

Submit registration information by June 11, 1999.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held in the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research Advisory Committee Conference Room, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1066, Rockville, MD 20857.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Adele S. Seifried, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (HFD-024), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, 301-594-5482.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Registration. Although there is no fee, preregistration by June 11, 1999, is required for all attendees at this meeting. Participation is limited to the first 75 registrants outside FDA and is also restricted within FDA due to limited meeting space. Persons interested in attending the meeting should register via e-mail to "wedge@cder.fda.gov" using the registration form on the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research home page "http://www.fda.gov/cder" or, if e-mail is not available, fax their registration information (including name, affiliation, address, telephone, fax number, and e-mail address) to 301-827-6801, ATTN: Kimberly L. Topper. Interested persons may also register by mailing the registration information to the contact person identified previously.

Building Location and Admittance. The building at 5630 Fishers Lane is the former Social Services Building located next to the Parklawn Building. Please use the lower entrance, which faces Parklawn Dr. Visitor badges for nonagency participants will be held at the guard station at the entrance to the building. Participants will need picture identification to pick up their badge.

Parking. There is no public parking at the building at 5630 Fishers Lane. A public parking lot (for a fee) is located on Fishers Lane across from the Parklawn building, and additional public parking (for a fee) is available at the Twinbrook Metro station located several blocks to the west.

Agenda. An agenda for the public meeting will be available 2 weeks before the meeting, via the Internet using the World Wide Web (WWW). Connect to the CDER home page at "http://www.fda.gov/cder" and go to the "What's Happening" section.

Dated: April 28, 1999.

William K. Hubbard,
Associate Commissioner for Policy
Coordination.

[FR Doc. 99-11122 Filed 5-3-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-01-F

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care Financing Administration

[Document Identifier: HCFA-R-0254]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Health Care Financing Administration, HHS.

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), Department of Health and Human Services, is publishing the following summary of proposed collections for public comment. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including any of the following subjects: (1) The necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

Type of Information Collection Request: Reinstatement, without change, or a previously approved collection for which approval has expired.

Title of Information Collection: National Medicare Education Program (NMEP) Community Survey of Medicare Beneficiaries.

Form No.: HCFA-R-0254 (OMB# 0938-0738).

Use: A survey of Medicare beneficiaries in six communities will be conducted to monitor the NMEP implementation. Beneficiaries in these same communities were interviewed in September 1998 and February 1999. This approach will gather information on changes in: awareness of Medicare+Choice expansions and options; knowledge about Medicare and the Medicare+Choice options; where beneficiaries go to find more information; and whether they are aware of the many information resources available to them; and satisfaction with their information/knowledge.

Frequency: Annually.

Affected Public: Individuals or Households.

Number of Respondents: 2,400.

Total Annual Responses: 2,400.

Total Annual Hours: 600.

To obtain copies of the supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed paperwork collections referenced above, access HCFA's Web Site address at <http://www.hcfa.gov/regs/prdact95.htm>, or E-mail your request, including your address, phone number, OMB number, and HCFA document identifier, to Paperwork@hcfa.gov, or call the Reports Clearance Office on (410) 786-1326. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collections must be mailed within 60 days of this notice directly to the HCFA Paperwork Clearance Officer designated at the following address:

HCFA, Office of Information Services,
Security and Standards Group,
Division of HCFA Enterprise
Standards, Attention: Louis Blank,
Room N2-14-26, 7500 Security
Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland
21244-1850

Dated: April 26, 1999.

John P. Burke III,

HCFA Reports Clearance Officer, HCFA Office
of Information Services, Security and
Standards Group, Division of HCFA
Enterprise Standards.

[FR Doc. 99-11150 Filed 5-3-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care Financing Administration

[Document Identifier: HCFA-R-138]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Health Care Financing Administration, HHS.

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), Department of Health and Human Services, is publishing the following summary of proposed collections for public comment. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including any of the following subjects: (1) The necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to

minimize the information collection burden.

Type of Information Collection Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Title of Information Collection: Medicare Geographical Classification Review Board (MGCRB) Procedures and Criteria and Supporting Regulations in 42 CFR 412.256.

Form No.: HCFA-R-138.

Use: This regulation sets up an application process for prospective payment system hospitals who choose to appeal their geographic status to the Medicare Geographic Classification Review Board (MGCRB). This regulation also establishes procedural guidelines for the MGCRB.

Frequency: Annually.

Affected Public: Business or other for profit, and not for profit institutions.

