

**Date:** September 7, 2005

**Subject:** Important Notice Re: Benefit Attestation

To all entities executing contracts for Employer/Union-Only Group ("800-series") plans --

It has come to our attention that the Part D premium amount listed in the benefit attestation for Employer/Union-Only Group ("800-series") plans reflects the Part D base beneficiary premium (published August 9, 2005) of \$32.20 and not the plan's monthly Part D premium which is derived from the base beneficiary premium adjusted by the difference between the plan's standardized bid amount and the national average bid amount. The Part D base beneficiary premium (\$32.20) was inserted into the Part D premium field in HPMS for payment purposes since these plans are paid using the base beneficiary premium without the above-mentioned adjustments. However, this amount should not be reflected in the bid attestation.

Therefore, for purposes of the contracting process, the benefit attestation Part D premium amounts fields will be updated by COB Thursday, September 8, 2005, to reflect the plan's monthly premium amount taking into account the difference between the plan's bid amount and the national average bid amount. An HPMS alert will be sent on Thursday when the revised attestations are available for download.

Plans who have not yet submitted their benefit attestations and contracts must wait for the updated benefit attestations to be available for download with their contracts. These plans will be afforded an extension of time until Monday, September 12, 2005, to submit these materials.

Those plans that have already downloaded and submitted their benefit attestations before the update to the benefit attestation was made will be required to download, sign and resubmit the updated attestation ONLY. These updated attestations are also due on Monday, September 12, 2005.

If you have any questions about the Part D premium amount as a consequence of this issue, please contact Sara Walters at 410-786-3330, [sara.walters@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:sara.walters@cms.hhs.gov) or Julian Nadolny at 410-786-2274, [julian.nadolny@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:julian.nadolny@cms.hhs.gov). All other questions about the bid attestation should continue to be directed to Kristin Finch at 410-786-2873, [kristin.finch@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:kristin.finch@cms.hhs.gov).

Thank you.