

working days of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, with a 180-day approval period. Written comments and recommendations will be accepted from the public if received by the individuals designated below by nine working days of the publication of this notice. During this 180-day period, we will publish a separate **Federal Register** notice announcing the initiation of an extensive 60-day agency review and public comment period on these requirements. We will submit the requirements for OMB review and an extension of this emergency approval; *Type of Information Request*: Revision of a currently approved collection; *Title of Information Collection*: Quality Improvement System for Managed Care; *Form Number*: HCFA-R-260 (OMB approval #0938-0745); *Use*: The QISMC standards and guidelines are designed to implement the quality assurance provisions of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (as amended by the Balanced Budget Refinement Act of 1999) and the regulations they generated, HCFA-1030-IFC and HCFA-2001-P; *Frequency*: Annual; *Affected Public*: Business or other for-profit; *Number of Respondents*: 263; *Total Annual Responses*: 263; *Total Annual Hours Requested*: 1 hour.

To obtain copies of the supporting statement for the proposed paperwork collections referenced above, access **HCFA's Web Site Address at WWW.HCFA.GOV/REGS/PRDACT95.HTM**, or E-mail your request, including your address and phone number, to Paperwork@hcfa.gov, or call the Reports Clearance Office on (410) 786-1326.

Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding the burden or any other aspect of these collections of information requirements. However, as noted above, comments on these information collection and record keeping requirements must be mailed and/or faxed to the designees referenced below within nine working days of the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**:

Health Care Financing Administration,
Office of Information Services,
Security and Standards Group,
Division of HCFA Enterprise
Standards, Room N2-14-26, 7500
Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD
21244-1850. Fax Number: (410) 786-
0262. Attn: Julie Brown HCFA--R-
260

and,
Office of Information and Regulatory
Affairs, Office of Management and
Budget, Room 10235, New Executive
Office Building, Washington, DC
20503, Fax Number: (202) 395-6974

or (202) 395-5167. Attn: Allison
Herron Eyd, HCFA Desk Officer.

Dated: July 31, 2000.

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-10016]

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

AGENCY: Health Care Financing
Administration, HHS.

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.

We are, however, requesting an emergency review of the Information collections 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. We are requesting an emergency review because the collection of this information is needed prior to the expiration of the normal time limits under OMB's regulations at 5 C.F.R., Part 1320 and is essential to the mission of the Agency. The Agency cannot reasonably comply with the normal clearance procedures because of a statutory deadline imposed by section 4319 of the Balanced Budget Act of

1997. Without this information, HCFA would not be able to properly implement all of the requirements set forth in the statute prior to the statute's sunset provision, causing a statutorily ordered deadline to be missed. Lastly, emergency clearance is requested because public harm will likely result if the normal clearance procedures are followed. Studies by the Government Accounting Office and the Office of the Inspector General have found that Medicare payments for items of durable medical equipment are far greater than prices paid by other insurers and are sometimes greater than prices available to the general public at retail outlets. And, the payments provided under Medicare fee schedules often represent unreasonably high markups from actual prices paid by suppliers. The use of the standard OMB approval process will cause the nonfulfillment the statutory requirements set forth in section 4319 of the Balance Budget Act of 1997 that seek to address these issues, resulting in public harm by allowing the unnecessary loss of public Medicare trust fund dollars.

HCFA is requesting OMB review and approval of this collection by 8/23/2000, with a 180-day approval period. Written comments and recommendations will be accepted from the public if received by the individuals designated below by 8/21/2000. During this 180-day period, we will publish a separate **Federal Register** notice announcing the initiation of an extensive 60-day agency review and public comment period on these requirements. We will submit the requirements for OMB review and an extension of this emergency approval.

*Type of Information Collection
Request:* New Collection;

Title of Information Collection:
Oxygen Consumer Survey: Medical
Equipment and Supplies Consumer
Survey;

Form No.: HCFA-10016 (OMB# 0938-
NEW);

Use: The Oxygen Consumer Survey and Medical Equipment and Supplies Consumer Survey will be used to collect information from Medicare beneficiaries who use oxygen equipment, hospital beds, wheelchairs, orthotics, and inhalation drugs used with a nebulizer. This information will be used to evaluate the Health Care Financing Administration's (HCFA's) Competitive Bidding Demonstration for Durable Medical Equipment (DME) and Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (POS). In the demonstration, HCFA will use competitive bidding to set Medicare Part B fees for selected types of DME and POS.

The purpose of the evaluation is to determine whether the demonstration affects Medicare expenditures, access to care, quality of care, diversity of product selection, and industry competitiveness. The evaluation will also examine any problems associated with implementing competitive bidding for Part B services. Results of the evaluation will be used by HCFA and Congress to determine whether it is feasible to expand competitive bidding.

