



TO: All Future Pharmacy Benefit Manager Data Sharing Agreement Partners

DATE: September 12, 2005

SUBJECT: Revised Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) Data Sharing Agreement and Record Layouts for Comment

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has completed its final revisions to the PBM Data Sharing Agreement and the corresponding record layouts which will support the data exchange process that we have been discussing for several weeks. Those at CMS who have worked on this process would like to thank the PBM community for taking time out of their schedules to review documents and to provide insightful comments and questions. The cooperation, participation and patience of everyone involved has been greatly appreciated.

Please find attached to this email the final version of the PBM Data Sharing Agreement and the PBM Data Exchange Layouts. Additionally, you will receive a chart indicating the mandatory and optional data elements/fields associated with the Input and Response Files. Please note that the Action Type and the Data Sharing Agreement Indicator that you provided in the Input File will determine which Response File fields apply.

The CMS are now prepared to begin accepting signed agreements from PBMs. The PBM User Guide, a set of instructions and information useful to partners as they implement and manage the data sharing exchange process, will be available shortly.

Those signing the PBM Data Sharing Agreement should send an e-mail to cobva@ghimedicare.com notifying the CMS and the COB Contractor of their intention to do so. Two printed original copies of the PBM Agreement must be signed by an authorized representative of the partner, and sent to the following address for countersignature by CMS:

John P. Albert
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Mail Stop: C3-14-16
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

Once CMS and the partner have both received a countersigned PBM Data Sharing Agreement, the COB Contractor will assign an Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Representative as a technical contact to work with the partner through the implementation and production phases. Staff at the CMS will continue to be available to partners for any administrative or other issues that arise that the COB Contractor is not able to resolve.

If you have any questions or comments about any of the documents attached to this e-mail, please send them to the CMS contacts listed in Section O of the Agreement and copy them to cobva@ghimedicare.com.

Thank you again for your cooperation.