

July 11, 2008

UPDATED MEDICARE PART D NOTICES

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (“CMS”) recently updated the model notices required under Medicare Part D, including the model notices of creditable and non-creditable coverage. For any notice of creditable or non-creditable coverage provided after June 15, 2008, plan sponsors should utilize these updated notices. The updated notices are available at the following website:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CreditableCoverage/09_CCafterJune15.asp#TopOfPage

Each year by November 15, group health plans that offer prescription drug coverage must provide a notice to all individuals who are eligible for Medicare Part D prescription drug benefits, which would include dependents or employees who are eligible for Medicare by reason of age, disability or end-stage renal disease.

Many employers choose to provide the notice to all plan participants and beneficiaries to ensure full compliance with the disclosure requirement. Plans may consider including the notice with their plan’s open enrollment materials if this information is provided before November 15.

If you have any questions regarding the notice, please contact one of the attorneys listed below.

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