

The current members of the Panel are: James L. Bildner, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Tier Technologies; Dr. Jane Delgado, Chief Executive Officer, National Alliance for Hispanic Health; Joyce Dubow, Senior Policy Advisor, Public Policy Institute, American Association of Retired Persons (AARP); Clayton Fong, President and Chief Executive Officer, National Asian Pacific Center on Aging; Timothy Fuller, Executive Director, National Gray Panthers; John Graham IV, President and Chief Executive Officer, American Society of Association Executives; Dr. William Haggett, Senior Vice President, Government Programs, Independence Blue Cross; Thomas Hall, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Cardio-Kinetics, Inc.; David Knutson, Director, Health System Studies, Park Nicollet Institute for Research and Education; Brian Lindberg, Executive Director, Consumer Coalition for Quality Health Care; Katherine Metzger, Director, Medicare and Medicaid Programs, Fallon Community Health Plan; Dr. Laurie Powers, Co-Director, Center on Self-Determination, Oregon Health Sciences University; Dr. Marlon Priest, Professor of Emergency Medicine, University of Alabama at Birmingham; Dr. Susan Reinhard, Co-Director, Center for State Health Policy, Rutgers University and Chairperson of the Advisory Panel on Medicare Education; Dr. Everard Rutledge, Vice President of Community Health, Bon Secours Health Systems, Inc.; Jay Sackman, Executive Vice President, 1199 Service Employees International Union; Dallas Salisbury, President and Chief Executive Officer, Employee Benefit Research Institute; Rosemarie Sweeney, Vice President, Socioeconomic Affairs and Policy Analysis, American Academy of Family Physicians; and Bruce Taylor, Director, Employee Benefit Policy and Plans, Verizon Communications.

The agenda for the November 20, 2003 meeting will include the following:

- Recap of the previous (May 21, 2003) meeting.
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Update and Center for Beneficiary Choices Update.
- Medicare Reform Update.
- Quality Initiatives Update.
- Website Update.
- CMS Demonstrations.
- Research and Evaluation: Sharing Research with Stakeholders.
- 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 must submit a written copy of the oral presentation to Lynne Johnson, Health Insurance Specialist, Division of Partnership Development, Center for Beneficiary Choices, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 7500 Security Boulevard, Mail stop S2-23-05, Baltimore, MD 21244-1850 or by email at ljohnson3@cms.hhs.gov no later than 12 noon EST, November 13, 2003. 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 by 12 noon EST, November 13, 2003. The meeting is open to the public, but attendance is limited to the space available.

Special Accommodation: Individuals requiring sign language interpretation or other special accommodations should contact Ms. Johnson at least 15 days before the meeting.

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: October 17, 2003.

Thomas A. Scully,

Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

[FR Doc. 03-26825 Filed 10-23-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS-1253-N]

Medicare Program; November 17, 2003, Meeting of the Practicing Physicians Advisory Council

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 10(a) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, this notice announces a meeting of the Practicing Physicians Advisory Council (the Council). The Council will be meeting to discuss certain proposed changes in regulations and carrier manual instructions related to physicians' services, as identified by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (the Secretary). These meetings are open to the public.

DATES: The meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2003, from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. EST.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in Room 800, 8th floor, at the Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20201.

MEETING REGISTRATION: Persons wishing to attend this meeting must contact Diana Motsiopoulos, The Council Administrative Coordinator, by email at dmotsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov or by telephone (410) 786-3379, at least 72 hours in advance to register. Persons not registered in advance will not be permitted into the Humphrey Building and will not be permitted to attend the meeting. Persons attending the meeting will be required to show a photographic identification, preferably a valid driver's license, before entering the building.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kenneth Simon, M.D., Executive Director, Practicing Physicians Advisory Council, 7500 Security Blvd., Mail Stop C4-11-27, Baltimore, MD 21244-1850, 410-786-3379. News media representatives should contact the CMS Press Office, (202) 690-6145. Please refer to the CMS Advisory Committees Information Line (1-877-449-5659 toll free)/(410-786-9379 local) or the Internet at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/faca/ppac/default.asp> for additional information and updates on committee activities.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (the Secretary) is mandated by section 1868 of the Social Security Act (the Act) to appoint a Practicing Physicians Advisory Council (the Council) based on nominations submitted by medical organizations representing physicians. The Council meets quarterly to discuss certain proposed changes in regulations and carrier manual instructions related to physicians' services, as identified by the Secretary. To the extent feasible and consistent with statutory deadlines, the consultation must occur before publication of the proposed changes. The Council submits an annual report on its recommendations to the Secretary and the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services not later than December 31 of each year.

The Council consists of 15 physicians, each of whom must have submitted at least 250 claims for physicians' services under Medicare in the previous year. Members of the Council include both participating and nonparticipating physicians, and physicians practicing in rural and underserved urban areas. At least 11 members of the Council must be physicians as described in section

1861(r)(1) of the Act; that is, State-licensed doctors of medicine or osteopathy. The remaining 4 members may include dentists, podiatrists, optometrists and chiropractors. Members serve for overlapping 4-year terms; terms of more than 2 years are contingent upon the renewal of the Council by appropriate action prior to its termination. Section 1868(a) of the Act provides that nominations to the Secretary for Council membership must be made by medical organizations representing physicians.

