



Center for Medicaid and State Operations

October 3, 2008

SMDL #08-007

Dear State Medicaid Director:

I am pleased to inform you that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has created new opportunities for States to access Medicare Parts A, B, and D claims data. CMS appreciates States' interest in accessing this data and supports your efforts to use this data to improve the quality of care for dual-eligible beneficiaries.

Medicare Parts A & B Data

CMS currently provides paid Medicare Parts A and B crossover claims to State Medicaid Agencies that have Coordination of Benefits Agreements (COBAs) with CMS. Under the current COBAs, the claims data may only be used to determine payment liability and coordinate payment for dual eligibles. CMS is offering State Medicaid Agencies the opportunity to sign modified COBAs that will permit them to seek written permission from CMS to use the data for quality improvement activities and to re-release the data for treatment and other purposes. CMS retains the right to approve or deny any such requests. States will have an opportunity to sign modified agreements beginning in September 2008. The attached enclosure provides more information about this opportunity. States that have additional questions may contact John M. Young, Acting Director, Division of Quality, Evaluation and Health Outcomes, at 410-786-0505 or john.young@cms.hhs.gov.

Medicare Part D Data

Historically, States' Medicaid Agencies have only been able to access Part D data to determine payment liability and coordinate payment for dual eligibles. On May 28, 2008, CMS published a final rule that will enable States' Medicaid Agencies to request from CMS Part D claims prescription drug event data for research, care coordination, quality improvement, program oversight and monitoring, and other purposes. We expect 2006 and 2007 Part D prescription drug event data to be available beginning this winter. More information on the Part D Data rule, including the final rule, a fact sheet, frequently asked questions, a comparison of the proposed and the final rule and Prescription Data Element list may be found at:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PrescriptionDrugCovGenIn/08_PartDDData.asp#TopOfPage.

States should review CMS' Guide to Requesting Part D Data, which is available at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PrescriptionDrugCovGenIn/08_PartDDData.asp. This guide includes an explanation of the request process, our minimum data necessary policy, and the potential limitations to the Part D prescription drug event data being requested. It is important to note that all requests for Part D data, as well as further inquiries regarding

Page 2 - State Medicaid Director

data requests should be submitted to CMS' contractor - Research Data Assistance Center (ResDAC). States should contact ResDAC at (888) 973-7322 or consult their Web site at <http://www.resdac.umn.edu> for further information regarding the request process.

Thank you for your attention to this letter. We hope that the increased availability of Medicare Parts A, B, and D claims data will help CMS and States to achieve our shared goal of delivering high-value health care.

Sincerely,

/s/

Herb B. Kuhn
Deputy Administrator
Acting Director, Center for Medicaid and State Operations

Enclosure

cc:

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Page 3 - State Medicaid Director

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