

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

[Document Identifier: HCFA-317]

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:* State Medicaid Eligibility Quality Control (MEQC) Sampling Plan and Supporting Regulations in 42 CFR 431.800-431.865; *Form No.:* HCFA-317 (OMB# 0938-0146); *Use:* MEQC is operated by the State Title XIX agency to monitor and improve the administration of its Medicaid system. The MEQC system is based on monthly State reviews of Medicaid cases identified through statistically reliable statewide samples of cases selected from the eligibility files. These reviews are conducted to determine whether or not the sampled cases meet applicable State Title XIX eligibility requirements. The reviews are also used to assess beneficiary liability, if any, and to determine the amounts paid to provide Medicaid services for these cases; *Frequency:* Semi-annually; *Affected Public:* State, Local, or Tribal Government; *Number of Respondents:* 55; *Total Annual Responses:* 110; *Total Annual Hours:* 2,640.

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/prduct95.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: Louis Blank, Room N2-14-26, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

Dated: December 7, 1998.

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**Health Care Financing Administration**

[Document Identifier HCFA-R-268]

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

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 (DHHS), is publishing the following summary of proposed collections for public comment. They invite interested persons 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 of the 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. Due to the unanticipated event and the fact that this collection of this information is needed before the expiration of the normal time limits under OMB's regulations at 5 CFR, Part 1320, we are requesting an emergency review.

The purpose of this submission is to request approval to collect information from Internet users as they exit from any of three web sites of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS): medicare.gov, 4woman.gov, and healthfinder.gov, which are respectively provided by the Health Care Financing Administration, the Office of Women's Health and the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP). The latter two agencies are within the DHHS Office of Public Health and Science (OPHS). Obtaining feedback from users of these web sites is critical for these three agencies so that the agencies can continually revise the sites to respond to the needs of the public. As part of the effort to decide how these web sites can serve the public best, we request approval from OMB of "bounceback" forms. Internet users will fill out a bounceback form after visiting any of the web sites. They will compile and study the results of the forms so that the needs and preferences of the people who use the web sites guide future revisions to the web sites.

The present request is for OMB authorization to collect data on the reactions of users of all three federally mandated web sites. We will use the data to improve the web sites so that can best serve the needs of the users. The designers of medicare.gov will introduce changes to their site at various times in 1999. The Surgeon General recently announced the 4woman.gov web site on November 16, 1998. They will update and enhance the site often in the immediate future. The designers of the healthfinder.gov web site are preparing new sections, functionality, and updates for release March 18, 1999. They request expedited review of this submission so that pending enhancements and updates incorporate information collected from users. With an expedited review, the staff of these web sites will have findings in sufficient time to guide the revisions planned for the sites. Without receiving feedback from users of these sites, the developers of the sites would have little information from the perspective of actual users to guide the changes. Besides the need for having feedback to carry out anticipated changes in the web sites, each of the three World Wide Web

sites was created through Federal law and requires a systematic assessment.

One provision under the 1997 Balanced Budget Act (Pub. L. 105-33) established that we provide information to Medicare beneficiaries to promote informed choice on their expanded health care options. One activity for widely disseminating information on coverage options, which they required, was the creation of "an Internet site through which individuals may electronically obtain information on such options and Medicare+Choice (M+C) plans in states that they offer M+C plans." As a result, the medicare.gov site was created to provide Medicare beneficiaries, their caregivers, and partners with an official source for Medicare information on the Internet. Comprehensive information for Medicare beneficiaries and anyone involved in helping them with their health care decisions is available on the medicare.gov web site; critical topics include: managed care and the "Medicare+Choice" options; contact information; publications in dual languages (English and Spanish); preventive services now available; detecting and reporting fraud and abuse; and data on nursing homes. We need to receive quick feedback from beneficiaries and partners about the content of the site to ensure that we are meeting their needs and whether the site functions well. Given that we have recently launched the National Medicare Education campaign and given that beneficiaries in only five pilot states received the Medicare & You Handbook and have access to 1-800 Medicare, without an expedited clearance, we would be unable to make quick changes to the medicare.gov web site to ensure that it is meeting the information needs of beneficiaries and those acting on their behalf in the non-pilot states. In addition, we need to quickly learn whether the World Wide Web is an effective method for delivering information to Medicare beneficiaries. The Internet site is one of three methods mandated by the 1997 BBA for disseminating information in the National Medicare Education campaign; therefore, receiving feedback in the most expedient way is critical not only from beneficiaries but our agents, partners, regional offices and congressional offices as well. In the first four days of operation the bounceback form for the Medicare & You Handbook page on the Internet elicited more than 800 responses. This type and level of immediate feedback are critical to gauge reaction to the national information strategy. With such quick feedback, we

can revise and revamp the web site accordingly. If the web site is not providing information in a format that is easy to understand and use, this could result in harm to Medicare beneficiaries, especially if they cannot find or understand critical information. Thus, we need a quick turnaround from users of the site through expedited clearance.

