

# **01 - Introduction**

**(Rev. 79, Issued 02-17-06, Effective Date 02-17-06)**

These guidelines reflect CMS' current interpretation of the provisions of the Medicare Advantage statute and regulations (Chapter 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 422) pertaining to application procedures and contract requirements. These guidelines were developed after careful evaluation by CMS of industry practices and changes to the Medicare Advantage program enacted in the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA). Significant changes brought about by the MMA include a new bidding process, changes in contracting, and new health plan options. The guidance set forth in this document may be subject to change.

