

Dated: December 10, 1997.

William K. Hubbard,

*Associate Commissioner for Policy
Coordination.*

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care Financing Administration

[Document Identifier: HCFA-R-26]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Health Care Financing
Administration.

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:* Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA) and the Information Collection Requirements (ICRs) contained in the Supporting Regulations 42 CFR 493.1-2001; *Form No.:* HCFA-R-26 (OMB# 0938-0612); *Use:* The ICRs referenced in 42 CFR 493.1-.2001 outline the requirements necessary to determine an entities compliance with CLIA. CLIA requires laboratories that perform testing on human specimens to meet performance requirements in order to be certified by HHS. HHS conducts inspections in order to determine a laboratory's compliance with the CLIA requirements. CLIA implements certificate, laboratory standards and inspection requirements.; *Frequency:* As needed; *Affected Public:* Individuals or Households, Business or other for profit,

Not for profit institutions, Federal Government, State, local or tribal government; *Number of Respondents:* 149,700; *Total Annual Responses:* 631,459; *Total Annual Hours:* 9,133,625.

To obtain copies of the supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed paperwork collections referenced above, 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, Information Technology Investment Management Group, Division of HCFA Enterprise Standards, Attention: Louis Blank, Room C2-26-17, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

Dated: December 5, 1997.

John P. Burke III,

*HCFA Reports Clearance Officer, HCFA Office
of Information Services, Information
Technology Investment Management Group,
Division of HCFA Enterprise Standards.*

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care Financing Administration

**Document Identifier: HCFA-R-205 and
HCFA-R-206**

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

AGENCY: Health Care Financing
Administration.

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 12/31/97, with a 180-day approval period. Written comments and recommendations will be accepted from the public if received by the individuals designated below by 12/29/97. It should be noted that HCFA will continue to consider and respond as appropriate to the public comments received in response to the 04/08/97 **Federal Register** notices requesting public comment on the collections referenced below. 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.

Type of Information Request:

Extension, without change, of a currently approved collection.

Title of Information Collection:

Individual Health Insurance. Reform: Portability from Group to Individual Coverage; Federal Rules for Access in the Individual Market; State Alternative Mechanisms to Federal Rules BPD-882-IFC.

Form Number: HCFA-R-205 (OMB approval #: 0938-0703).

Use: These information collection requirements help ensure access to the individual insurance market for certain individuals and allows the States to