

alpha characters, and followed by the Country Code of two alpha characters "US." This label adheres to the USS-128 Subset A barcode symbology. Only labels printed by the Postal Service may be used on international registered mail.

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#### 385 Recorded Delivery

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(Amend heading and text of 385.41 to read as follows):

#### 385.41 General Use

PS Form 8099, Receipt for Recorded Delivery, is used for recorded delivery. Barcodes for recorded delivery labels are printed in USS-128 Subset A. Only labels printed by the Postal Service may be used on recorded delivery mail.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Stanley F. Mires,**

*Chief Counsel, Legislative.*

[FR Doc. 99-26062 Filed 10-5-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710-12-P

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Health Resources and Services Administration

#### 42 CFR Parts 57 and 58

#### Removal of Health Professions, Nursing, Public Health, and Allied Health Training Grant Program Regulations Under 42 CFR Parts 57 and 58

**AGENCY:** Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is publishing notice of its intent to rescind and remove various Public Health Service (PHS) health professions, nursing, public health, and allied health training grant regulations from the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 42 CFR parts 57 and 58. (The student loan program regulations in part 57 will not be removed.)

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Steve Tise, Acting Chief, Planning, Evaluation and Legislation Branch, Office of Research and Planning, Bureau of Health Professions, Health Resources and Services Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 8-67, Rockville, MD 20857; telephone number (301) 443-2381.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** We are announcing our intent to remove by technical amendment (final rule) some of the Agency's health professions,

nursing, public health, and allied health training grant program regulations under 42 CFR parts 57 and 58 from the Code of Federal Regulations. The statutory authorities of these regulations have been extensively amended since their issuance. Consequently, the regulations no longer reflect the current law.

This action will be announced in the Department's October 1999 Regulatory Plan and the Semiannual Unified Agenda of Federal Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions, published in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: September 23, 1999.

**Claude Earl Fox,**  
*Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 99-25792 Filed 10-5-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-15-P

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Health Care Financing Administration

#### 42 CFR Part 447

[HCFA-2004-P]

RIN 0938-A170

#### Medicaid Program; Flexibility in Payment Methods for Services of Hospitals, Nursing Facilities, and Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded

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

**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** This rule proposes to amend the Medicaid regulations that deal with payment for the services of hospitals and long-term care facilities. It proposes to remove all references to regulations based on the Boren Amendment and to add more flexible rules for States changing rates or payment methodologies for hospitals and long-term care facilities. These revisions will conform the regulations to the Social Security Act, as revised by section 4711 of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

**DATES:** Comments will be considered if we receive them at the appropriate address, as provided below, no later than 5 p.m. on December 6, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Department of Health and Human Services, Attention: HCFA-2004-P, P.O. Box 7517, Baltimore, MD 21207-5187

If you prefer, you may deliver an original and 3 copies of your written comments to one of the following addresses:

Room 443-G, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC, or

Room C5-09-26, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland.

Because of staffing and resource limitations, we cannot accept comments by facsimile (FAX) transmission. In commenting please refer to file code HCFA-2004-P. Comments received timely will be available for inspection as they are received, generally beginning approximately three weeks after publication of a document, in Room 309-G of the Department's offices at 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington D.C., on Monday through Friday of each week from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (telephone: (202) 690-7890).

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Marge Lee, (410) 786-4361.

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### I. Background

#### A. The Boren Amendment

The Social Security Act (the Act) was amended by section 962 of Public Law