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Authorized Signature

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Issue Date: 10/18/2007

Topic: Other

Subject: MMA Transmittal: 2008 Medicare Advantage Plan changes

Applies to (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Children, Adults and Families | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seniors and People with Disabilities |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County DD Program Managers | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): |

Message:

Recently, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the 2008 Medicare Advantage and Medicare Advantage-Prescription Drug Plans (MA-PDs). Several significant changes will impact Medicare clients in various manners.

The entire Oregon Medicare Advantage plan landscape is available on the DHS-MMA website. By clicking on the link, <http://egov.oregon.gov/DHS/mma/>, you can choose to view the Medicare Advantage spreadsheet and the Stand-Alone PDP spreadsheet from the "Current Topics" section. The Medicare Advantage document is large. Using the sort tool should help to navigate to areas of concern to you. The plans that coordinate with Medicaid are highlighted.

One of the biggest areas of change is with Regence BlueCross BlueShield. **Regence has expanded their MA plan areas, but will be pulling their "Cost" Plans (Preferred Choice 65, Preferred Choice 65+, and First Choice 65) from Linn, Benton, Jackson, and Josephine Counties.** These plans will be in Curry, Douglas, and Tillamook, only for the 2008 calendar year. Regence has told us that these plans will not be offered in calendar year 2009. Approximately 1,800 clients affected by this change and will have to choose another plan, or revert to Original Medicare. Clients have started receiving notices of the change already.

Another significant change comes in the extensive expansion in the Private Fee-for-Service (PFFS) arena with many companies covering most of the state, and plans available in every county in Oregon. Multiple companies offer PFFS Medicare

Advantage plans in different areas of the state, but have different benefit packages for each area, at different rates. It is critical to observe the differences, as many will not provide drug coverage and many have very similar names. It is best to use the plan Contract and ID#, to ensure that there is limited confusion. Again this year, new insurance companies have entered the Oregon market—HealthMarkets Care Assured and Mennonite Mutual Aid Association are among those.

Other changes to note:

Many other companies have made significant changes.

- Kaiser Senior Advantage Plans have expanded their service area to include Linn and Benton Counties.
- Trillium Advantage has expanded their service area to include Jackson and added an Institutionalized Plan.
- CareOregon Advantage has added Jackson and Josephine for their Dual Special Needs Plan.
- Evercare has expanded service areas for their Dual and Institutionalized Plans and added a Chronic Care Plan.
- Health Net has also added two Chronic Care Special Needs Plans.
- Sierra Optima PFFS has pulled out of Oregon. Any clients with this company will be reverted to Original Medicare and have options to choose another plan.

If you have any questions about this information, contact:

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