

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-26-12  
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



Center for Medicaid and State Operations

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SMDL #06-024

Dear State Medicaid Director,

I am writing to request your assistance in ensuring a smooth end-of-year transition for the low-income beneficiaries we both serve. State Medicaid Agencies were important partners during the Initial Enrollment Period for the Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit, and we are committed to continuing to work together closely as we approach the Medicare Annual Coordinated Election Period (AEP) that begins November 15, 2006.

We believe the key to a successful transition is to have beneficiaries who need to change plans do so as early as possible in the AEP. Thus, we are emphasizing in all our outreach materials that individuals who intend to join or change a Medicare prescription drug plan should do so by December 8, 2006, if at all possible. Doing so will ensure time for the necessary data exchanges to be completed and notifications provided so that individuals will have their correct plan ID cards in hand and all parties – The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and its contractors, beneficiaries, pharmacists, Part D plans, and States – have the correct plan enrollment information in place on January 1, 2007.

As you know, CMS has already taken action to re-assign all individuals who are again eligible for a low-income subsidy in 2007, but who could face a Part D premium in their current plan. We are confident that, absent further plan changes, these individuals will be successfully enrolled in their new plans by January 1, 2007, with appropriate plan enrollment and subsidy information in place. However, we know that many states have the authority to act as authorized representatives for purposes of enrolling Medicaid beneficiaries into Part D plans. **So, we urge you to let us know as soon as possible if you intend to re-assign beneficiaries already in enrolled in a Part D plan to a different Part D plan effective in 2007.** We want to make sure that any such State efforts are carried out in a timely manner and are carefully coordinated with our recent re-assignment process, and our overall efforts for an effective end-of-year transition.

If you intend to re-assign any Medicare beneficiaries, please contact Mike Fiore as soon as possible. He can be reached at [Michael.Fiore@CMS.hhs.gov](mailto:Michael.Fiore@CMS.hhs.gov) or 410-786-0623.

Again, we appreciate your continued assistance in ensuring the most vulnerable Medicare beneficiaries have effective prescription drug coverage.

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Sincerely,

Dennis G. Smith  
Director

cc:

CMS Regional Administrators

CMS Associate Regional Administrators for Medicaid and State Operations

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Director, Health Policy Unit  
American Public Health Services Association

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Director, Health Committee  
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