The research questions to be addressed by the surveys focus on access, quality, and product selection. Our information collection process will include fielding a survey for oxygen users and a survey for other medical equipment and supplies users before the demonstration begins and again after the new demonstration prices have been put into effect. Beneficiaries within the demonstration area will be surveyed; we will also survey beneficiaries within a control site that is similar to the demonstration site in terms of population, managed care penetration, volume of services, and number of beneficiaries. We will also control for socioeconomic factors when analyzing the data. This design will allow us to separate the effects of the demonstration from beneficiary- or site-specific effects.

This evaluation has been expanded to a second site, San Antonio, Texas, as of March 2000. The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 allowed for the demonstration to be conducted in up to three different regions. The demonstration has been ongoing in the first site, Polk County, Florida, since 1999. The baseline Polk County beneficiary surveys were conducted between March and June of 1999. The follow-up Polk County beneficiary surveys will be conducted during the fall of 2000.

We are seeking approval for the new beneficiary surveys (Baseline and Follow-up) for the San Antonio demonstration and comparison site and any subsequent demonstration and comparison sites that include the same DME and POS products. The surveys for the second site, San Antonio, are almost identical to the surveys used in the first site, Polk County, Florida.;

Frequency: Annually;

Affected Public: Individuals or Households;

Number of Respondents: 2,500;

Total Annual Responses: 2,500;

Total Annual Hours: 725.

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, to Paperwork@hcfa.gov, or call the Reports Clearance Office on (410) 786-1326.

Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding the burden or any other aspect of these collections of Information requirements. However, as noted above, comments on these Information collection and recordkeeping requirements must be mailed and/or faxed to the designees referenced below, within ten working days:

Health Care Financing Administration,
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

and

Office of Information and Regulatory
Affairs, Office of Management and
Budget, Room 10235, New Executive
Office Building, Washington, DC
20503, Fax Number: (202) 395-6974
or (202) 395-5167, Attn: Allison
Herron Eyd, HCFA Desk Officer.

Dated: July 31, 2000.

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 HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4560-N-09]

Notice Concerning Use of Remaining Unobligated Funds Under HUD's Designated Housing and Certain Developments Funding Availability Announcements

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant
Secretary for Public and Indian
Housing, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: On February 24, 2000, HUD published its Fiscal Year 2000 Super Notice of Funding Availability (SuperNOFA) for HUD's Housing, Community Development, and Empowerment Programs and Section 8 Housing Voucher Assistance. The Fiscal Year 2000 SuperNOFA included three funding availability announcements for Section 8 voucher assistance for persons with disabilities. HUD advised that any funds remaining unobligated under two of the Section 8 voucher programs would be used to fund applications for

the third program. This document notifies the public that HUD now intends to use a portion of these remaining unobligated funds to provide vouchers to non-elderly persons with disabilities who are seeking to move from nursing homes and other institutional settings to housing in their local communities. Availability of voucher assistance for this purpose will be the subject of a separate **Federal Register** notice.

DATES: The application due dates for funding under the three programs in the Supplementary Information section of this notice have passed, and the application periods are closed. This notice does not reopen the application process for any of the three programs.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: You may contact George C. Hendrickson, Housing Program Specialist, Office of Public and Assisted Housing Delivery, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Room 4216, 451 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20410-8000; telephone (202) 708-1872, ext. 4064. (The number listed above is not a toll-free number). Persons with hearing or speech impairments may access this number via TTY (text telephone) by calling the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 (this is a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On February 24, 2000 (65 FR 9322), HUD published its Fiscal Year 2000 Super Notice of Funding Availability (FY 2000 SuperNOFA) for HUD's Housing, Community Development, and Empowerment Programs and Section 8 Housing Voucher Assistance. The FY 2000 SuperNOFA included announcements of funding availability under the following three programs: Mainstream Housing Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (Mainstream Housing) (65 FR 9963); Rental Assistance for Non-Elderly Persons with Disabilities Related to Certain Types of Section 8 Project-Based Developments and Section 202, 221(d) and 236 Developments (Certain Developments) (65 FR 9975); and Rental Assistance for Non-Elderly Persons with Disabilities in Support of Designated Housing Plans (Designated Housing) (65 FR-9985).¹

In the funding availability announcements for Certain Developments and Designated Housing, HUD advised that any funds remaining unobligated under these two programs,

¹ A correction of error was also published in the **Federal Register** for the Mainstream Housing Program on June 10, 2000, at 65 FR 37994.