Care Manual. As with the M+C selected projects required in years past, there are several criteria for undertaking this type of project. The project must involve:

- Selection and prioritization of topic relative to M+CO population
- Developing Quality Indicator
- Analyzing study results
- Implementing interventions
- Measuring performance against baseline

Medicare Advantage organizations will be required to submit their 2005 project information into the CMS HPMS system, as they currently do with all QAPI projects.

For more information, contact Michele Giovanni at 410-786-3418.