

will also be used in budget neutrality calculations.

4. Medicare Health Care Quality Demonstration

Section 646 of the MMA mandates a 5-year demonstration program under which we will test major changes to improve quality of care while increasing efficiency across an entire health care system. Broadly stated, the goals of the Medicare Health Care Quality demonstration are to improve patient safety; enhance quality; increase efficiency; and reduce scientific uncertainty and the unwarranted variation in medical practice that results in both lower quality and higher costs. Projects approved under this demonstration will be expected to achieve significant improvements in safety, effectiveness, efficiency, patient-centeredness, timeliness and equity: the six aims for improvement in quality identified by the Institute of Medicine in its Crossing the Quality Chasm report.

Each factor to be addressed in the evaluation of this demonstration can be directly or indirectly related to prescription drug use, hence the need for Part D claims and other data. For example, research on patient safety has illuminated the way that prescription drug errors represent a nexus that ties together the benefits of health information technology and the need to reduce care fragmentation, and improve care coordination.

5. Expanded Coverage for Chiropractic Services Evaluation

Section 651 of the MMA mandated a budget neutral chiropractor demonstration. Achievement of budget neutrality for the expanded coverage of chiropractic services under the demonstration is likely to depend on the abilities of these services to substitute for the use of ambulatory services by allopathic physicians (for example, primary care physicians, orthopedic surgeons, and, possibly, neurologists) and to reduce the need for medications. Prevention of the need for surgical procedures and associated hospitalizations is also possible, but is likely to be infrequent over the course of a 2-year demonstration.

Information on medication consumption under Part D will be a key component of the evaluation. For example, use of pain medications may be reduced by chiropractic services in patients with back pain, extremity pain due to arthritis, and in patients with migraine headaches. Reduction in the use of pain medications may, in turn, have beneficial effects on the need for treatment of complications associated with these medications.

6. Adult Medical Day Care Evaluation

Section 703 of the MMA mandated an adult medical day care demonstration. In the evaluation, we will compare patient outcomes and costs of furnishing care for beneficiaries receiving some of their home health services in an adult day care setting, with outcomes and costs for beneficiaries receiving these services principally at home under current rules. Drug claims will be used to help identify matched comparison groups and to explore differences between

beneficiaries who elect to enroll in the demonstration and those who decline to enroll or are excluded.

7. Follow-Up of Medicare Beneficiaries Enrolled in the Medicare Replacement Drug Demonstration

Section 641 of the MMA mandated the Medicare Replacement Drug Demonstration that served as a bridge to the implementation of a full-scale Medicare prescription drug benefit. It targeted vulnerable beneficiaries with disabling or life threatening conditions. Many of the covered drugs were expensive "specialty" biologics, costing more than \$20,000 per year. A review of benefit designs under Part D suggests specialty drugs are commonly being placed on fourth and fifth tiers with relatively high levels of patient cost sharing. Plan-level information from Part D coupled with individual drug claims data will allow us to examine levels of plan uptake among demonstration participants, the features of plan design selected, and the effect of Part D on patient cost-sharing for this vulnerable population.

8. Value-Based Purchasing Initiatives

Many evidence-based guidelines underscore the importance of pharmacologic therapy to providing high-quality patient care. Yet, under prescribing of drugs with a known beneficial effect remains a common problem (for example, beta-blockers for treatment of hypertensive patients with a history of myocardial infarction). As Medicare moves toward value-based purchasing, it will be critical to design a payment system that provides incentives for physicians to appropriately prescribe proven pharmacologic therapies. This will require individual Part D claims linkable to a physician's practice.

9. Medicare Physician Group Practice Demonstration

Section 412 of the Benefits Improvement and Protection Act mandated the Medicare Physician Group Practice Demonstration. This demonstration is a shared savings model that rewards physician groups for improving the quality and efficiency of health care services delivered to Medicare FFS beneficiaries. The financial model includes all Part A and Part B spending for beneficiaries assigned to the physician group as well as for the comparison population. Part D claims data will be used for budget neutrality calculations. Physician groups can also use the Part D claims data to improve quality by managing medications for their Medicare patients.

10. Chronic Care Data Warehouse

Section 723 of the MMA mandates development of recommendations for improving the quality of care for chronically ill Medicare beneficiaries. To implement this sector we are developing a chronic care warehouse to be made available to researchers who want to study chronic illnesses in the Medicare population. The CCW consolidates beneficiary level Medicare enrollment and utilization data with MDS and OASIS assessment data to facilitate the study of the Medicare population with chronic conditions. Congress specifically

directed us to identify any new data needs and develop a methodology to address these data needs. The absence of drug data is a significant gap in data available to study chronically ill Medicare beneficiaries. Integrating Part D enrollment information and drug claims data into the CCW will address this data need and greatly enhance the analytic power and utility of the CCW.

[FR Doc. 06-8750 Filed 10-13-06; 4:05 pm]

BILLING CODE 4120-01-P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 73

[DA 06-1901; MB Docket No. 06-11; RM-11304]

Radio Broadcasting Services; Crowell, TX

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule; dismissal.

