

MEDICARE DRUG AND HEALTH PLAN CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION GROUP (MCAG)

DATE: November 21, 2008

TO: All Current and Prospective Special Needs Plans and Interested Medicare Advantage, Cost, and Demonstration Organizations

FROM: Teresa DeCaro RN, M.S. /s/
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Medicare Drug and Health Plan Contract Administration Group

SUBJECT: Announcement of Chronic Care Medicare Advantage Special Needs Plan Industry Call on November 25, 2008

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a press release on November 13, 2008, announcing recommendations of 15 Special Needs Plan (SNP) specific chronic conditions as defined by the Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA). The press release can be found on the CMS media webpage at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/media/press/release.asp?Counter=3364>.

A final report based on those recommendations from the Special Needs Plan Chronic Condition Panel, which included clinical advisors from three agencies of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, CMS, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Agency for Health Research and Quality, has also been posted to the CMS SNPs webpage at www.cms.hhs.gov/SpecialNeedsPlans/ and is linked as the first download. The panel identified 15 severe or disabling chronic conditions based on clinical criteria required by statute to ensure that only people who have these conditions are eligible to enroll in a Chronic Care Medicare Advantage Special Needs Plan (CC-SNP). These changes become effective January 1, 2010, and do not immediately impact Medicare beneficiaries.

We have scheduled an industry call for November 25, 2008, for CMS and organizations to participate in a question and answer session for general purposes. The dial in number for the call is 1-888-469-3211 and the participant pass code is CONDITIONS. This call will start promptly at 1:30 pm through 3:00 pm.

If you have questions about this memo, please contact Carlene Randolph at carlene.randolph@cms.hhs.gov or at 410-786-4008.