

Continuity and Contingency Planning (BCCP) Status Report.

Form Number: HCFA-R-0270.

Use: This information is needed to determine the status of HCFA's business partners millennium readiness.

Frequency: Monthly.

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

Number of Respondents: 350.

Total Annual Responses: 4,200.

Total Annual Hours Requested: 44,450.

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/regsp/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: February 16, 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. 99-4488 Filed 2-23-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**Health Care Financing Administration**

[Document Identifier: HCFA-R-264, A-F]

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 DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Demonstration;

Form No.: HCFA-R-0264, A-F;

Use: Section 4319 of the Balanced Budget Act (BBA) mandates HCFA to implement demonstration projects under which competitive acquisition areas are established for contract award purposes for the furnishing of Part B items and services, except for physician's services. The first of these demonstration projects implements competitive bidding of categories of durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS). Under the law, suppliers can receive payments from Medicare for items and services covered by the demonstration only if their bids are competitive in terms of quality and price. Each demonstration project may be conducted in up to three metropolitan areas for a three year period. Authority for the demonstration expires on December 31, 2002. The schedule for the demonstration anticipates about a six month period required between mailing the bidding forms to potential bidders and the start of payments for DMEPOS under the demonstration. HCFA intends to operate the demonstration in two rounds, the first of two years, and the second of one year. HCFA has announced that it intends to operate its first demonstration in Polk County, Florida, which is the Lakeland-Winter Haven Metropolitan Area.

There are six forms that are required for the demonstration. The first, HCFA-R-0264A, will be filled out by suppliers to describe the attributes of their organization, including quality of services and financial data. Form HCFA-R-0264B will be filled out by suppliers for each of the categories of DMEPOS for which they bid, and includes information about their supply of that category of equipment or supplies, and the prices that they bid for each item in that category. Form HCFA-

R-0264C will be used by site inspectors who gather information at the facilities of bidders. Form HCFA-R-0264D is used to gather data by telephone from referral sources of business for the bidding suppliers, form HCFA-R-0264E is used to gather data by telephone from banks and other financial institutions for financial and business references. Form HCFA-R-0264F is used by suppliers to provide data on their financial characteristics and soundness.

The competitive bidding demonstration for DMEPOS has the following objectives:

- Test the policies and implementation methods of competitive bidding to determine whether or not it should be expanded as a Medicare Program.
- Reduce the price that Medicare pays for medical equipment and supplies.
- Limit beneficiary out-of-pocket expenditures for copayments.
- Improve beneficiary access to high quality medical equipment and supplies.
- Prevent business transactions with suppliers who engage in fraudulent practices.

HCFA plans to mail the bidding package, including the referenced forms A and B, to potential bidders at the first demonstration sites in Polk County, Florida and to use the remaining forms to gather information on only those bidders in the competitive range. The remaining forms C, D, E, and F will be used for inspections and reference checking in the three months following the bid submissions. These forms will be used by HCFA or its agents to gather information regarding bidders who have made financially attractive bids and are being evaluated for quality, financial stability, and other attributes for consideration as demonstration suppliers.

Frequency: Two times at each demonstration site;

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

Number of Respondents: 2,040;

Total Annual Responses: 2,040;

Total Annual Hours: 24,780.

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/regsp/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: February 16, 1999.

John P. Burke III,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Cancer Institute; Notice of Meeting

Pursuant to section 10(a) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is hereby given of a meeting of the National Cancer Institute Board of Scientific Advisors.

The meeting will be open to the public, with attendance limited to space available. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, notify the Contact Person listed below in advance of the meeting.

Name of Committee: National Cancer Institute Board of Scientific Advisors.

Date: March 8-9, 1999.

Open: March 8-8:00 am to 10:15 am.

Agenda: Joint Session with Board of Scientific Counselors, National Cancer Institute. Report of the Director, NCI.

Open: March 8-10:30 am to Recess; March 9-8:00 am to Adjournment.

Agenda: RFA Concept Reviews, Report of the Deputy Director for Extramural Science, Status Reports of Implementing Program Review Group(s) Recommendations, Budget Presentations, and Report of Special Initiatives.

Place: National Cancer Institute, 9000 Rockville Pike, Building 31, C Wing, 6th Floor, Conference Room 10, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Contact Person: Paulette S. Gray, Ph.D., Executive Secretary, National Cancer Institute, NIH, Executive Plaza North, Room 600, Rockville, MD 20892-7405, 301/496-4218.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.392, Cancer Construction; 93.393, Cancer Cause and Prevention Research; 93.394, Cancer Detection and

Diagnosis Research; 93.395, Cancer Treatment Research; 93.396, Cancer Biology Research; 93.397, Cancer Centers Support; 93.398, Cancer Research Manpower; 93.399, Cancer Control, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: February 17, 1999.

Anna Snouffer,

Acting Committee Management Officer, NIH.

[FR Doc. 99-4554 Filed 2-23-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; Notice of Meeting

Pursuant to section 10(a) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Sleep Disorders Research Advisory Board.

The meeting will be open to the public, with attendance limited to space available. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should notify the Contact Person listed below in advance of the meeting.

Name of Committee: Sleep Disorders Research Advisory Board.

Date: March 17, 1999.

Time: 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

Agenda: To discuss sleep research and education priorities and programs.

Place: National Institutes of Health, Building 31, Conference Room 10, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Contact Person: James P. Kiley, PhD, Director, National Center on Sleep Disorders Research, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, NIH, Rockledge Building II, Room 10038, Bethesda, MD 20892.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.233, National Center for Sleep Disorders Research; 93.837, Heart and Vascular Diseases Research; 93.838, Lung Diseases Research; 93.839, Blood Diseases and Resources Research, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: February 16, 1999.

Anna Snouffer,

Acting Committee Management Officer, NIH.

[FR Doc. 99-4558 Filed 2-23-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke; Notice of Closed Meetings

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is hereby given of the following meetings.

The meetings will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Name of Committee: National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke Special Emphasis Panel.

Date: March 5, 1999.

Time: 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: 7550 Wisconsin Avenue, Federal Building, Room 9C10, Bethesda, MD 20814-9692 (Telephone Conference Call)

Contact Person: Lillian M. Pubols, PhD, Chief, Scientific Review Branch, Scientific Review Branch, Division of Extramural Activities, NINDS, National Institutes of Health, PHS, DHHS, Federal Building, Room 9C10, 7550 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20892-9175, 301-496-9223, lp28e@nih.gov

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the meeting due to the timing limitations imposed by the review and funding cycle.

Name of Committee: National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke Special Emphasis Panel.

Date: March 9, 1999.

Time: 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: McCarran International Airport, Mezzanine 5, Las Vegas, NV 89111-1005.

Contact Person: Paul A. Sheehy, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Scientific Review Branch, NINDS, Fed Bldg., Rm. 9C10, 7550 Wisconsin Avenue, MSC 9175, National Institutes of Health, Rockville, MD 20892-9175, 301-496-9223, ps32h@nih.gov.

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the meeting due to the timing limitations imposed by the review and funding cycle.

Name of Committee: National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke Special Emphasis Panel.

Date: March 18-19, 1999.

Time: 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.