



## **CMS Agency Report to PharmPAC**

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On August 5<sup>th</sup>, CMS held a promotion ceremony for the 13 USPHS CMS officers who were promoted in 2011. CMS Administrator Dr. Don Berwick attended the ceremony and spoke positively about the importance of the PHS officers serving in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Also in attendance was RADM Denise Canton from the Office of the Surgeon General, who pinned on the new rank for officers. Congratulations to the following CMS Pharmacy Officers: CAPT Todd Stankewicz, CDR Hollie Cook and LCDR June Page!

CAPT Todd Stankewicz, CDR Hollie Cook, CDR Jeff Mouakket and LCDR Matthew Febbo will be leading or co-leading the formulary administration teams for the 2011 CMS Prescription Drug Plan Sponsor Performance Audits in July, August and September.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) conducts a number of audits of standalone Prescription Drug Plan, Medicare Advantage and Section 1876 Cost Plan Sponsoring Organizations to ensure these contracted entities are complying with CMS contractual and regulatory requirements. The Center for Medicare (CM) enters into contracts with these entities and is responsible for exercising oversight of these entities.

### **Medicare to Save Taxpayers and Beneficiaries \$28 Billion with Expanded Competitive Bidding Program:**

Section 302 of the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) established requirements for a new Competitive Bidding Program for certain Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS). Under the program, DMEPOS suppliers compete to become Medicare contract suppliers by submitting bids to furnish certain items in competitive bidding areas, and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) awards contracts to enough suppliers to meet beneficiary demand for the bid items.

[https://www.cms.gov/DMEPOSCompetitiveBid/01\\_overview.asp](https://www.cms.gov/DMEPOSCompetitiveBid/01_overview.asp)

**HHS, Treasury Take New Steps to Help States Build Affordable Insurance Exchanges:** The Departments of Health and Human Services and Treasury today took the next steps to establish Affordable Insurance Exchanges – one-stop marketplaces where consumers can choose a private health insurance plan that fits their health needs and have the same kind of insurance choices as members of Congress. Among other policies, the proposed rules describe how middle-class families will gain access to unprecedented tax relief that will dramatically reduce the cost of coverage.

<https://www.cms.gov/apps/media/press/release.asp?Counter=4056>

### **Medicare Provides Assistance to Help Low-Income Beneficiaries Get Big Savings on**

**Prescription Drug Cost:** Some Medicare beneficiaries could qualify for assistance with their prescription drug costs, and be eligible this year to pay no more than \$2.50 for generic drugs and \$6.30 for each brand name drug. The steps and requirements beneficiaries can take to check if they qualify for the Medicare Low-Income Subsidy Program (also known as LIS or “Extra Help”) are simple and may be done by phone or online.

<https://www.cms.gov/apps/media/press/release.asp?Counter=4048>