The Office of Public Health and Science's Office of Women's Health first received funding for the establishment of the National Women's Health Information Center (NWHIC) through the Senate Appropriations Committee report accompanying the FY'96 Labor-DHHS-Education spending bill. Funding for the NWHIC has continued without interruption since then, showing the ongoing commitment to the NWHIC. The web site 4woman.gov is an important part of the NWHIC. With the recent announcement of the 4woman.gov web site by the Surgeon General, women and others now have a major resource for finding information concerning women's health issues, including research findings on diseases and the latest legislation to improve women's health. An expedited clearance for setting up a bounceback form for this web site will provide information on the utility of the information provided to women, researchers and providers. Solicitation of rapid feedback from users of the 4woman.gov web site will guide pending development of which issues women and their providers find beneficial. Healthfinder.gov is the world wide web extension of the National Health Information Center (NHIC), which was mandated by Congress in 1976 as part of the National Consumer Health Information and Health Promotion Act (Pub.L. 94-317), and has been in continuous operation since then. As a national referral source and a site that responds to information requests, the developers of healthfinder.gov need to know how valuable those referrals are to be certain of doing no harm and keeping the content topical. For healthfinder.gov, a heavily-used web site that produces reliable health information for the consumer, feedback from the users of the web site will be used to enhance and update the web site quickly to best serve the needs of the users. The most recent expansion to the healthfinder.gov web site was in April 1998 and to ensure that the site is meeting the needs of its users, it is critical to solicit feedback from users prior to upcoming changes and enhancements of the web site scheduled in 1999.

HCFA is requesting OMB review and approval of this collection within eleven working days, with a 180-day approval

period. They will accept written comments and recommendations from the public if received by the individual designated below, within ten working days of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

During this 180-day period, HCFA will pursue OMB clearance of this collection as stipulated by 5 CFR.1320.

Type of Information Collection Request: New Collection.

Title of Information Collection: Collection of Assessment Information on Three Federal Government Web Sites: www.medicare.gov, www.4woman.gov, and www.healthfinder.gov.

Form Nos.: HCFA-R-268.

Use: The purpose of the bounceback forms is to provide feedback to the government agencies that provide the web sites. The information collected through the bounceback forms will be used with other information collected about the web sites through focus groups, interviews, and expert evaluations. The combined information will guide future improvements to the web sites. Currently, there is no plan to distribute the information, other than through public health, medical, or other professional journals, in which we may report the results.

Frequency: Users will have the opportunity to complete the bounceback form whenever they exit the web site.

Affected Public: Individuals or households, Medicare beneficiaries, family members of beneficiaries, health professionals or providers, researchers, employees of an insurer, HMO or Managed Care organization, and Federal Government.

Number of Respondents: 212,185;

Total Annual Responses: 212,185 in first year, 636,55 after that;

Total Annual Hours: 21,221;

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.

They invite interested persons to send comments regarding the burden or any other aspect of these collections of information requirements. However, as noted above, they must mail comments on this information collection and record keeping requirements and/or faxed to the designee referenced below, within ten working days of publication of this collection in the **Federal Register**:

Health Care Financing Administration, Office of Information Services, Security and Standards Group, Division of HCFA Enterprise Standards, Room N2-14-26, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21244-1850. Fax Number: (410) 786-0262, Attn: Louis Blank HCFA-R-268 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: December 7, 1998.

John P. Burke III,

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

[FR Doc. 98-33422 Filed 12-16-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care Financing Administration

[Document Identifier: HCFA-R-205 & HCFA-R-206]

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 collections 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. This is necessary to ensure compliance with section 111 of HIPAA necessary to implement congressional intent with respect to guaranteeing availability of individual health insurance coverage to certain individuals with prior group coverage. We cannot reasonably comply with the normal clearance procedures because public harm is likely to result because eligible individuals will not receive the health insurance protections under the statute.

HCFA is requesting OMB review and approval of this collection by 12/31/98, with a 180-day approval period. Written comments and recommendations will be accepted from the public if received by the individuals designated below by 12/29/98. 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.

(1) *Type of Information Collection Request:* Revision of a currently approved collection;

Title of Information Collection: Information Collection Requirements Referenced in HIPAA for the Individual Market and Supporting Regulations in 45 CFR Section 148;

Form No.: HCFA-R-205 (OMB# 0938-0703);

Use: These information collection requirements help ensure access to the individual insurance market for certain individuals and allows the States to implement their own program to meet the HIPAA requirements for access to the individual market. The information collection requirements outlined in this document are necessary for issuers and States to ensure individuals receive protection under section 111 of HIPAA.

Frequency: On occasion;

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit, Individuals or Households, Not-for-profit institutions, Federal Government, and State, Local or Tribal Government;

Number of Respondents: 1,365;

Total Annual Responses: 3,000,000;

Total Annual Hours: 670,000.

(2) *Type of Information Collection Request:* Revision of a currently approved collection;

Title of Information Collection: Information Collection Requirements Referenced in HIPAA for the Group Market and Supporting Regulations in 45 CFR Section 146;

Form No.: HCFA-R-206 (OMB# 0938-0702);

Use: This regulation and related information collection requirements will ensure that group health plans provide individuals with documentation necessary to demonstrate prior creditable coverage, and the group health plans notify individuals of their special enrollment rights in the group health insurance market.

Frequency: On occasion;

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit, Individuals or Households, Not-for-profit institutions, Federal Government, and State, Local or Tribal Government;

Number of Respondents: 2,400;

Total Annual Responses: 43,268,400;

Total Annual Hours: 2,561,200.

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, 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 12/29/98:

Health Care Financing Administration, 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

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.