

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
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Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



CENTER FOR BENEFICIARY CHOICES

Date: September 14, 2006

To: All Part D Sponsors

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

Subject: New Generic Additions to the Formulary Reference NDC File for CY 2007 Formulary Submissions

CMS recognizes that there have been multiple new drugs approved and marketed since the July 28, 2006 update of the Formulary Reference NDC File, and that many Part D Plan Sponsors may wish to update their HPMS formulary files to incorporate these new products. As such, there will be a brief open period to allow for these formulary updates. The formulary submission gates will be open for all approved formularies from September 16, 2006 through September 19, 2006. This is the final opportunity to update the HPMS formulary files.

Reference NDCs for the new products will be available for download on September 15, 2006 within the Formulary Module in HPMS and on the cms.hhs.gov website at:
www.cms.hhs.gov/PrescriptionDrugCovContra/Downloads/CY07UpdRefNDC.zip

The only formulary enhancements that may occur during this open period are the additions of these new products. The only negative changes that are permitted during this period are deletions, tier increases, or addition of utilization management restrictions to brand products if the corresponding generic equivalent is being added to the formulary. If the generic equivalent was already on the formulary, no changes to the existing formulary brand product will be permitted. **Because of the close proximity of this open period to the September 26, 2006 data pull for the October 12, 2006 release of the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Finder Tool, any formulary files that are submitted with changes other than those outlined above will be denied.** Denied formularies will not be reviewed until after September 26, 2006. Only the last approved version will appear in the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Finder Tool and may be marketed. As with the initial CY 2007 formulary review process, CMS will not provide an explicit notification of denial or approval. Part D Plan Sponsors may check the approval status of their formulary files via HPMS.

If you have any questions regarding this update period, please contact Brian Martin (brian.martin@cms.hhs.gov) or Kady Flannery (Kathleen.flannery@cms.hhs.gov).