

Federal Register. This rule is not a "major rule" as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

G. Paperwork Reduction Act

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*, Federal agencies must consider the paperwork burden imposed by any information request contained in a proposed rule or a final rule. This rule will not impose any information requirements upon the regulated community.

H. National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act

Section 12(d) of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 ("NTTAA"), Public Law 104-113, section 12(d) (15 U.S.C. 272 note) directs EPA to use voluntary consensus standards in its regulatory activities unless to do so would be inconsistent with applicable law or otherwise impractical. Voluntary consensus standards are technical standards (e.g., materials specifications, test methods, sampling procedures, and business practices) that are developed or adopted by voluntary consensus standards bodies. The NTTAA directs EPA to provide Congress, through OMB, explanations when the Agency decides not to use available and applicable voluntary consensus standards.

This action does not involve technical standards. Therefore, EPA did not consider the use of any voluntary consensus standards.

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 272

Environmental protection, Administrative practice and procedure, Confidential business information, Hazardous waste, Hazardous waste transportation, Indian lands, Intergovernmental relations, Penalties, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Water pollution control, Water supply.

Authority: This notice is issued under the authority of sections 2002(a), 3006 and 7004(b) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act as amended, 42 U.S.C. 6912(a), 6926, 6974(b).

Dated: October 9, 1998.

Gail Ginsberg,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region 5.
[FR Doc. 98-28722 Filed 10-28-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of Inspector General

42 CFR Part 1001

Health Care Programs: Fraud and Abuse; Revised OIG Exclusion Authorities Resulting From Public Law 104-191; Correction

AGENCY: Office of Inspector General (OIG), HHS.

ACTION: Final Rule; correcting amendment.

SUMMARY: This document contains corrections to the final regulations which were published in the **Federal Register** of Wednesday, September 2, 1998 (63 FR 46676). The regulations addressed revisions to the OIG's administrative sanction authorities resulting from the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, along with technical and conforming changes to the OIG exclusion authorities. A number of inadvertent errors appeared in the text of the regulations relating to program integrity for the Medicare and State health care programs. As a result, we are making corrections to two sections addressing the length of exclusion and notice of intent to exclude in order to assure the technical correctness of these regulations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 29, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joel Schaefer, (202) 619-0089, OIG Regulations Officer.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The HHS Office of Inspector General (OIG) issued final regulations on September 2, 1998 (63 FR 46676) that addressed revisions to the OIG's administrative sanction authorities resulting from the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, along with technical and conforming changes to the OIG exclusion authorities. In that final rule, two inadvertent errors appeared in 42 CFR part 1001 and are now being corrected.

In § 1001.2001, addressing the elimination of in-person hearings prior to when an exclusion is proposed, the regulatory language was intended to be consistent with the preamble discussion on page 46682, and state that when an exclusion was proposed under § 1001.701 or § 1001.801, the individual or entity would be permitted to request, in conjunction with their written submission, an opportunity to present oral argument to an OIG official. In order to correctly emphasize that a request to present oral argument to an

OIG official can only be made in cases involving exclusion under sections 1128(b)(6) (B) and (C) of the Social Security Act, we are correcting the regulatory text that was set forth in § 1001.2001.

In addition, we are correcting a typographical error that appeared on page 46686, column 3 in § 1001.102(b)(4). Specifically, in line 4 of paragraph (b)(4), the words "or behavior" are being corrected to read as "of behavior."

List of Subjects in 42 CFR Part 1001

Administrative practice and procedure, Fraud, Grant programs—health, Health facilities, Health professions, Maternal and child health, Medicaid, Medicare, Social security.

Accordingly, 42 CFR part 1001 is corrected by making the following correcting amendments:

PART 1001—PROGRAM INTEGRITY—MEDICARE AND STATE HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS

1. The authority citation for part 1001 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 1302, 1320a-7, 1320a-7b, 1395u(j), 1395y(d), 1395y(e), 1395cc(b)(2) (D), (E) and (F), and 1395hh; and sec. 2455, Pub.L. 103-355, 108 Stat. 3327 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note).

2. Section 1001.102 is amended by republishing paragraph (b) introductory text and by revising paragraph (b)(4) to read as follows:

§ 1001.102 Length of exclusion.

