

for verifying that the laboratories accredited by AABB remain in compliance with CLIA requirements. This Federal monitoring is an ongoing process.

V. Removal of Approval as an Accrediting Organization

Our regulations provide that we may rescind the approval of an accreditation organization, such as that of AABB, for cause, before the end of the effective date of approval. If we determine that AABB failed to adopt requirements that are equal to, or more stringent than, the CLIA requirements, or that systemic problems exist in its inspection process, we may give it a probationary period, not to exceed 1 year, to allow AABB to adopt comparable requirements.

Should circumstances result in our withdrawal of the AABB's approval, we will publish a notice in the **Federal Register** explaining the basis for removing its approval.

VI. Collection of Information Requirements

This notice does not impose any information collection and record keeping requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). Consequently, it does not need to be reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the authority of the PRA. The requirements associated with the accreditation process for clinical laboratories under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA) program, codified in 42 CFR part 493, subpart E, are currently approved by OMB under OMB approval number 0938-0686.

Authority: Section 353 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 263a).

Dated: April 11, 2008.

Kerry Weems,

Acting Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

[FR Doc. E8-10769 Filed 5-22-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS-7009-N]

Medicare Program; Announcement of Meeting of the Advisory Panel on Medicare Education, June 26, 2008

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), HHS.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, this notice announces a meeting of Advisory Panel on Medicare Education (the Panel). The Panel advises and makes recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services on the effectiveness of consumer education strategies concerning the Medicare program. This meeting is open to the public.

DATES: *Meeting Date:* June 26, 2008 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., d.s.t.

Deadline for Meeting Registration, Presentations and Comments: June 19, 2008, 12 noon, d.s.t.

Deadline for Requesting Special Accommodations: June 12, 2008, 12 noon, d.s.t.

ADDRESSES: *Meeting Location:* Four Points Hotel, 1201 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005, (202) 349-2205.

Meeting Registration, Presentations, and Written Comments: Lynne Johnson, Designated Federal Official, Division of Forum and Conference Development, Office of External Affairs, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 7500 Security Boulevard, Mailstop S1-05-06, Baltimore, MD 21244-1850 or contact Ms. Johnson via e-mail at Lynne.Johnson@cms.hhs.gov.

Registration: The meeting is open to the public, but attendance is limited to the space available. Persons wishing to attend this meeting must register by contacting Lynne Johnson at the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice or by telephone at (410) 786-0090, by the date listed in the **DATES** section of this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lynne Johnson, (410) 786-0090. Please refer to the CMS Advisory Committees' Information Line (1-877-449-5659 toll free)/(410-786-9379 local) or the Internet (http://www.cms.hhs.gov/FACA/04_APME.asp) for additional information and updates on committee activities. Press inquiries are handled through the CMS Press Office at (202) 690-6145.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 9(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services (the Secretary) to establish an advisory panel if the Secretary determines that the panel is "in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed * * * by law." Such duties are imposed by section 1804 of the Social Security Act (the Act), requiring the Secretary to provide informational materials to Medicare beneficiaries about the Medicare

program, and section 1851(d) of the Act, requiring the Secretary to provide for "activities * * * to broadly disseminate information to [M]edicare beneficiaries * * * on the coverage options provided under [Medicare Advantage] in order to promote an active, informed selection among such options."

The Panel is also authorized by 1114(f) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 1311(f)) and section 222 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 217a). The Secretary signed the charter establishing this Panel on January 21, 1999 and approved the renewal of the charter on November 14, 2006. The establishment of the charter and the renewal of the charter were announced in the February 17, 1999 **Federal Register** (64 FR 7899), and the March 23, 2007 **Federal Register** (72 FR 13796), respectively. The Panel advises and makes recommendations to the Secretary and the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on opportunities to enhance the effectiveness of consumer education strategies concerning the Medicare program. The Secretary delegates authority to the Administrator.

The goals of the Panel are as follows:

- To provide recommendations on the development and implementation of a national Medicare education program that describes the options for selecting a health plan and prescription drug plan under Medicare.
- To enhance the Federal government's effectiveness in informing the Medicare consumer, including the appropriate use of public-private partnerships.
- To provide recommendations on how to expand outreach to vulnerable and underserved communities, including racial and ethnic minorities, in the context of a national Medicare education program.
- To assemble an information base of best practices for helping consumers evaluate health plan options and build a community infrastructure for information, counseling, and assistance.

