

Dated: March 25, 1999.

William K. Hubbard,

Acting Deputy Commissioner for Policy.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care Financing Administration

[Document Identifier: HCFA-222]

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: Independent Rural Health Center/ Freestanding Federally Qualified Health Center Cost Report and Supporting Regulations in 42 CFR, Section 413.20 and 413.24;

Form No.: HCFA-222;

Use: The independent rural health clinic/freestanding federally qualified health center (RHC/FQHC) cost report is the cost report to be used by the mentioned clinics/centers to submit annual information to achieve a settlement of costs for health care services rendered to Medicare beneficiaries. This form is used to collect the pertinent information from the RHC's and FQHC's in order to determine their Medicare cost reimbursement;

Frequency: Annually;

Affected Public: Not-for-profit institutions, State, local or tribal

government, and business or other for-profit;

Number of Respondents: 3,000;

Total Annual Responses: 3,000;

Total Annual Hours Requested:

150,000.

To obtain copies of the supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed paperwork collections referenced above, access HCFA's Web Site address at <http://www.hcfa.gov/regs/prdact95.htm>, or 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, Security and Standards Group, Division of HCFA Enterprise Standards, Attention: Dawn Willingham, Room N2-14-26, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

Dated: June 21, 1999.

John P. Burke III,

HCFA Reports Clearance Officer, HCFA Office of Information Services, Security and Standards Group, Division of HCFA Enterprise Standards.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care Financing Administration

[Document Identifier HCFA-R-286]

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

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 (DHHS), 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 of the 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 collection 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. The fact that this collection of this information is needed before the expiration of the normal time limits under OMB's regulations at 5 CFR, Part 1320, will cause public harm. We are requesting an emergency review.

If HCFA cannot disseminate information in a timely manner to partners who work with Medicare beneficiaries, as benefits counselors, the beneficiaries will not be able to make informed choices. The present request is for OMB authorization to collect data on the reactions of users of the web site, www.medicare.gov/nmep. We will use the data to improve the web site so that it can best serve the needs of the users. The designers of the web site are preparing new sections, functionality, and updates and will introduce changes to the site by the end of July 1999. Expedited review of this submission is requested so that pending enhancements and updates incorporate information collected from users. With an expedited review, the staff of the web site will have evaluation findings in sufficient time to guide the revisions planned for the site. In addition to the need for having feedback to implement anticipated changes in the web site, the World Wide Web site was created through Federal law and requires a systematic assessment. Under the 1997 Balanced Budget Act, a provision was established to provide information to beneficiaries in order to promote informed choice. One activity for widely disseminating information on coverage options, that was required, was the creation of "an Internet site through which individuals may electronically obtain information on such options and Medicare+ Choice (MEDICARE+CHOICE) plans in states which MEDICARE+CHOICE plans are offered." As a result, the medicare.gov/nmep site was created to provide Medicare beneficiaries, their caregivers, and partners with an official source for Medicare information on the Internet. This site, medicare.gov, was designed for partners in the national Alliance network and for others interested in providing and disseminating up-to-date