* * * * *

(b) Any of the following factors may be considered to be aggravating and a basis for lengthening the period of exclusion—

* * * * *

(4) In convictions involving patient abuse or neglect, the action that resulted in the conviction was premeditated, was part of a continuing pattern of behavior, or consisted of non-consensual sexual acts;

* * * * *

3. Section 1001.2001 is amended by revising paragraph (a), by redesignating paragraphs (b) and (c) as paragraphs (c) and (d), respectively, and by adding a new paragraph (b) to read as follows:

§ 1001.2001 Notice of intent to exclude.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, if the OIG proposes to exclude an individual or entity in accordance with subpart C of this part, or in accordance with subpart B of this part where the exclusion is for a period exceeding 5 years, it will send written notice of its intent, the basis for the

proposed exclusion and the potential effect of an exclusion. Within 30 days of receipt of notice, which will be deemed to be 5 days after the date on the notice, the individual or entity may submit documentary evidence and written argument concerning whether the exclusion is warranted and any related issues.

(b) If the OIG proposes to exclude an individual or entity under the provisions of § 1001.701 or 1001.801 of this part, in conjunction with the submission of documentary evidence and written argument, an individual or entity may request an opportunity to present oral argument to an OIG official.

* * * * *

Dated: October 20, 1998.

Joel Schaer,

OIG Regulations Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-28736 Filed 10-28-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and Families

45 CFR Part 276

RIN 0970-AB92

Welfare-to-Work Data Collection

AGENCY: Administration for Children and Families, HHS.

ACTION: Interim final rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Administration for Children and Families is issuing an interim final rule that specifies the reporting requirements applicable to States and Indian tribes with respect to participants receiving services under Welfare-to-Work (WtW) grants. The overall purpose of the WtW program is to assist States, Tribes, and other grantees to provide transitional employment assistance that moves hard-to-employ welfare recipients, living in high poverty areas, into unsubsidized employment and economic self-sufficiency. WtW grants are targeted to assist those TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) recipients, and certain noncustodial parents, who have experienced or have characteristics associated with long-term welfare dependency. This regulation implements portions of section 411 of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 611.

DATES: The interim final rule is effective October 29, 1998. However, affected parties do not have to comply with this information collection requirement until

we receive approval from the Office of Management and Budget and publish the control numbers assigned to it under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

Comment period: You must submit comments by December 28, 1998. We will not consider comments received after this date.

ADDRESSES: You may mail or hand-deliver comments to the Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, 7th Floor West, 370 L'Enfant Promenade, SW, Washington, DC 20447. Attention: Patrick Brannen.

Comments that are less than 10 pages in length may be transmitted via facsimile at (202) 205-3598, provided that submission of written text follows.

You may also transmit written comments electronically via the Internet. To transmit comments electronically, or download an electronic version of the interim final rule, you should access the ACF Welfare Reform Home Page at <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/news/welfare/> and follow any instructions provided.

We will make all comments available for public inspection at the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, 7th Floor West, 901 D Street, SW, Washington, DC 20447, from Monday through Friday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. EST. (This is the street address, as opposed to the mailing address above.)

We will not acknowledge the individual comments we receive. However, we will review and consider all that are germane and received during the comment period.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Patrick Brannen, Division of Data Collection and Analysis, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, ACF, at (202) 401-5096.

Deaf and hearing-impaired individuals may call the Federal Dual Party Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. Eastern time.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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I. The Interim Final Rule and the Paperwork Reduction Act

The Balanced Budget Act of 1997, Pub. L. 105-33, amended title IV-A of the Social Security Act (the Act) to authorize Welfare-to-Work (WtW) grants to States and Tribes. The Department of Labor (DOL) and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) share responsibility for the implementation of this program. In general, DOL has overall responsibility for program administration, and DHHS has responsibility for participant data collection and evaluation of the program.

The Department of Labor issued an interim final rule to implement the WtW grants program on November 18, 1997 (62 FR 62124). This DHHS interim final rule implements section 411 of the Act and specifies the WtW participant data collection and reporting requirements that must be submitted by those States and Indian tribes administering WtW grants.

We have determined that publication of an interim final rule is necessary as WtW grants are authorized to be awarded only in FY 1998 and FY 1999. Information collection is required by statute to begin as soon as States and Tribes begin implementing the program. In addition, it is critical that information be available in order to conduct the evaluation and submit the reports to Congress required by statute. Section 413(j) of the Act requires DHHS to submit an interim report to Congress in January 1999 and a final report in January 2001. These reports must contain an evaluation of how the WtW grant funds have been used, including specific outcome information on participants.

The WtW participant and expenditure data elements in this interim final rule are designed to provide critical information for the WtW evaluation and the reports to Congress. These data elements will also help grantees manage and evaluate their programs. Although DHHS is funding a national study of the WtW program, little information from this study will be available for several years. States and Tribes represent the primary source of information on individual participants that will enable us to carry out our statutory responsibilities.

For these reasons, we believe an interim final rule is justified. However, we are sensitive to the issue of reporting