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MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 14, 2008

TO: All Medicare Advantage Organizations (MAO), Prescription Drug Plan (PDP) Sponsors and 1876 Cost Plan Sponsors Offering Employer/Union-Sponsored Group Plans

FROM: Brenda Tranchida, Director
Employer Policy and Operations Group

SUBJECT: Issuance of Draft Employer/Union Sponsored Group Health Plans Manual Chapters for Comment

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is issuing updated drafts of Chapter 9 (Employer/Union Sponsored Group Health Plans) of the Medicare Managed Care Manual and Chapter 12 (Employer/Union Sponsored Group Health Plans) of the Prescription Drug Benefit Manual for a two-week comment period. Please submit your comments using the comment chart provided on the website.

The draft manual chapters are available on the Employer/Union Group Page of the CMS website at: http://www.cms.hhs.gov/EmpGrpWaivers/01_Overview.asp.

Comments on these draft manual chapters must be received by CMS no later than 5 p.m. (EDT), on May 28, 2008. Comments received after that date will be considered for the next update to the manual chapters. Please submit all comments and questions via email to EmployerWaivers@cms.hhs.gov, with “Comments on Employer/Union Sponsored Group Health Plans Manual Chapters” in the subject line of the email. Please be sure to identify which comments apply to each of the draft manual chapters.