The current members of the Panel are: Anita B. Boles, Executive Director, Society for the Arts in Healthcare; Gwendolyn T. Bronson, SHINE/SHIP Counselor, Massachusetts SHINE Program; Dr. Yanira Cruz, President and Chief Executive Officer, National Hispanic Council on Aging; Clayton Fong, President and Chief Executive Officer, National Asian Pacific Center on Aging; Nan Kirsten-Forte, Executive Vice President, Consumer Services, WebMD; Dr. Jessie C. Gruman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Center for the Advancement of Health; Dr. David Lansky, PhD., President and Chief

Executive Officer, Pacific Business Group on Health; Dr. Daniel Lyons, Senior Vice President, Government Programs, Independence Blue Cross; Dr. Frank B. McArde, Manager, Hewitt Research Office, Hewitt Associates; Traci McClellan, J.D., Executive Director, National Indian Council on Aging; Dr. Keith Mueller, Professor and Section Head, Health Services Research and Rural Health Policy, University of Nebraska; Lee Partridge, Senior Health Policy Advisor, National Partnership for Women and Families; Gary A. Puckrein, PhD., President and Chief Executive Officer, National Minority Quality Forum; Rebecca Snead, Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer, National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations; William A. Steel, Past President, The National Grange; Marvin Tuttle, Jr., CAE, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, Financial Planning Association; Catherine Valenti, Consultant, American Academy of HIV Medicine; and Grant Wedner, Vice President, Partnerships and Corporate Development, Daily Strength, Inc.

The agenda for the June 26, 2008 meeting will include the following:

- Recap of the previous (March 11, 2008) meeting.
- Medicare Outreach and Education Strategies.
- Public Comment.
- Listening Session with CMS

Leadership.

- Next Steps.

Individuals or organizations that wish to make a 5-minute oral presentation on an agenda topic should submit a written copy of the oral presentation to Lynne Johnson at the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice by the date listed in the **DATES** section of this notice. The number of oral presentations may be limited by the time available. Individuals not wishing to make a presentation may submit written comments to Ms. Johnson at the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice by the date listed in the **DATES** section of this notice.

Individuals requiring sign language interpretation or other special accommodations should contact Ms. Johnson at the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice by the date listed in the **DATES** section of this notice.

Authority: Sec. 222 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 217a) and sec. 10(a) of Pub. L. 92-463 (5 U.S.C. App. 2, sec. 10(a) and 41 CFR 102-3).

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.733, Medicare—Hospital Insurance Program; and Program No. 93.774, Medicare—Supplementary Medical Insurance Program)

Dated: April 23, 2008.

Kerry Weems,

Acting Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS-2273-N2 and CMS-2265-N]

RIN 0938-AO99 and 0938-APO7

State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP); Retrospective Adjustment for Additional Allotments To Eliminate Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 Funding Shortfalls; Final SCHIP Allotments for FYs 2008 and 2009; Redistribution of Unused SCHIP FY 2005 Allotments To Eliminate FY 2008 Funding Shortfalls; Additional Allotments To Eliminate FY 2008 Funding Shortfalls; and Provisions for Continued Authority for Qualifying States To Use a Portion of Certain SCHIP Funds for Medicaid Expenditures

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice describes the implementation of certain funding provisions under title XXI of the Social Security Act (SCHIP) as amended by the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Extension Act of 2007 (MMSEA), (Pub. L. 110-173), and other related SCHIP legislation. These funding provisions include: The retrospective adjustment of the additional allotments to eliminate fiscal year (FY) 2007 SCHIP funding shortfalls; the final FYs 2008 and 2009 SCHIP allotments; the redistribution of the amounts of States' unused FY 2005 allotments to eliminate FY 2008 SCHIP funding shortfalls; the provision of additional allotments to eliminate FY 2008 SCHIP funding shortfalls; and the provision for "qualifying States" to elect to use a portion of their available SCHIP allotments as increased Federal matching funds for certain expenditures in their Medicaid programs under title XIX of the Act.

DATES: *Effective Date:* This notice is effective on June 23, 2008. The allotments set forth in this notice are available for expenditures on or after the start of the identified fiscal year to which they pertain.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard Strauss, (410) 786-2019.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

I. Background

A. Availability and Redistribution of SCHIP Fiscal Year Allotments

Title XXI of the Social Security Act (the Act) sets forth the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) to enable States, the District of Columbia, and specified Commonwealths and Territories to initiate and expand health insurance coverage to uninsured, low-income children. The 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealths and Territories may implement the SCHIP through a separate child health program under title XXI of the Act, an expanded Medicaid program under Title XIX of the Act, or a combination of both.

Federal funds appropriated for Title XXI are limited, and the law specifies a formula to divide the total annual appropriation into individual allotments available for each State, the District of Columbia, and each U.S. Territory and Commonwealth with an approved child health plan.

Section 2104(b) of the Act requires States, the District of Columbia, and U.S. Territories and Commonwealths to have an approved child health plan for the fiscal year in order for the Secretary to provide an allotment for that fiscal year.

Section 2104(e) of the Act specifies that in general the SCHIP allotments for a Federal fiscal year are available for payment to States for their expenditures under an approved State child health plan for an initial 3-fiscal year period of availability, including the fiscal year for which the allotment was provided. Section 2104(f) of the Act specifies that in general the amounts of States' allotments which are not expended during the initial 3-year period of availability are to be redistributed to those States that have fully spent these fiscal year allotments during this period of availability in accordance with an appropriate procedure determined by the Secretary. Furthermore, section 2104(e) of the Act specifies that the amounts of the redistributed allotments continue to be available for expenditure by the States receiving these redistributions to the end of the fiscal year in which these funds are redistributed.