

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

[HCFA-1099-N]

RIN 0528-AJ21

Medicare Program; October 28, 1998, Meeting of the Competitive Pricing Advisory Committee

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

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a public meeting of the Competitive Pricing Advisory Committee (the CPAC) on October 28, 1998. Section 4012 of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 requires the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (the Secretary) to create the CPAC. The CPAC meets periodically and makes recommendations to the Secretary concerning the designation of areas for inclusion in the Medicare+Choice competitive pricing demonstration project and suggests appropriate research designs for implementing the project.

DATES: The meeting is scheduled for October 28, 1998, from 9 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at Loews Annapolis Hotel, 126 West Street, Annapolis, Maryland 21401.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lu Zawistowich, Sc.D., Executive Director, Competitive Pricing Advisory Committee, Health Care Financing Administration, 7500 Security Boulevard C4-14-17, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850, (410) 786-6451.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 4011 of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, (BBA) (Public Law 105-33) requires the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (the Secretary) to establish a demonstration project under which payments to Medicare+Choice organizations in designated areas are determined in accordance with a competitive pricing methodology.

Section 4012 of the BBA requires the Secretary to appoint a Competitive Pricing Advisory Committee (the CPAC). The CPAC will meet periodically to make recommendations to the Secretary concerning the designation of areas for inclusion in the project and appropriate research design for implementing the project.

The CPAC consists of 15 individuals who are independent actuaries; experts in competitive pricing and the

administration of the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program; and representatives of health plans, insurers, employers, unions, and beneficiaries. In accordance with section 4012(a)(5) of the BBA, the CPAC will terminate on December 31, 2004.

The CPAC held its first meeting on May 7, 1998, its second meeting on June 24 and 25, 1998, and its third meeting on September 23 and 24, 1998. The CPAC members are: James Cubbin, Executive Director, General Motors Health Care Initiative; Robert Berenson, M.D., Director, Center for Health Plans and Providers, HCFA; John Bertko, CEO and Senior Actuary, PM-Squared Inc.; Dave Durenberger, Senior Health Policy Fellow, University of St. Thomas and Founder of Public Policy Partners; Gary Goldstein, M.D., CEO, The Oschner Clinic; Samuel Havens, Healthcare Consultant and Chairman of Health Scope/United; Margaret Jordan, Healthcare Consultant and CEO, The Margaret Jordan Group; Chip Kahn, CEO, The Health Insurance Association of America; Cleve Killingsworth, President, Health Alliance Plan; Nancy Kichak, Director, Office of Actuaries, Office of Personnel Management; Len Nichols, Principal Research Associate, The Urban Institute; Robert Reischauer, Senior Fellow, The Brookings Institute; John Rother, Director, Legislation and Public Policy, American Association of Retired Persons; Andrew Stern, President, Service Employees International Union, AFL-CIO; and Jay Wolfson, Director, The Florida Information Center, University of South Florida. The Chairperson is James Cubbin and the Co-Chairperson is Robert Berenson, M.D.

The agenda will include a discussion and preliminary selection of demonstration sites, development of evaluation questions and data requirements, and recommendations for Area Advisory Committee discussions.

Individuals or organizations that wish to make 5-minute oral presentations on the agenda issues should contact Lu Zawistowich, Sc.D., CPAC Executive Director, Health Care Financing Administration, 7500 Security Boulevard C4-14-17, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850, (410) 786-6451, by 12 noon, October 21, 1998. The number of oral presentations may be limited by the time available. A written copy of the oral remarks should be submitted to the Executive Director no later than 12 noon, October 23, 1998. Anyone who is not scheduled to speak may submit written comments to the Executive Director by 12 noon, October 23, 1998.

The meeting is open to the public, but attendance is limited to the space available.

(Section 4012 of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, Public Law 105-33 (42 U.S.C. 1395w-23 note) 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 6, 1998.

Nancy-Ann Min DeParle,
Administrator,

Health Care Financing Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**Health Resources and Services Administration****Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection: Comment Request**

In compliance with the requirement for opportunity for public comment on proposed data collection projects (section 3506(c)(2)(A) of Title 44, United States Code, as amended by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) publishes periodic summaries of proposed projects being developed for submission to OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. To request more information on the proposed project or to obtain a copy of the data collection plans and draft instruments, call the HRSA Reports Clearance Officer on (301) 443-1891.

Comments Are Invited On

(a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.