SUMMARY: At the petitioner's request, the Audio Division has dismissed the proposal of Jeraldine Anderson ("Anderson") to allot Channel 250A at Crowell, Texas. Anderson had filed a petition for rule making proposing the allotment of Channel 250A at Crowell, Texas, as the community's second local FM transmission service. The Audio Division further dismissed the counterproposal submitted in the proceeding by Linda Crawford ("Crawford"), upon Crawford's request to withdraw that proposal. Finally, the Audio Division dismissed the counterproposal submitted in the proceeding by LKCM Radio Group, L.P., licensee of FM Station KFWR, Mineral Wells, Texas; Fort Worth Media Group GP, LLC, licensee of FM Station KYBE, Frederick, Oklahoma; and LKCM Radio Licenses, LP, the proposed assignee of KFWR and KYBE (collectively, "Joint Parties"). The Joint Parties' counterproposal was dismissed for failure to meet the Commission's minimum distance separation requirements with respect to FM Station KRZB, Channel 248C2, Archer City, Texas.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Deborah Dupont, Media Bureau, (202) 418-2180.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Commission's *Report and Order*, MB Docket No. 06-11, RM-11304, adopted September 20, 2006, and released September 22, 2006. The full text of this Commission decision is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Information Center,

Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW., Room CY-A257, Washington, DC 20554. The complete text of this decision also may be purchased from the Commission's duplicating contractor, Best Copy and Printing, Inc., 445 12th Street, SW., Room CY-B402, Washington, DC 20554, (800) 378-3160, or via the company's Web site, <http://www.bcpweb.com>. This document is not subject to the Congressional Review Act. The Commission is, therefore, not required to send a copy of this *Report and Order* in a report to be sent to Congress and the Government Accountability Office pursuant to the Congressional Review Act, *see* U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A), because the proposed rule was dismissed.

Federal Communications Commission.

John A. Karousos,

Assistant Chief, Audio Division, Media Bureau

[FR Doc. E6-17348 Filed 10-17-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 73

[DA 06-1885; MB Docket No. 05-230; RM-11032]

Radio Broadcasting Services; Auxvasse, MO

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule; dismissal.

SUMMARY: The Audio Division dismisses a Petition for Rule Making filed by Charles Crawford, requesting the allotment of Channel 235A at Auxvasse, Missouri, as its first local service. Charles Crawford, or no other party, filed comments supporting the allotment of Channel 235A at Auxvasse, Missouri. It is the Commission's policy to refrain from making a new allotment to a community absent an expression of interest.

ADDRESSES: Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 445 Twelfth Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rolanda F. Smith, Media Bureau, (202) 418-2180.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Commission's *Report and Order*, MB Docket No. 05-230, adopted September 20, 2006, and released September 22, 2006. The full text of this Commission decision is available for inspection and copying during regular business hours at the FCC's Reference Information Center, Portals II, 445 Twelfth Street, SW., Room CY-A257, Washington, DC 20554. The complete text of this decision may also be purchased from the Commission's duplicating contractor, Best Copy and Printing, Inc., 445 12th Street, SW., Room CY-B402, Washington, DC, 20054, telephone 1-800-378-3160 or <http://www.BCPIWEB.com>. This document is not subject to the Congressional Review Act. (The Commission is, therefore, not required to submit a copy of this Report and Order to GAO, pursuant to the Congressional Review Act, *see* 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A) because the proposed rule was dismissed.

Federal Communications Commission.

John A. Karousos,

Assistant Chief, Audio Division, Media Bureau.

[FR Doc. E6-17350 Filed 10-17-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 73

[DA 06-1887; MB Docket No. 04-81; RM-10876]

Radio Broadcasting Services; Patagonia, AZ

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule; denial.

SUMMARY: The Audio Division denies a Petition for Rule Making filed by Calvary Chapel of Tucson, Inc., requesting the reservation of vacant Channel 251A at Patagonia, Arizona for noncommercial educational use.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, 445 Twelfth Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rolanda F. Smith, Media Bureau, (202) 418-2180.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Commission's Report and Order, MB Docket No. 04-81, adopted September 20, 2006, and released September 22, 2006. The full text of this Commission decision is available for inspection and copying during regular business hours at the FCC's Reference Information Center, Portals II, 445 Twelfth Street, SW., Room CY-A257, Washington, DC 20554. The complete text of this decision may also be purchased from the Commission's duplicating contractor, Best Copy and Printing, Inc., 445 12th Street, SW., Room CY-B402, Washington, DC 20054, telephone 1-800-378-3160 or <http://www.BCPIWEB.com>. This document is not subject to the Congressional Review Act. (The Commission is, therefore, not required to submit a copy of this Report and Order to GAO, pursuant to the Congressional Review Act, *see* 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A) because the proposed rule was denied.)

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 73

Radio, Radio broadcasting.

Federal Communications Commission.

John A. Karousos,

Assistant Chief, Audio Division, Media Bureau.

[FR Doc. E6-17347 Filed 10-17-06; 8:45 am]

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