

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Health Care Financing Administration

[HCFA-3782-NC]

RIN 0938-AG45

Medicare Program; Withdrawal of Proposed Notice and Request for Assessment on the Salitron System for the Treatment of Xerostomia (Dry Mouth) Secondary to Sjogren's Syndrome
AGENCY: Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), HHS.

ACTION: Withdrawal of Notice, and Request for Comments.

SUMMARY: This notice announces our withdrawal of a prior proposed notice. It also announces a request for the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research to conduct a new technology assessment on the salivary electrostimulation in Sjogren's Syndrome which includes the use of the Salitron System for the treatment of xerostomia (Dry Mouth) secondary to Sjogren's Syndrome.

DATES: Comments will be considered if we receive them at the appropriate address, as provided below, no later than 5 p.m. on July 31, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Mail written comments (1 original and 3 copies) to both the following addresses:

Health Care Financing Administration,
Department of Health and Human Services, Attention: HCFA-3782-NC,
PO Box 26688, Baltimore, MD 21207,
and

Agency for Health Care Policy and Research Attention: HCFA-3782-NC,
Willco Building, Suite 309, 6000 Executive Boulevard, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

If you prefer, you may deliver your written comments 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, 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-3782-NC. 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 FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Francina C. Spencer, (410) 786-4614.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 23, 1994, we published a notice in the **Federal Register** (59 FR 26653) entitled, "Noncoverage of Electrostimulation of Salivary Glands for the Treatment of Xerostomia (Dry Mouth)." That notice announced our intent not to cover electrostimulation of the salivary glands for the treatment of xerostomia secondary to Sjogren's Syndrome and electrostimulation devices, such as the Salitron System, under the Medicare program. The notice took into account and provided details of a technology assessment submitted to the Health Care Financing Administration in 1990 by the Office of Health Technology Assessment (OHTA).

However, due to the lapse of time from the date the original technology assessment was done (in 1990), we have decided to withdraw the notice that was issued in the **Federal Register** in 1994, (FR Doc. 94-12457) and take no further action pursuant to that notice. Instead, before we make a coverage determination, we believe it would be appropriate to obtain an updated assessment to take into account research and data made available since 1990. Therefore, we have requested the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR), the organization we now deal with for such issues, to do a technology assessment of the Salitron System. We will make a decision regarding the coverage of electrostimulation of the salivary glands for the treatment of xerostomia secondary to Sjogren's Syndrome once we have received and reviewed the new technology assessment from AHCPR.

Any comments or significant data regarding the study of electrostimulation of the salivary glands for the treatment of xerostomia secondary to Sjogren's Syndrome should be submitted to both the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research and HCFA at the addresses provided above.

Until a decision is made, Medicare coverage for electrostimulation of the salivary glands for the treatment of xerostomia secondary to Sjogren's Syndrome and the Salitron System will continue to be at the discretion of the Medicare program durable medical equipment regional carriers.

Response to Comments

Because of the large number of items of correspondence we normally receive on **Federal Register** documents

published for comment, we are not able to acknowledge or respond to them individually. We will consider all comments we receive by the date and time specified in the **DATES** section of this preamble, and, if we proceed with a subsequent document, we will respond to the comments in the preamble to that document.

Authority: Secs. 1861 and 1862 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x and 1395y).

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.778, Medical Assistance Program; No. 93.773 Medicare—Hospital Insurance Program; and No. 93.774, Medicare—Supplementary Medical Insurance Program)

Dated: April 28, 1998.

Nancy-Ann Min DeParle,

Administrator, Health Care Financing Administration.

Dated: May 13, 1998.

Donna E. Shalala,

Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services.

[FR Doc. 98-14307 Filed 5-29-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4120-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Current List of Laboratories Which Meet Minimum Standards To Engage in Urine Drug Testing for Federal Agencies, and Laboratories That Have Withdrawn From the Program

AGENCY: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Health and Human Services notifies Federal agencies of the laboratories currently certified to meet standards of Subpart C of Mandatory Guidelines for Federal Workplace Drug Testing Programs (59 FR 29916, 29925). A similar notice listing all currently certified laboratories will be published during the first week of each month, and updated to include laboratories which subsequently apply for and complete the certification process. If any listed laboratory's certification is totally suspended or revoked, the laboratory will be omitted from updated lists until such time as it is restored to full certification under the Guidelines.

If any laboratory has withdrawn from the National Laboratory Certification Program during the past month, it will be identified as such at the end of the current list of certified laboratories, and