

Professional Medical Personnel claiming; and (3) an activity code structure that does not meet the requirement to account for all the activities performed by time study participants. As a result, CMS found that SPA 98-020 did not comply with applicable Medicaid requirements, including those related to methods of administration under section 1902(a)(4) of the Act and implementing CMS regulations.

The CMS found that the flawed methodology means that the claim which would be authorized by SPA 98-020 are not reasonable and necessary for the proper and efficient administration of the State plan. This conclusion is based on the CMS review of the proposed activity code definitions, sampling methodology, documentation requirements, interagency agreement, and indirect cost rate. Therefore, after consulting with the Secretary as required by Federal regulation, CMS informed Ohio of its decision to disapprove this amendment.

The notice to Ohio announcing an administrative hearing to reconsider the disapproval of its SPA reads as follows:

Section 1116 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. section 1316); 42 CFR section 430.18 (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 13.714, Medicaid Assistance Program)

Dated: December 11, 2001.

Thomas A. Scully,

Administrator, Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 01N-0580]

Preparation for ICH Meetings in Brussels, Belgium, Including Progress on Implementation of the Common Technical Document; Notice of Public Meeting

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration is announcing a public meeting entitled "Preparation for ICH Meetings in Brussels, Belgium, Including Progress on Implementation of the Common Technical Document (CTD)" to solicit information and receive comments on the International

Conference on Harmonisation (ICH) as well as the upcoming meetings in Brussels, Belgium. The purpose of the public meeting is to solicit public input prior to the next Steering Committee and Expert Working Group meetings in Brussels, Belgium, February 4 through 7, 2002, at which discussion of the implementation of the CTD and the future of ICH will continue.

Date and Time: The public meeting will be held on January 17, 2002, from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: The public meeting will be held in the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Advisory Committee Conference Room, at 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1066, Rockville, MD 20857.

Contact: Kimberly Topper, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, 301-827-7001, FAX 301-827-6801, e-mail: Topperk@cder.fda.gov.

Registration and Requests for Oral Presentations: Send registration information (including name, title, firm name, address, telephone, and fax number), and written material and requests to make oral presentations, to the contact person by January 10, 2002.

If you need special accommodations due to a disability, please contact Kimberly Topper (address above) at least 7 days in advance.

Transcripts: Transcripts of the meeting may be requested in writing from the Freedom of Information Office (HFI-35), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, rm. 12A-16, Rockville, MD 20857, approximately 15 working days after the meeting at a cost of 10 cents per page.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The ICH of Technical Requirements for the Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use was established in 1990 as a joint regulatory/industry project to improve, through harmonization, the efficiency of the process for developing and registering new medicinal products in Europe, Japan, and the United States without compromising the regulatory obligations of safety and effectiveness.

In recent years, many important initiatives have been undertaken by regulatory authorities and industry associations to promote international harmonization of regulatory requirements. FDA has participated in many meetings designed to enhance harmonization and is committed to seeking scientifically based harmonized technical procedures for pharmaceutical development. One of the goals of harmonization is to identify and then reduce differences in technical requirements for medical product

development among regulatory agencies. ICH was organized to provide an opportunity for harmonization initiatives to be developed with input from both regulatory and industry representatives. ICH is concerned with harmonization among three regions: The European Union, Japan, the United States. The six ICH sponsors are the European Commission, the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries Associations, the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, the Japanese Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association, the Centers for Drug Evaluation and Research and Biologics Evaluation and Research, FDA, and the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America. The ICH Secretariat, which coordinates the preparation of documentation, is provided by the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Associations. The ICH Steering Committee includes representatives from each of the ICH sponsors and Canadian Therapeutics Programme, and the European Free Trade Area. The ICH process has achieved significant harmonization of the technical requirements for the approval of pharmaceuticals for human use in the three ICH regions. The current ICH process and structure can be found on the Internet at <http://www.ifpma.org/ich1.html>.

Interested persons may present data, information, or views orally or in writing, on issues pending at the public meeting. Oral presentations from the public meeting will be scheduled between approximately 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Time allotted for oral presentations may be limited to 10 minutes. Those desiring to make oral presentations should notify the contact person by January 10, 2002, and submit a brief statement of the general nature of the evidence or arguments they wish to present, the names and addresses, phone number, fax, and e-mail of proposed participants, and an indication of the approximate time requested to make their presentation.

The agenda for the public meeting will be made available on January 10, 2002, under Docket Number 01N-0580 at the Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Dated: December 26, 2001.

Margaret M. Dotzel,

Associate Commissioner for Policy.

[FR Doc. 01-32123 Filed 12-26-01; 3:36 pm]

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