Number of Respondents: 1,000.

Total Annual Responses: 1,000.

Total Annual Hours Requested: 1,000.

To obtain copies of the supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed paperwork collections referenced above, access HCFA's Web Site address at <http://www.hcfa.gov/reg/prdact95.htm>, or E-mail your request, including your address, phone number, OMB number, and HCFA document identifier, to Paperwork@hcfa.gov, or call the Reports Clearance Office on (410) 786-1326. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collections must be mailed within 60 days of this notice directly to the HCFA Paperwork Clearance Officer designated at the following address:

HCFA, Office of Information Services,
Security and Standards Group,
Division of HCFA Enterprise
Standards, Attention: Dawn
Willingham, Room N2-14-26, 7500
Security Boulevard, Baltimore,
Maryland 21244-1850.

Dated: April 26, 1999.

John P. Burke III,

HCFA Reports Clearance Officer, HCFA Office of Information Services, Security and Standards Group, Division of HCFA Enterprise Standards.

[FR Doc. 99-11152 Filed 5-3-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care Financing Administration

[Document Identifier: HCFA-R-209 and HCFA-R-245]

Emergency Clearance: Public Information Collection Requirements Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

AGENCY: Health Care Financing Administration.

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), Department of Health and Human Services submitted two Outcome and Assessment Information Set (OASIS) information collections to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for emergency review and approval. On January 25, 1999, HCFA requested OMB review and approval of the OASIS collections within 16 working days from the date of publication of the OASIS regulations. However, these information collections are still pending OMB approval. Therefore, we are publishing this notice as a means of notifying the public that these information collections have not yet been approved by OMB and are not yet in effect. When the clearances referenced below are obtained, HCFA will publish a notice in the **Federal Register**, announcing the approval of these information collections.

OASIS Data Collection and Use (HCFA Collection Number: HCFA-R-245)

On January 25, 1999, we published a regulation (HCFA-3007-F, 64 FR 3764) requiring all home health agencies (HHAs) participating in the Medicare/Medicaid program to collect data using a standardized assessment instrument, Outcome and Assessment Information Set (OASIS), for all patients. This requirement was in accordance with section 1891 of the Social Security Act, and finalized a proposed rule published March 10, 1997 (62 FR 11004). The goal of such mandatory collection and use was so that HHAs could improve the quality of their own services to patients. Mandatory collection and use by HHAs was to begin on February 24, 1999.

In order for this mandate to be valid, we still need to obtain appropriate clearances under the Paperwork Reduction Act. The completion of this activity has been delayed, thus delaying the requirement that HHAs must collect and use the OASIS data set as part of their comprehensive assessment process. Upon successful completion,

we will issue a notification on the HCFA Internet site (<http://hcfa.gov>) and publish a notice to this effect in the **Federal Register**.

In the meantime, we are not requiring HHAs to collect and use the OASIS instrument. HHAs that were not meeting the requirements on or after the February 24 effective date will not be held out of compliance. Of course, given that the instrument was designed to be useful to HHAs to assess and improve the care they furnish, they may wish to use the OASIS instrument for their own purposes.

Encoding and Transmission of OASIS Data (HCFA Collection Number: HCFA-R-209)

On January 25, 1999, we published an interim final regulation (HCFA-3006-IFC, 64 FR 3748) mandating that all HHAs participating in the Medicare/Medicaid program encode (that is, data enter) OASIS information in a standard format and transmit it to HCFA as a condition of participation. Encoding was to begin on March 26th and data transmission to the States on April 26th.

In order for this mandate to be valid, we still need to obtain appropriate clearances under the Paperwork Reduction Act, prepare and provide an individual Privacy Act notice for patients, and publish a Privacy Act notice of the existence and character of the OASIS system of records. The completion of these activities has been delayed, thus delaying the requirement that HHAs encode and transmit OASIS data. Upon their successful completion, we will issue a notification on the HCFA Internet site (<http://hcfa.gov>) and publish a notice to this effect in the **Federal Register**.

In the meantime, we are not requiring HHAs to encode and transmit OASIS data. HHAs that were not meeting the requirements on or after the above effective dates will not be held out of compliance.

Dated: April 28, 1999.

John P. Burke III,

HCFA Reports Clearance Officer, HCFA, Office of Information Services, Security and Standards Group, Division of HCFA Enterprise Standards.

[FR Doc. 99-11059 Filed 5-3-99; 8:45 am]

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