

Purpose: This subcommittee is charged with providing advice and recommendations to the Director, CDC, and the Administrator, ATSDR, regarding community, American Indian Tribes, and labor concerns pertaining to CDC's and ATSDR's public health activities and research at this DOE site. Activities shall focus on providing a forum for community, American Indian Tribal, and labor interaction and serve as a vehicle for community concern to be expressed as advice and recommendations to CDC and ATSDR.

Matters to be Discussed: Agenda items include: presentations from the National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) regarding current activities and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and ATSDR will provide updates on the progress of current studies.

Agenda items are subject to change as priorities dictate.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Paul G. Renard, Radiation Studies Branch, Division of Environmental Hazards and Health Effects, NCEH, CDC, 4770 Buford Highway, NE, M/S F-35, Atlanta, Georgia 30341-3724, telephone 770/488-7040, fax 770/488-7044.

Dated: April 15, 1998.

Nancy C. Hirsch,

Acting Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

[FR Doc. 98-10648 Filed 4-21-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4163-18-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care Financing Administration [HCFA-1040-N]

Medicare Program; May 7, 1998, Meeting of the Competitive Pricing Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), HHS.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 10(a) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, this notice announces a meeting of the Competitive Pricing Advisory Committee. This meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The meeting is scheduled for May 7, 1998 from 10:00 a.m. until 6 p.m. E.D.S.T.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in Room 5051, Wilbur J. Cohen Building (entrance on "C" street), 300 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20201.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lu Zawistowich, Sc.D., Executive Director, Competitive Pricing Advisory Committee, Health Care Financing Administration, 7500 Security

Boulevard S3-02-01, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850, (410) 786-6451.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 4011 of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (BBA) requires the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (the Secretary) to establish a demonstration project under which payments to Medicare+Choice organizations in designated areas are determined in accordance with a competitive pricing methodology. Section 4012 of BBA requires the Secretary to appoint a Competitive Pricing Advisory Committee (CPAC). The CPAC will meet periodically to make recommendations to the Secretary concerning the designation of areas for inclusion in the project and appropriate research design for implementing the project.

The CPAC is being assembled and will consist of individuals who are independent actuaries, experts in competitive pricing, and experts in the administration of the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program. In accordance with section 4012(a)(5) of the BBA, the CPAC shall terminate on December 31, 2004.

The CPAC will be sworn in and hold its first meeting on May 7. The agenda will include discussion of background materials relevant to competitive pricing and the goals and objectives of the demonstrations. Members will be asked to develop and prioritize a list of important demonstration design issues and the information needed to study and address the issues. The CPAC will develop a schedule for decision making on each issue that can be addressed within the mandated time frame for implementation of the project. The CPAC will decide the number of additional meetings that are needed and a tentative agenda for each.

Individuals or organizations that wish to make 5-minute oral presentations on the agenda issues should contact the Executive Director (listed above in this notice under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) by 12 noon, April 28, 1998, to be scheduled. The number of oral presentations may be limited by the time available. A written copy of the oral remarks should be submitted to the Executive Director no later than 12 noon, May 4, 1998. Anyone who is not scheduled to speak may submit written comments to the Executive Director by 12:00 noon, May 4, 1998. The meeting is open to the public, but attendance is limited to the space available.

(Section 4012 of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, Public Law 105-33 (42 U.S.C. 1395w-23 note) and section 10(a) of Public Law 92-463 (5 U.S.C. App. 2, section 10(a))

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.773, Medicare—Hospital Insurance; and Program No. 93.774, Medicare—Supplementary Medical Insurance Program)

Dated: April 20, 1998.

Nancy-Ann Min DeParle,

Administrator, Health Care Financing Administration.

