

Speaker Biographies
“Medicare 101: What You Really Need To Know”
April 20, 2007

THOMAS AULT joined Health Policy Alternatives in 1997 after many years of legislative, budgetary and regulatory leadership in health policy. He was director of the policy bureau at the Health Care Financing Administration (now CMS) from 1993 to 1997, and was its deputy director from 1988 to 1993. During that period, he led policy development for numerous Medicare and Medicaid changes including coverage of new technology, inpatient and outpatient hospital prospective payment, physician practice expense and other fee schedule policies, and nursing home and home health policies. Prior to joining the policy bureau, Mr. Ault was director of policy analysis in HCFA's legislative office. He is a graduate of the University of Maryland, with a bachelor's degree in mathematics, and of George Washington University, with a master's degree in public policy/operations research.

TRICIA NEUMAN is a vice president of the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation and is director of the foundation's Medicare Policy Project. She is also an adjunct associate professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health. She has published numerous articles on topics related to health coverage and financing of care for the Medicare population, and has been invited several times to present expert testimony before congressional committees. Before joining the foundation in 1995, Dr. Neuman served for six years on the professional staff of the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health, and for three years on the staff of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, working on health and long-term care issues. She received a Sc. D. in health policy and management, and a master's degree in health finance and management from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. She received her bachelor's degree from Wesleyan University.

CYNTHIA TUDOR is director of the Medicare Drug Benefit Group at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in Baltimore. The Medicare Drug Benefit Group (MDBG) is responsible for all activities related to the implementation and operation of the Medicare drug benefit. This includes applications, formulary development, contracting, benefits policy, performance and quality metrics, and monitoring the economic, clinical, and operational performance of drug plans, as well as day-to-day operations. Prior to serving in the Drug Benefit Group, Dr. Tudor led the implementation and operations of risk adjustment (RA) payments to Medicare Advantage organizations. Beginning at the Office of Research and Demonstrations at CMS, Dr. Tudor led a team of researchers who were responsible for developing multiple approaches for risk adjustment. Dr. Tudor then led the development of methods of collecting data from plans, implemented the collection of these data, processed the data, applied a risk adjuster, validated RA payments, and determined the impacts of risk adjustment on M+C plans. Dr. Tudor also led the development of the risk adjuster for Part D. She received her doctorate from the Johns Hopkins University and received post-doctoral training at the University of Maryland Medical School, Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine.