

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[CDC–2018–0007; Docket Number NIOSH–307]

Final National Occupational Research Agenda for Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing

AGENCY: National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: NIOSH announces the availability of the final *National Occupational Research Agenda for Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing*.

DATES: The final document was published on June 8, 2018.

ADDRESSES: The document may be obtained at the following link: <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/nora/councils/agff/research.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Emily Novicki, M.A., M.P.H., (NORACoordinator@cdc.gov), National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Mailstop E–20, 1600 Clifton Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30329, phone (404) 498–2581 (not a toll free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On January 17, 2018, NIOSH published a request for public review in the **Federal Register** [83 FR 2447] of the draft version of the *National Occupational Research Agenda for Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing*. The comment received expressed support for the Agenda.

Dated: June 11, 2018.

Frank J. Hearl,

Chief of Staff, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

[FR Doc. 2018–12821 Filed 6–14–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4163–19–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

[CMS–3360–PN]

Medicare and Medicaid Programs: Application From the Community Health Accreditation Partner for Continued CMS Approval of Its Hospice Accreditation Program

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, HHS.

ACTION: Proposed notice.

SUMMARY: This proposed notice acknowledges the receipt of an application from the Community Health Accreditation Partner (CHAP) for continued recognition as a national accrediting organization for hospices that wish to participate in the Medicare or Medicaid programs.

DATES: To be assured consideration, comments must be received at one of the addresses provided below, no later than 5 p.m. on July 16, 2018.

ADDRESSES: In commenting, please refer to file code CMS–3360–PN. Because of staff and resource limitations, we cannot accept comments by facsimile (FAX) transmission.

Comments, including mass comment submissions, must be submitted in one of the following three ways (please choose only one of the ways listed):

1. *Electronically.* You may submit electronic comments on this regulation to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the “Submit a comment” instructions.

2. *By regular mail.* You may mail written comments to the following address ONLY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, Attention: CMS–3360–PN, P.O. Box 8010, Baltimore, MD 21244–8010.

Please allow sufficient time for mailed comments to be received before the close of the comment period.

3. *By express or overnight mail.* You may send written comments to the following address ONLY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, Attention: CMS–3360–PN, Mail Stop C4–26–05, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21244–1850.

For information on viewing public comments, see the beginning of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lillian Williams, (410) 786–8636, Monda Shaver, (410) 786–3410, or Marie Vasbinder, (410) 786–8665.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Inspection of Public Comments:* All comments

received before the close of the comment period are available for viewing by the public, including any personally identifiable or confidential business information that is included in a comment. We post all comments received before the close of the comment period on the following website as soon as possible after they have been received: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the search instructions on that website to view public comments.

I. Background

Under the Medicare program, eligible beneficiaries may receive covered services in a hospice provided certain requirements are met by the hospice. Sections 1861(dd) of the Social Security Act (the Act) establishes distinct criteria for facilities seeking designation as a hospice. Regulations concerning provider agreements are at 42 CFR part 489 and those pertaining to activities relating to the survey and certification of facilities are at 42 CFR part 488. The regulations at 42 CFR part 418, specify the conditions that a hospice must meet in order to participate in the Medicare program, the scope of covered services and the conditions for Medicare payment for hospices.

Generally, to enter into an agreement, a hospice must first be certified by a State survey agency as complying with the conditions or requirements set forth in part 418. Thereafter, the hospice is subject to regular surveys by a State survey agency to determine whether it continues to meet these requirements.

However, there is an alternative to surveys by state agencies. Section 1865(a)(1) of the Act provides that, if a provider entity demonstrates through accreditation by an approved national accrediting organization that all applicable Medicare conditions are met or exceeded, we will deem those provider entities as having met the requirements. Accreditation by an accrediting organization is voluntary and is not required for Medicare participation.

If an accrediting organization is recognized by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services as having standards for accreditation that meet or exceed Medicare requirements, any provider entity accredited by the national accrediting body’s approved program would be deemed to meet the Medicare conditions. A national accrediting organization applying for deeming authority under part 488, subpart A, must provide the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) with reasonable assurance that the

accrediting organization requires the accredited provider entities to meet requirements that are at least as stringent as the Medicare conditions. Our regulations concerning the reapproval of accrediting organizations are set forth at § 488.5. The regulations at § 488.5(e)(2)(i) require accrediting organizations to reapply for continued deeming authority every 6 years or sooner as we determine.

The Community Health Accreditation Partner's (CHAP's) term of approval for its hospice accreditation program expires November 20, 2018.

II. Approval of Deeming Organizations

Section 1865(a)(2) of the Act and our regulations at § 488.5 require that our findings concerning review and approval of a national accrediting organization's requirements consider, among other factors, the applying accrediting organization's requirements for accreditation; survey procedures; resources for conducting required surveys; capacity to furnish information for use in enforcement activities; monitoring procedures for provider entities found not in compliance with the conditions or requirements; and ability to provide CMS with the necessary data for validation.

Section 1865(a)(3)(A) of the Act further requires that we publish within 60 days of receipt of an organization's complete application, a notice identifying the national accrediting body making the request, describing the nature of the request, and providing at least a 30-day public comment period. We have 210 days from the receipt of a complete application to publish notice of approval or denial of the application.

The purpose of this proposed notice is to inform the public of CHAP's request for continued CMS approval of its hospice accreditation program. This notice also solicits public comment on whether CHAP's requirements meet or exceed the Medicare conditions for participation for hospices.

III. Evaluation of Deeming Authority Request

CHAP submitted all the necessary materials to enable us to make a determination concerning its request for continued approval of its hospice accreditation program. This application was determined to be complete on April 24, 2018. Under section 1865(a)(2) of the Act and our regulations at § 488.5 (Application and re-application procedures for national organizations), our review and evaluation of CHAP will be conducted in accordance with, but not necessarily limited to, the following factors:

- The equivalency of CHAP's standards for hospices as compared with CMS' hospice conditions of participation.
- CHAP's survey process to determine the following:
 - ++ CHAP's composition of the survey team, surveyor qualifications, and the ability of the organization to provide continuing surveyor training.
 - ++ CHAP's processes compared to those of State agencies, including survey frequency, and the ability to investigate and respond appropriately to complaints against accredited facilities.
 - ++ CHAP's processes and procedures for monitoring a hospice found out of compliance with CHAP's program requirements. These monitoring procedures are used only when CHAP identifies noncompliance. If noncompliance is identified through validation reviews, the State survey agency monitors corrections as specified at § 488.9(c).
 - ++ CHAP's capacity to report deficiencies to the surveyed facilities and respond to the facility's plan of correction in a timely manner.
 - ++ CHAP's capacity to provide CMS with electronic data, and reports necessary for effective validation and assessment of the organization's survey process.
 - ++ CHAP's staff adequacy and other resources, and its financial viability.
 - ++ CHAP's capacity to adequately fund required surveys.
 - ++ CHAP's policies with respect to whether surveys are announced or unannounced, to assure that surveys are unannounced.
 - ++ CHAP's agreement to provide CMS with a copy of the most current accreditation survey together with any other information related to the survey as we may require (including corrective action plans).

Upon completion of our evaluation, including evaluation of comments received as a result of this proposed notice, we will publish a final notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the result of our evaluation.

III. Collection of Information Requirements

This document does not impose information collection requirements, that is, reporting, recordkeeping or third-party disclosure requirements. Consequently, there is no need for review by the Office of Management and Budget under the authority of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

IV. Response to Comments

Because of the large number of public comments we normally receive on

Federal Register documents, we are not able to acknowledge or respond to them individually. We will consider all comments we receive by the date and time specified in the **DATES** section of this preamble, and, when we proceed with a subsequent document, we will respond to the comments in the preamble to that document.

Dated: May 29, 2018.

Seema Verma,

Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

[FR Doc. 2018–12840 Filed 6–14–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4120–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS–3363–N]

Medicare Program; Meeting of the Medicare Evidence Development and Coverage Advisory Committee—August 22, 2018

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

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces that a public meeting of the Medicare Evidence Development & Coverage Advisory Committee (MEDCAC) (“Committee”) will be held on Wednesday, August 22, 2018. This meeting will focus on the state of evidence on Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T-cell therapies that are approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). We are seeking the MEDCAC's recommendations regarding collection of patient reported outcomes (PRO) in cancer clinical studies. The MEDCAC will specifically focus on appraisal of evidence-based PRO assessments to provide information that impacts patients, their providers, and caregivers after a CAR T-cell therapy intervention for the patient's cancer. This meeting is open to the public in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

DATES:

Meeting Date: The public meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 22, 2018 from 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time (EDT).

Deadline for Submission of Written Comments: Written comments must be received at the address specified in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice by 5:00 p.m., EDT, Monday, July 16, 2018. Once submitted, all comments are final.

Deadlines for Speaker Registration and Presentation Materials: The