[FR Doc. 98-10883 Filed 4-21-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4120-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Resources and Services Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection: Comment Request

In compliance with the requirement for opportunity for public comment on proposed data collection projects (section 3506(c)(2)(A) of Title 44, United States Code, as amended by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will publish periodic summaries of proposed projects being developed for submission to OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. To request more information on the proposed project or to obtain a copy of the data collection plans and draft instruments, call the HRSA Reports Clearance Officer on (301) 443-1891.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Proposed Project: *The Health Education Assistance Loan (HEAL) Program: Student Application for a Federal Health Education Assistance Loan*—Extension of OMB Clearance 0915-0038. The HEAL program provides federally-insured loans to students in schools of medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, optometry, podiatric medicine, pharmacy, public health, chiropractic, or allied health, and graduate students in health administration or clinical psychology. Eligible lenders, such as

banks, State agencies, and HEAL schools make HEAL loans which are insured by the Federal Government against loss due to the borrower's death, disability, bankruptcy, and default. The basic purpose of the program is to assure the availability of funds for loans to eligible students who need to borrow money to pay for their educational costs. The Student Application is used by students to apply for HEAL loans and by schools and lenders to process the applications.

The HEAL program has been in the process of phasing out for the last three

years in the absence of current legislation. An OMB clearance approval was given for this application form through October 31, 1998, to accommodate the final operational year of the program. In March 1998 the Senate introduced in Congress a bill, S. 1754, to reauthorize the Health Professions Programs including the HEAL program. Based on this reauthorization bill, and subject to passage, enactment, and appropriation of funds, an extension of OMB approval of this form will be sought. As a contingency action, it is in the best

interest of the program to publish a 60-day notice at this time to accommodate a smooth transition of the program from phaseout to full operation without any time delays. To facilitate this, the Agency is inviting comments on the current form, in case OMB clearance on this form is needed.

The estimate of annual burden for the Student Application based on the amount appropriated in FY 1995, the last full year of operation, is as follows:

Type of respondent	Number of respondents	Responses per respondent	Total number of responses	Burden per response (minutes)	Total burden hours
Applicants	20,000	1	20,000	15	5,000
Schools	200	100	20,000	30	10,000
Lenders	6	3,333	20,000	30	10,000
Total	20,206	60,000	25,000

Send comments to Lyman Van Nostrand, HRSA Reports Clearance Officer, Room 14-33, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857. Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

Dated: April 16, 1998.

Jane Harrison,

Acting Director, Division of Policy Review and Coordination.

[FR Doc. 98-10655 Filed 4-21-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Resources and Services Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection: Comment Request

In compliance with the requirement for opportunity for public comment on proposed data collection projects (section 3506(c)(2)(A) of Title 44, United States Code, as amended by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will publish periodic summaries of proposed projects being developed for submission to OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. To request more information on the proposed project or to obtain a copy of the data collection plans and draft instruments, call the

HRSA Reports Clearance Officer on (301) 443-1891.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Proposed Project: *The Health Education Assistance Loan (HEAL) Program: Refinancing Loan Application/Promissory Note*—NEW. The HEAL program provides federally-insured loans to students in schools of allopathic medicine, osteopathic medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, optometry, podiatric medicine, pharmacy, public health, chiropractic, or allied health, and graduate students in health administration or clinical psychology. Eligible lenders, such as banks, State agencies, and HEAL schools make HEAL loans which are insured by the Federal Government against loss due to the borrower's death, disability, bankruptcy, and default. The basic purpose of the program is to assure the

availability of funds for loans to eligible students who need to borrow money to pay for their educational costs.

In July 1993 the HEAL refinancing program was implemented. This allowed HEAL borrowers who had graduated to refinance all of their HEAL loans into one new HEAL loan, often times at better rates and provisions than their original loans.

A new combined HEAL refinancing loan application/promissory note is being developed for lenders. Previously, the standard HEAL student application form (HRSA-700) and promissory note (HRSA 500-3) were used by lenders to process the loan refinancing. The application contained items that were not needed for refinancing loans. Some lenders combined the two forms into one application/promissory note using all appropriate items from each form. Because of the successful use of the combined form developed by the lenders, and the Department's desire to make the refinancing process easier for all parties concerned, the Department has developed an official combined form. In addition, certain items that were previously required of the borrower (e.g., citizenship, date of birth, delinquent and default responses, etc.) were deleted since they are presently available to the lenders and the Department from other sources.

The estimate of burden for the new refinancing loan application/promissory note form per year is as follows: