

Special Open Door Forum: Discussion of Interim Guidance on Special Needs Plans under the Medicare Modernization Act

Monday, November 8, 2004
2:00pm – 4:00pm

Section 231 of the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) authorizes Medicare Advantage (MA) organizations to offer plans that serve individuals with special needs. This provision allows MA coordinated care plans the option to exclusively or disproportionately enroll 'special needs' individuals. Two groups of special needs Medicare individuals are specified in the interim guidance, Medicaid dual eligibles and the institutionalized.

MA organizations can now operate as Special Needs Plans (SNPs) if they meet requirements established in the interim guidance, which was published June 22, 2004. At the Open Door Forum, we intend to further discuss both policy and operational aspects to this guidance. We will discuss the two types of SNPs currently allowed, those for dual eligibles and the institutionalized, as well as SNP Plan application process, proposal review, and marketing requirements.

As the comment period for Title II closed on October 4, 2004, no further formal comments to the regulation are being accepted, however we do look forward to receiving suggestions or other comments regarding the dual eligible and institutional SNPs discussed at this forum.

Open Door Participation Instructions:

There are 2 ways to participate, by phone or "in-person".

1. To participate by phone:

Dial: **1-800-837-1935** & Reference Conference ID: **1386204**

Persons participating by phone do not need to RSVP.

Note: TTY Communications Relay Services are available for the Hearing Impaired. For TTY services dial 7-1-1 or 1-800-855-2880 and for Internet Relay services click here <http://www.consumer.att.com/relay/which/index.html>.

A Relay Communications Assistant will help

2. To participate in-person:

If you intend to participate in person, **RSVP is required:**

Please send a reply to this email by close of business Wednesday, November 3rd to SpecialODF@cms.hhs.gov.

Please include "SNP" in the subject line of your message, and send us the following information:

- a) Your full name
- b) Your organization or representation
- c) Your contact information (phone and email)
- d) Special needs information

Location information:

ADDRESS:

CMS Single Site Building
Multipurpose Room
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244

Map & Directions: <http://cmsnet.cms.hhs.gov/hpages/ocsq/cmsdirections-north.htm>

ENCORE: 1-800-642-1687

"Encore" is a recording of this call that can be accessed by dialing 1-800-642-1687 and entering the Conf. ID # **1386204**.

The recording begins two hours after the call ends on Monday, November 8th and expires after 4 business days.

For automatic emails of Open Door Forum schedule updates (Listserv registration) and to view Frequently Asked Questions please visit our website at:

www.cms.hhs.gov/opendoor