The Council held its first meeting on May 11, 1992. The current members are: James Bergeron, M.D.; Ronald Castellanos, M.D.; Rebecca Gaughan, M.D.; Carlos R. Hamilton, M.D.; Joseph Heyman, M.D.; Dennis K. Iglar, M.D.; Joe Johnson, D.C.; Christopher Leggett, M.D.; Barbara McAneny, M.D.; Angelyn L. Moultrie-Lizana, D.O.; Laura B. Powers, M.D.; Michael T. Rapp, M.D.; Amilu Rothhammer, M.D.; Robert L. Urata, M.D.; and Douglas L. Wood, M.D. The meeting will commence with a Council update on the status of prior recommendations, followed by discussion and comment on the following agenda topics:

- Physician's Regulatory Issues Team (PRIT).
- Power Operated Vehicles.
- Current Status on Physicians Providing Professional Courtesy.
- Provider Communications (GAO Report 02-249: Communications with Physicians can be Improved; February 2002).
- Outpatient Prospective Payment System for CY 2004 and Physician Fee Schedule Final Rules for CY 2004.
- Update on Current Procedural Terminology/Evaluation and Management Coding Guidelines.
- Update on Prescription Drug Card Benefit.
- End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Quality Initiative.
- IG Statutory Authority and FY 2004 Work Plan.

For additional information and clarification on these topics, contact the Executive Director, listed under the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this notice. Individual physicians or medical organizations that represent physicians wishing to make a 5-minute oral presentation on agenda issues should contact the Executive Director by 12 noon, October 31, 2003, to be scheduled. Testimony is limited to agenda topics only. The number of oral presentations may be limited by the time available. A written copy of the presenter's oral remarks must be submitted to Diana Motsiopoulos, Administrative Coordinator, no later

than 12 noon, November 7, 2003, for distribution to Council members for review prior to the meeting. Physicians and medical organizations not scheduled to speak may also submit written comments to the Administrative Coordinator for distribution. The meeting is open to the public, but attendance is limited to the space available. *Special Accommodations:* Individuals requiring sign language interpretation or other special accommodation should contact Diana Motsiopoulos by e-mail at dmotsiopoulos@cms.hhs.gov or by telephone at (410) 786-3379 at least 10 days before the meeting.

Authority: Section 1868 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ee) and section 10(a) of Public Law 92-463 (5 U.S.C. App. 2, section 10(a)).

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.773, Medicare—Hospital Insurance; and Program No. 93.774, Medicare—Supplementary Medical Insurance Program)

Dated: October 17, 2003.

Thomas A. Scully,

Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 1999N-1168]

Relative Risk to Public Health From Foodborne *Listeria Monocytogenes* Among Selected Categories of Ready-to-Eat-Foods; Risk Assessment; Availability

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), in cooperation with the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of HHS, are announcing the availability of a quantitative risk assessment on the relationship between foodborne *Listeria monocytogenes* and human health that considers 23 ready-to-eat food categories.

ADDRESSES: Submit written requests for single copies of the risk assessment document and CD-ROM of the model, to Sherri Dennis, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) (see

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT). The document is entitled "Quantitative Assessment of Relative Risk to Public Health From Foodborne *Listeria monocytogenes* Among Selected Categories of Ready-to-Eat-Foods." Send one self-adhesive label with your address to assist that office in processing your request. You also may request a copy of the risk assessment document by faxing your name and mailing address with the name of the document you are requesting to the CFSAN Outreach and Information Center at 1-877-366-3322. See the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for electronic access to this document.

A copy of the risk assessment document may be reviewed at the FDA Division of Dockets Management (HFA-305)(Docket No. 99N-1168) at 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, and at the FSIS Docket Clerk's Office (Docket No. 00-048N), U.S. Department of Agriculture, rm. 102, Cotton Annex, 300 12th St. SW., Washington, DC 20250, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sherri B. Dennis, Risk Assessment Coordinator, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (HFS-006), Food and Drug Administration, 5100 Paint Branch Pkwy., College Park, MD, 20740, 301-436-1914.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

In the **Federal Register** of January 19, 2001 (67 FR 5515), FDA and FSIS announced the availability of a draft risk assessment on the relationship between foodborne *Listeria monocytogenes* and human health that considers categories of ready-to-eat food. FDA, FSIS, and CDC held a public meeting on March 19, 2001 (66 FR 13544), to receive comments on the technical aspects of the draft risk assessment. Interested persons were given until March 20, 2001, with extensions to May 21, 2001, and to July 18, 2001, to comment on the document. The risk assessment has been revised in response to the public comments, newly available data, and updated modeling techniques.

II. Risk Assessment

The purpose of the quantitative risk assessment is to examine systematically available scientific data and information to estimate the relative risks of serious illness and death associated with consumption of different types of ready-to-eat foods that may be contaminated with *L. monocytogenes*. This