Formulary Oversight Process

HPMS and Formulary Finder Tool Coordination Clarification

November 22, 2005

As part of the first phase of formulary monitoring and oversight, CMS has identified formularies that do not contain one or more drugs from the six classes of clinical concern. Lack of inclusion of these drugs on the Formulary Finder tool was primarily due to a technical issue between the information included HPMS formulary files and the information available of the Formulary Finder.

CMS performed the quality assurance (QA) analysis of formulary data for the six classes of clinical concern using data from Medicare.gov and HPMS in order to ensure that drugs approved on the HPMS formularies were being displayed on the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Finder tool. Based on the findings of this QA analysis, plans were contacted to correct any deficiencies that may exist in either data source (HPMS or Medicare.gov). Any deficiencies noted on the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Finder tool were being fixed immediately by plan sponsors. HPMS formulary files will be updated during the open period from December 12-16, 2005 where applicable.

CMS will continue to perform additional QA reviews to ensure that approved HPMS formulary files are being displayed appropriately to beneficiaries. Any potential discrepancies on plan web sites or the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Finder should be directed to CMS for further investigation.

In addition, plan are also reminded that any new drug or new indication within the six classes that is available for marketing and distribution before January 1, 2006 must also be included on formulary files. CMS will issue additional information on this topic as the beginning of the benefit draws near.