

August 14, 1998

**MEDICAID DRUG REBATE PROGRAM RELEASE #37**

**TODAY'S NEWS for Participating Drug Manufacturers**

**NEW FAX NUMBER/ADDRESS FOR DRUG REBATE -- POLICY STAFF ONLY**

Because of HCFA's internal move, the policy and operations staff for drug rebate are no longer physically located together. Therefore, the policy staff have a new fax number of 410-786-8534. The new mailing address for policy correspondence is:

HCFA, Center for Medicaid and State Operations  
Families and Children's Health Programs Group  
Division of Benefits, Coverage and Payment  
Mail Stop S2-01-16  
7500 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850

**ADDRESS REMINDER -- OPERATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE ONLY**

For correspondence sent via regular mail, other than that related to policy, P L E A S E use our P.O. Box 26686, Baltimore, Maryland 21207 address. Do not use a mailstop with the Security Boulevard address for operational inquiries, contact changes, or data submission. The only time our street address/mailstop should be used is when you are sending items via express mail service. Our express mail address can be found in section O of the Medicaid Drug Rebate Operational Training Guide.

**ALTERNATE CONTACT FOR OPERATIONAL QUESTIONS**

Many of you may remember the Drug Rebate Hotline that was in operation until our move to HCFA's single site. Although we are not re-establishing the hotline, we have acquired the time and knowledge of one of the people who used to man the hotline. Aaron Allen is once again assuming, albeit on a part time basis, some of the drug rebate operational functions.

Aaron is available to answer questions in lieu of the availability of Vince Powell and Judy Allison. Also, on those occasions when Vince and Judy are swamped with assistance calls, Aaron will be asked to help return many of those calls. We hope that the addition of Aaron's time and knowledge of the program will enable us to alleviate the backlog of calls we experience each quarter.

If you have questions for which you normally call Vince or Judy, you may now call Aaron on 410-786-1119.

## **UNIT REBATE AMOUNT DISCREPANCY REPORT**

As mentioned in release #34, dated May 13, 1998, a report showing all Baseline and current quarter pricing information will be sent to each labeler beginning with quarter 2, 1998. This is so you can match Baseline information (BL/AMP, Market Date, FDA Approval Date, BL-CPI/U, etc.) currently on the HCFA MDRI file to what you have in your data base. Corrections and updates can be submitted handwritten on the report, if 15 or fewer changes, or the same way you normally transmit quarterly information if more than 15 changes.

After 2 quarters, we will evaluate the number of corrections we receive and make a determination as to whether we will continue to send this report. This initial report will be sent by the end of August. Questions or problems should be brought to the attention of Vince Powell at (410) 786-3314.

## **UPDATING T-BILL RATES**

We receive many phone calls each week asking for the current week's t-bill rate. To help cut down on the volume of calls for this information while still enabling you to get the rate quickly, we suggest that you consider making use of your local Federal Reserve Bank. By dialing your local Federal Reserve Bank you can obtain the current week's 90-day (13 week) t-bill rate.

T-bill rates for prior weeks can be found on HCFA's drug rebate web site. The web site is updated on a monthly basis. In addition, the HCFA releases contain an updated list of t-bill rates as current as possible and dating back approximately 9-12 months depending on the date of the release.

Please remember that t-bill rates are needed ONLY when you are preparing to cut a check/make a credit for the resolution of a dispute, or payment of an invoice more than 37 days old.

## **TRAINING GUIDE UPDATES**

Attached are the latest updates to the Medicaid Drug Rebate Operational Training Guide. These updates incorporate general revisions, post move address changes, and staff directory changes. Please share the updates with all staff involved in the program and replace these pages in your guide.

## **RETIREMENT OF AL BEACHLEY**

Many people are not aware that Al has retired and are still calling and writing to him. Al retired on July 3, 1998. In the future, please direct all calls, letters, e-mails, etc., formerly for Al to Vince Powell on (410) 786-3314 or Vpowell@HCFA.GOV. You also may direct inquiries previously sent to Al to Rick Friedman on (410) 786-4451 or Rfriedman2@HCFA.GOV. Rick is the acting Technical Director for drug rebate.

## **OTHER ATTACHMENTS**

A copy of the topic index and a current listing of the 90-day treasury bill auction rates for the period beginning September 15, 1997 are attached.

Please remember to direct your drug rebate questions to a staff member listed in section "O" of the Medicaid Drug Rebate Operational Training Guide.

Sally K. Richardson  
Director

cc:  
All Regional Administrators  
All Associate Regional Administrators, Division of Medicaid