

Health Care Financing Administration
[OPL-013-N]

Medicare Program; Request for Nominations for Members for the Practicing Physicians Advisory Council

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice requests nominations from medical organizations representing physicians for individuals to serve on the Practicing Physicians Advisory Council. There will be three vacancies on February 28, 1997.

DATES: Nominations from medical organizations representing physicians will be considered if we receive them at the appropriate address, provided below, no later than January 17, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Mail or deliver nominations for membership to the following address: Health Care Financing Administration, Office of the Associate Administrator for External Affairs, Attention: Samuel S. Shekar, M.D., Executive Director, Practicing Physicians Advisory Council, Room 425 H, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20201.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Samuel S. Shekar, M.D., Executive Director, Practicing Physicians Advisory Council, (202) 260-5463.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 4112 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-508), enacted on November 5, 1990, added a new section 1868 to the Social Security Act (the Act), which established the Practicing Physicians Advisory Council (the Council). The Council advises the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (the Secretary) on proposed regulations and manual issuances related to physicians' services. An advisory committee created by the Congress, such as this one, is subject to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. 2).

Section 1868(a) of the Act requires that the Council consist of 15 physicians, each of whom must have submitted at least 250 claims for physicians' services under Medicare in the previous year. At least 11 Council members must be physicians as defined in section 1861(r)(1) of the Act; that is, State-licensed physicians of medicine or osteopathy. The other four Council members may include dentists, podiatrists, optometrists, and chiropractors. The Council must include

both participating and nonparticipating physicians, as well as physicians practicing in rural and underserved urban areas. In addition, section 1868(a) of the Act provides that the Secretary's appointments for Council membership must be based on nominations made by medical organizations representing physicians.

This notice is an invitation to all organizations representing physicians to submit names of nominees for membership on the Council. Current members whose terms expire in 1997 will be considered for reappointment, if renominated. The Secretary will appoint new members to the Council from among those candidates determined to have the expertise required to meet specific agency needs and in a manner to ensure appropriate balance of membership.

Each nomination must state that the nominee has expressed a willingness to serve as a Council member and must be accompanied by a short resume or description of the nominee's experience. To permit evaluation of possible sources of conflict of interest, potential candidates will be asked to provide detailed information concerning financial holdings, consultant positions, research grants, and contracts.

Section 1868(b) of the Act provides that the Council meet once each calendar quarter, as requested by the Secretary, to discuss proposed changes in regulations and manual issuances that relate to physicians services. Council members are expected to participate in all meetings.

Section 1868(c) of the Act provides for payment of expenses and a per diem allowance for Council members at a rate equal to payment provided members of other advisory committees. In addition to making these payments, the Department of Health and Human Services provides management and support services to the Council.

(Section 1868 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ee); 5 U.S.C. App. 2; and 45 CFR part 11)

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.774, Medicare—Supplementary Medical Insurance Program)

Dated: December 9, 1996.

Bruce C. Vladeck,

Administrator, Health Care Financing Administration.

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[BPO-140-N]

Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Quarterly Listing of Program Issuances and Coverage Decisions—Second Quarter 1996

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice lists HCFA manual instructions, substantive and interpretive regulations and other Federal Register notices, and statements of policy that were published during April, May, and June of 1996 that relate to the Medicare and Medicaid programs. It also identifies certain devices with investigational device exemption numbers approved by the Food and Drug Administration that may be potentially covered under Medicare.

Section 1871(c) of the Social Security Act requires that we publish a list of Medicare issuances in the Federal Register at least every 3 months. Although we are not mandated to do so by statute, for the sake of completeness of the listing, we are including all Medicaid issuances and Medicare and Medicaid substantive and interpretive regulations (proposed and final) published during this timeframe. We are also providing the content of revisions to the Medicare Coverage Issues Manual published during the period of April 1 through June 30, 1996. On August 21, 1989, we published the content of the Manual (54 FR 34555) and indicated that we will publish quarterly any updates. Adding to this listing the complete text of the changes to the Medicare Coverage Issues Manual fulfills this requirement in a manner that facilitates identification of coverage and other changes in our manuals.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bridget Wilhite, (410) 786-5248 (For Medicare instruction information). Pat Prete, (410) 786-3246 (For Medicaid instruction information). Sharon Hippler, (410) 786-4633 (For Food and Drug Administration-approved investigational device exemption information). Cathy Johnson, (410) 786-5241 (For all other information).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Program Issuances

The Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) is responsible for administering the Medicare and Medicaid programs, which pay for health care and related services for 38 million Medicare beneficiaries and 36 million Medicaid recipients. Administration of these programs