

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation Medicare Program; Meeting of the Technical Advisory Panel on Medicare Trustee Reports

AGENCY: Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, HHS.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a public meeting of the Technical Advisory Panel on Medicare Trustee Reports (Panel). Notice of this meeting is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. 2, section 10(a)(1) and (a)(2)). The Panel will discuss the long-term rate of change in health spending and may make recommendations to the Medicare Trustees on how the Trustees might more accurately estimate health spending in the long run. The Panel's discussion is expected to be very technical in nature and will focus on the actuarial and economic methods by which Trustees might more accurately measure health spending. Although panelists are not limited in the topics they may discuss, the Panel is not expected to discuss or recommend changes in current or future Medicare provider payment rates or coverage policy.

DATES: September 15, 2004, 8 a.m.–5 p.m., e.s.t.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at HHS headquarters at 200 Independence Ave., SW., 20201, Room 425A.

Comments: The meeting will allocate time on the agenda to hear public comments. In lieu of oral comments, formal written comments may be submitted for the record to Andrew Cosgrove, OASPE, 200 Independence Ave., SW., 20201, Room 443F.8. Those submitting written comments should identify themselves and any relevant organizational affiliations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew Cosgrove (202) 205-8681, andrew.cosgrove@hhs.gov. Note: Although the meeting is open to the public, procedures governing security procedures and the entrance to Federal buildings may change without notice. Those wishing to attend the meeting should call or e-mail Mr. Cosgrove by September 8, 2004, so that their name may be put on a list of expected attendees and forwarded to the security officers at HHS Headquarters.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On April 22, 2004, we published a notice announcing the establishment and

requesting nominations for individuals to serve on the Panel. The panel members are: Mark Pauly, Edwin Husted, Alice Rosenblatt, Michael Chernew, David Meltzer, John Bertko, and William Scanlon.

Topics of the Meeting: The Panel is specifically charged with discussing and possibly making recommendations to the Medicare Trustees on how the Trustees might more accurately estimate the long-term rate of health spending in the United States. The discussion is expected to focus on highly technical aspects of estimation involving economics and actuarial science. Panelists are not restricted, however, in the topics that they choose to discuss.

Procedure and Agenda: This meeting is open to the public. Interested persons may observe the deliberations and discussions, but the Panel will not hear public comments during this time. The Commission will also allow an open public session for any attendee to address issues specific to the topic.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 217a; Section 222 of the Public Health Services Act, as amended. The panel is governed by provisions of Public Law 92-463, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), which sets forth standards for the formation and use of advisory committees.

Dated: August 26, 2004.

Michael J. O'Grady,
Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

[Document Identifier: CMS-10115]

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

AGENCY: Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, HHS.

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Department of Health and Human Services, submitted the following collection for emergency review and approval.

We requested 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 provisions of section 1011 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA). We cannot reasonably comply with the normal clearance procedures because of the statutory implementation date of September 1, 2004.

OMB evaluated the collection for necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions; the accuracy of the estimated burden; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

OMB approved the collection emergency review of the information collection referenced below on August 31, 2004. OMB approved CMS's request of this collection for a 180-day approval period.

Note: CMS will issue its payment methodology shortly.

Background

Section 1011 provides \$250 million per year for fiscal years (FY) 2005–2008 for payments to eligible providers for emergency health services provided to undocumented aliens and other specified aliens. Two-thirds of the funds will be divided among all 50 States and the District of Columbia based on their relative percentages of undocumented aliens. One-third will be divided among the six States with the largest number of undocumented alien apprehensions.

From the respective State allotments, payments will be made directly to hospitals, certain physicians, and ambulance providers for some or all of the costs of providing emergency health care required under section 1867 and related hospital inpatient, outpatient and ambulance services to eligible individuals. Eligible providers may include an Indian Health Service facility whether operated by the Indian Health Service or by an Indian tribe or tribal organization. A Medicare critical access hospital (CAH) is also a hospital under the statutory definition. Payments under section 1011 may only be made to the extent that care was not otherwise reimbursed (through insurance or otherwise) for such services during that fiscal year.

Payments may be made for services furnished to certain individuals described in the statute as: (1) Undocumented aliens; (2) aliens who have been paroled into the United States at a port of entry for the purpose of receiving eligible services; and (3)