

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.

1. *Type of Request:* Revision of a currently approved collection; *Title of Information Collection:* Certification of Medicaid Eligibility Quality Control (MEQC) Payment Error Rates and supporting regulations 42 CFR 431.802-822 and 42 CFR 431.865; *Form No.:* HCFA-301; *Use:* This certification is the new form by which States will report their MEQC payment error rate findings. This form represents aggregate data which were formerly collected through the Integrated Review Schedule. Regulations 42 CFR 431.802-822 and 42 CFR 431.865 requires the States to submit this data in the MEQC program; *Frequency:* Semi-annually; *Affected Public:* State, local, or tribal government; *Number of Respondents:* 51; *Total Annual Responses:* 102; *Total Annual Hours:* 22,515.

To request copies of the proposed paperwork collection referenced above, E-mail your request, including your address, to Paperwork@hcf.gov, or call the Reports Clearance Office on (410) 786-1326. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collections should be sent within 60 days of this notice directly to the HCFA Paperwork Clearance Officer designated at the following address: OMB Human Resources and Housing Branch, Attention: Allison Eydt, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, D.C. 20503.

Dated: August 14, 1996.

Edwin J. Glatzel,

*Director, Management Planning and Analysis Staff, Office of Financial and Human Resources, Health Care Financing Administration.*

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#### [HCFA R-44]

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

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, has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) the following proposal for the collection of information. Interested

persons are invited to send comments regarding the 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:* Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired; *Title of Information Collection:* Title Conditions of Participation for Rehabilitation Agencies and Conditions for Coverage for Physical Therapists in Independent Practice; *Form No.:* HCFA R-44; *Use:* This information is needed to determine if an agency or therapist is in compliance with published health and safety requirements. Respondents are outpatient clinics, rehabilitation agencies, public health agencies, and therapists in independent practice. *Frequency:* On occasion; *Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit; *Number of Respondents:* 9,634; *Total Annual Responses:* 9,634; *Total Annual Hours Requested:* 26,397.

To obtain copies of the supporting statement for the proposed paperwork collections referenced above, access HCFA's WEB SITE ADDRESS at <http://www.hcf.gov>, or to obtain the supporting statement and any related forms, E-mail your request, including your address and phone number, to Paperwork@hcf.gov, or call the Reports Clearance Office on (410) 786-1326. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collections must be mailed within 30 days of this notice directly to the HCFA Paperwork Clearance Officer designated at the following address: OMB Human Resources and Housing Branch, Attention: Allison Eydt, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: August 14, 1996.

Edwin J. Glatzel,

*Director, Management Planning and Analysis Staff, Office of Financial and Human Resources, Health Care Financing Administration.*

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#### Health Resources and Services Administration

#### Cooperative Agreement With the George Mason University Center for Health Policy

**AGENCY:** Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Health and Human Services (HHS).

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP), Health Resources and Services Administration, announces its intent to award funds in FY 1996 to support a grant to the George Mason University Center for Health Policy, in Fairfax, Virginia.

The Office of Rural Health Policy works closely with numerous national organizations with rural health policy and program interests. Virtually all of these groups are either headquartered in the Washington, DC area, or locate their principal policy office here. The involvement of these associations, foundations and other organizations in addressing rural health concerns is limited by the lack of availability of readily available information on rural health policy and programs, by the lack of any educational forum for building common understanding of current directions in rural health policy, and by the lack of any facilitation of sharing among the rural health representatives of these organizations. The office intends, through this grant, to sponsor invitational meetings three or four times per year which would be high quality educational forums that would encourage the development and exchange of ideas and approaches to rural health problems solving, and would encourage the growth of expertise on rural health among the invited participants. The grant would also provide for ongoing communication on rural health issues meetings, conferences etc., as well as background papers as needed.

HRSA plans to award this grant to the George Mason Center, because of its unique characteristics, skills and superior qualifications in the Washington area in rural health issues as well as its mandate and ability to conduct conferences and forums health policy leadership workshops, research and position papers, and collaboration with professional and community based organizations. Accordingly, HRSA has determined that there is adequate basis for awarding this grant to the George Mason Center without competition.

**Authority:** This grant is authorized under Section 301 of the Public Health Service Act. With funds appropriated under Public Law 103-112 (Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1996).