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DATE: July 19, 2012

TO: Financial Alignment Demonstration Contracts

FROM: Cynthia G. Tudor, Ph.D.
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SUBJECT: Updated Information re: Medicare Plan Finder (MPF) Submissions by Financial Alignment Demonstration Contracts

The purpose of this memo is to announce a delay for Financial Alignment Demonstration (FAD) contracts' submissions of biweekly Medicare Plan Finder (MPF) data, to reiterate upcoming MPF test data submission periods, and to clarify data requirements specific for FAD contracts.

As specified in our March 29, 2012 HPMS memorandum, "Additional Guidance on the Medicare Plan Selection Process for Organizations Interested in Offering Capitated Financial Alignment Demonstration Plans in 2013," FAD contracts will be required to submit drug pricing data to be displayed on the MPF tool on www.medicare.gov. This process involves test data submissions as well as biweekly submissions of drug pricing data. Submitted pricing data will go through quality assurance analyses to identify outliers or potential data errors. These identified outliers will be communicated to each contract.

Given the mid-2013 target start dates for FAD enrollment, FAD contract information will not appear in MPF in the fall of 2012 as had previously been communicated. Instead, FAD contract information will display in MPF starting in 2013. We will therefore delay the start of the biweekly drug pricing data submissions for FAD contracts until closer to the display date. We will provide more specific guidance on the MPF timelines for FAD contracts later this year.

However, we emphasize that FAD contracts will not have an additional opportunity to test their pricing files prior to beginning the required biweekly pricing data submissions in 2013. If there are errors with the pricing files that cannot be corrected prior to the scheduled display of FAD contract information in MPF, information for that FAD contract will be suppressed in MPF until the data issues are resolved. Therefore, we strongly encourage FAD contracts to take advantage of upcoming test data submissions process - the next MPF Pricing Data test submission period is Thursday August 2nd and Friday August 3rd, 2012. The final test submission period is Thursday August 23rd and Friday August 24th, 2012.

We also clarify that FAD contracts will submit drug pricing data for Part D drugs and drugs in Part D excluded classes and categories of drugs only. For CY 2013, any other drugs covered by FAD contracts pursuant to Medicaid coverage requirements (e.g., drugs on the Additional Demonstration Drug, or ADD, file) will not be included in the drug pricing files.

For more information about the pricing file requirements, please refer to the CY 2013 Pricing Data Guidelines located at http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prescription-Drug-Coverage/PrescriptionDrugCovContra/RxContracting_FormularyGuidance.html in the download called “2013 Pricing Data Guidelines and Calendar (V05.02.12).” Organizations may also contact the DRx help desk for additional information. DRx’s help desk information is plancompare@drx.com or 888-203-8497. The DRx help desk is available between the hours of 8:30AM – 6:30PM ET.

Please refer also to our June 25, 2012 HPMS memorandum entitled “Sponsors’ Access to the Medicare Plan Finder (MPF) Communications Website” for more information about obtaining access to the MPF tool.