

(62 FR 66634), the agency announced that the proposed information collection had been submitted to OMB for review and clearance under section 3507 of the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3507). An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. OMB has now approved the information collection and has assigned OMB control number 0910-0256. The approval expires on February 28, 2001.

Dated: February 26, 1998.

William K. Hubbard,

Associate Commissioner for Policy Coordination.

[FR Doc. 98-5627 Filed 3-4-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 97N-0376]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Announcement of OMB Approval

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing that a collection of information entitled "Tobacco Retailer Tracker Study" has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (the PRA).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen L. Nelson, Office of Information Resources Management (HFA-250), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, 301-827-1482.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the **Federal Register** of November 25, 1997 (62 FR 62775), the agency announced that the proposed information collection had been submitted to OMB for review and clearance under section 3507 of the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3507). An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. OMB has now approved the information collection and has assigned OMB control number 0910-0358. The approval expires on May 31, 1998.

Dated: February 25, 1998.

William K. Hubbard,

Associate Commissioner for Policy Coordination.

[FR Doc. 98-5628 Filed 3-4-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 97N-0311]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Announcement of OMB Approval

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing that a collection of information entitled "Current Good Manufacturing Practices and Related Regulations for Blood and Blood Components" has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (the PRA).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: JonnaLynn P. Capezzuto, Office of Information Resources Management (HFA-250), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, 301-827-4659.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the **Federal Register** of August 5, 1997 (62 FR 42131), the agency announced that the proposed information collection had been submitted to OMB for review and clearance under section 3507 of the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3507). An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. OMB has now approved the information collection and has assigned OMB control number 0910-0116. The approval expires on February 28, 2001.

Dated: February 25, 1998.

William K. Hubbard,

Associate Commissioner for Policy Coordination.

[FR Doc. 98-5629 Filed 3-4-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care Financing Administration

[Document Identifier: HCFA-855 (OMB # 0938-0685)]

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

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.

We are, however, requesting an emergency review of the information collection referenced below. In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we have submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) the following requirements for emergency review. We are requesting an emergency review because the collection of this information is needed before the expiration of the normal time limits under OMB's regulations at 5 CFR, Part 1320. The Agency cannot reasonably comply with the normal clearance procedures because of a statutory deadline imposed by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (P.L. 105-33). Without this information, HCFA would not be able to properly implement the requirements set forth in the statute. As a note, HCFA has incorporated in this submission all public comments submitted to HCFA and OMB, in response to the 12/18/97 **Federal Register** notice (Volume 62, Number 243) [Page 66376-66377] soliciting comments on these information collection requirements. In addition, HCFA has included in this submission

responses to all public comments received and, as appropriate, revised the collection instrument and/or instructions.

HCFA is requesting OMB review and approval of this collection by 03/24/98, with a 180-day approval period. Written comments and recommendations will be accepted from the public if received by the individuals designated below by 03/23/98. During this 180-day period, we will publish a separate **Federal Register** notice announcing the initiation of an extensive 60-day agency review and public comment period on these requirements. We will submit the requirements for OMB review and an extension of this emergency approval.

Type of Information Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Title of Information Collection: Medicare and Other Federal Health Care Program Providers/Supplier Enrollment Application.

Form Number: HCFA-855, HCFA-855C, HCFA-855R, HCFA-855S.

Use: This information is needed to enroll providers and suppliers into the Medicare program by identifying them, and verifying their qualifications and eligibility to participate in Medicare, and to price and pay their claims.

Frequency: Initial Enrollment/Recertification.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit, Individuals or Households, Not-for-profit institutions, and Federal Government.

Number of Respondents: 225,000.

Total Annual Responses: 225,000.

Total Annual Hours Requested: 435,000.

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/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.

Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding the burden or any other aspect of these collections of information requirements. However, as noted above, comments on these information collection and recordkeeping requirements must be mailed and/or faxed to the designees referenced below, by 03/23/98:

Health Care Financing Administration,
Office of Information Services,
Information Technology Investment
Management Group, Division of
HCFA Enterprise Standards, Room
C2-26-17, 7500 Security Boulevard,

Baltimore, MD 21244-1850, Fax
Number: (410) 786-1415, Attn: John
Burke HCFA-855 and,
Office of Information and Regulatory
Affairs, Office of Management and
Budget, Room 10235, New Executive
Office Building, Washington, DC
20503, Fax Number: (202) 395-6974
or (202) 395-5167, Attn: Allison
Herron Eydt, HCFA Desk Officer

Dated: February 26, 1998.

John P. Burke III,

*HCFA Reports Clearance Officer, HCFA,
Office of Information Services, Information
Technology Investment Management Group,
Division of HCFA Enterprise Standards.*

[FR Doc. 98-5699 Filed 3-4-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care Financing Administration [HCFA-1103-GN]

Medicare Program; HCFA Market Research for Providers and Other Partners

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

ACTION: General notice with comment
period.

SUMMARY: This notice seeks public comments on information needs of Medicare risk contract health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and competitive medical plans (CMPs) and communication strategies that could improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the risk contract program. Under section 4002 of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, and with the implementation of the Medicare+Choice program, all HMOs and CMPs will contract with HCFA under requirements of the Medicare+Choice program. The information sought in this notice will facilitate future changes in the contracting program, as well as improve information needs and communication strategies under the current risk program. Respondents should prioritize issues raised in the preliminary research and identify any additional areas of information needs and best communication strategies.

This initiative is one component of our overall effort to develop a comprehensive communication strategy with Medicare providers and HMOs/CMPs and to develop innovative approaches that will assist all program participants to obtain and use information in the most accessible and effective manner. Preliminary research on the information needs of Medicare

risk contract HMOs and CMPs and effective communication strategies has identified a number of areas in which we could provide additional information and potential strategies for communicating that information effectively.

DATES: Written comments will be considered if we receive them at the appropriate address, as provided below, no later than 5 p.m. on May 4, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Mail written comments (one original and three copies) to the following address: Health Care Financing Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, Attention: HCFA-1103-GN, P.O. Box 26676, Baltimore, MD 21207.

If you prefer, you may deliver your written comments (one original and three copies) to one of the following addresses:

Room 309-G, Hubert H. Humphrey
Building, 200 Independence Avenue,
SW, Washington, DC 20201, or
Room C5-09-26, 7500 Security
Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21244-
1850.

Because of staffing and resource limitations, we cannot accept comments by facsimile (FAX) transmission. In commenting, please refer to file code HCFA-1103-GN. Comments received timely will be available for public inspection as they are received, generally beginning approximately 3 weeks after publication of a document, in Room 309-G of the Department's offices at 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC, on Monday through Friday of each week from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (phone: (202) 690-7890).

Comments may also be submitted electronically to the following e-mail address: HCFA-1103-GN@hcfa.gov. E-mail comments must include the full name and address of the sender and must be submitted to the referenced address in order to be considered. All comments must be incorporated in the e-mail message because we may not be able to access attachments. Electronically submitted comments will also be available for public inspection at the Independence Avenue address above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Sherry Terrell (410) 786-6601.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Section 1876 of the Social Security Act (the Act) authorizes Medicare payment to health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and competitive medical plans (CMPs) that contract with HCFA to furnish covered services to Medicare beneficiaries. For purposes of