

CMS Reminds Medicare Beneficiaries to Review and Compare Their Current Drug Coverage

(September 25, 2008) – CMS Acting Administrator Kerry Weems announced the 2009 Medicare prescription drug and Medicare Advantage plan options. Approximately 97 percent of beneficiaries enrolled in a stand-alone prescription drug plan (PDP) will have access to Medicare drug and health plans in 2009 whose premiums would be the same or less than their coverage in 2008.

"As we enter the fourth year of the Medicare Part D prescription drug program, we continue to see high satisfaction rates among beneficiaries and high participation among plans," said Weems. "However, plans do change their offerings from year to year. Some beneficiaries may see significant premium increases or changes, such as reduced coverage in the gap, if they stay in the same prescription drug plan in 2009. We encourage individual beneficiaries to review how their plans are changing and what other options are available to them to determine which plan best meets their needs."

Details about the specific plans in each region will be available mid-October at www.medicare.gov and 1-800-MEDICARE. **Open enrollment for prescription drug coverage begins November 15 and ends December 31.**

The list of national stand-alone prescription drug plans and state specific fact sheets can be found at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/center/openenrollment.asp>

To read the CMS press release: http://www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/media/press_releases.asp

Specific Plan Enrollment Information: www.medicare.gov

List of National Plan Sponsors and State Fact Sheets:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/center/openenrollment.asp>