

by the Patrol Commander. At the completion of scheduled races and departure of participants from the regulated area, traffic may resume normal operations. At the discretion of the Patrol Commander, between scheduled racing events, traffic may be permitted to resume normal operations.

(2) A succession of not fewer than five short whistle or horn blasts from a patrol vessel will be the signal for any and all vessels to take immediate steps to avoid collision. The display of an orange distress smoke signal from a patrol vessel will be the signal for any and all vessels to stop immediately.

(3) Spectators are required to maintain a safe distance from the race course at all times.

(c) *Dates:* These regulations become effective annually at 12 p.m. and terminate at 4 p.m. EDT on the third Sunday in April.

Dated: February 3, 1998.

Norman T. Saunders,

*Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard Commander,
Seventh Coast Guard District.*

[FR Doc. 98-3911 Filed 2-13-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-14-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care Financing Administration

42 CFR Parts 416, 482, 485, and 489

[HCFA-3745-N]

RIN 0938-AG79

Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Hospital Conditions of Participation; Provider Agreements and Supplier Approval; Extension of Comment Period

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

ACTION: Notice of extension of comment period for proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This document extends the comment period for a proposed rule that generally would revise the hospital conditions of participation under Medicare and Medicaid, published in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 66726) on December 19, 1997. The comment period is extended 60 days for all provisions except the proposed new requirements relating to interactions between hospitals and organ procurement organizations, which are extended for an additional 14 days.

DATES: The comment period for all provisions except the proposed requirements under §§ 482.110(c) and 482.120(a)(8) is extended to 5 p.m. on

April 20, 1998. The comment period for §§ 482.110(c) and 482.120(a)(8) is extended until March 3, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Mail written comments (one original and three copies) to the following address: Health Care Financing Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, Attention: HCFA-3745-P, P.O. Box 7517, Baltimore, MD 21207-0517.

If you prefer, you may deliver your written comments (one original and three copies) to one of the following addresses: Room 309-G, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20201, or Room C5-09-26, Central Building, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21244-1850.

Because of staffing and resource limitations, we cannot accept comments by facsimile (FAX) transmission. In commenting, please refer to file code HCFA-3745-P. Comments received timely will be available for public inspection as they are received, generally beginning approximately 3 weeks after publication of a document, in Room 309-G of the Department's offices at 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, on Monday through Friday of each week from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (phone: (202) 690-7890).

For comments that relate to information collection requirements, mail a copy of comments to: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503, Attn: Allison Herron Eydt, HCFA Desk Officer.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Frank Emerson, (410) 786-4656; Doris Jackson, RN, (410) 786-0095; Rachael Weinstein, RN, (410) 786-6775.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 19, 1997, we issued a proposed rulemaking in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 66726) that would revise the requirements that hospitals must meet to participate in the Medicare and Medicaid programs. In addition, in an effort to increase the number of organ donations, we proposed changes in the interaction between hospitals and organ procurement organizations. The proposed rule also specified that HCFA may terminate the participation agreement of a hospital, skilled nursing facility, home health agency, or other provider if the provider refuses to allow access to its facilities, or examination of its operations or records, by or on behalf of HCFA, as necessary to verify that it is complying with the Medicare law and regulations and the terms of its provider agreement. We announced that the

public comment period would close at 5 p.m. on February 17, 1998.

Due to the complexity of this proposed rule and because numerous commenters have requested more time to analyze the potential consequences of the proposed rule, we have decided to extend the comment period, for all but one provision specified below, for an additional 60 days. This document announces the extension of the public comment period to April 20, 1998 for all the provisions of the proposed rule, except those related to the proposed new requirements under § 482.110(c) dealing with the responsibilities of hospitals with respect to organ donation and § 482.120(a)(8) dealing with the mandatory submission of transplant-related data to the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network, the Scientific Registry, the organ procurement organizations, and the Department of Health and Human Services if a hospital performs any type of transplants.

Because of the importance this Administration places on improving organ donation and transplantation, we intend to separate out §§ 482.110(c) and 482.120(a)(8) of the proposed regulations dealing with the responsibilities of hospitals for organ donations and the mandatory submission of transplant-related data to the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network, the Scientific Registry, the organ procurement organizations, and the Department of Health and Human Services if a hospital performs any type of transplants and publish them as a separate final rule as promptly as possible. Therefore, we are extending the comment period for these provisions for only two weeks. The comment period for §§ 482.110(c) and 482.120(a)(8) is extended until March 3, 1998.

Authority: Secs. 1102 and 1871 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1302 and 1395hh).

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.773, Medicare Hospital Insurance; Program No. 93.778, Medical Assistance Program)

Dated: February 12, 1998.

Nancy-Ann Min DeParle,
Administrator, Health Care Financing Administration.

Dated: February 12, 1998.

Donna E. Shalala,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-4073 Filed 2-13-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4120-01-M