

post-meeting deadline for submission of additional comments.

This notice clarifies that we may not apply the 30-day notification, the 20-day pre-meeting presentation deadline, or the 20-day post-meeting deadline for submission of additional comments when it is in the public interest to reach an expeditious decision with respect to a coverage matter, and when we are assured that parties interested in the topic of the meeting are well aware of HCFA's consideration, and have ample time to establish and document their positions. Therefore, this notice announces the following public meeting of the MCAC, which is being convened under the terms of the exception policy detailed above. This exception policy is being exercised in the interest of reaching an expeditious decision on the scientific evidence of FDG PET.

Current Panel Members: Harold C. Sox, MD (Chairperson); Thomas V. Holohan, MD (FACP); Leslie P. Francis, JD, PhD; John H. Ferguson, MD; Robert L. Murray, PhD; Alan M. Garber, MD, PhD; Michael D. Maves, MD, MBA; Frank J. Papatheofanis, MD, PhD; Ronald M. Davis, MD; Daisy Alford-Smith, PhD; Joe W. Johnson, DC; Robert H. Brook, MD, ScD; Linda A. Bergthold, PhD; Randel E. Richner, MPH.

In addition, to augment the panel's consideration of PET coverage issues, HCFA has asked Dr. Richard Klausner, Director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to designate a representative to participate in the MCAC review. Dr. Ellen Feigal, Deputy Director of the Division of Cancer Treatment and Diagnosis of the NCI, will serve as the NCI representative. The Division of Cancer Treatment and Diagnosis is a national program of funding cancer research in biomedical imaging, diagnostics, radiation biology and therapy, drug discovery and development, and clinical trials.

Meeting Topic: The Committee will hear and discuss presentations from interested parties and deliberate the scientific evidence of FDG PET.

Procedure and Agenda: This meeting is open to the public. The Committee will hear oral presentations from the public and may limit the number and duration of oral presentations to the time available. If you wish to make formal presentations, you must notify the For Further Information Contact, and submit the following by the Deadline for Presentations and section of this notice: a Comments date listed in the **DATES** brief statement of the general nature of the evidence or arguments you wish to present, the names and addresses of proposed participants, and an estimate of the time required to make

the presentation. We will request that you declare at the meeting whether or not you have any financial involvement with manufacturers of any items or services being discussed (or with their competitors).

After public presentation, we will make a presentation to the Committee, after which the Committee will deliberate openly. Interested persons may observe the deliberations, but the Committee will not hear further comments during this time, except at the request of the chairperson. The Committee will then allow an open public session for any attendee to address issues specific to the topic. Following the open session, the members will vote, and the Committee will make its recommendation.

Authority: 5 U.S.C. App. 2, section 10(a)(1) and (a)(2).

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.774, Medicare—Supplementary Medical Insurance Program)

Dated: October 20, 2000.

Jeffrey L. Kang,

Director, Office of Clinical Standards and Quality, Health Care Financing Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4497-N-09]

RIN 2577-AC08

Public Housing Assessment System (PHAS); Notice of PHAS Transition Assistance for Certain PHAs Concerning PHA Inspection of Occupied Units

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing, and Office of the Director of the Real Estate Assessment Center, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This document notifies public housing agencies (PHAs) with fiscal years ending September 30, 2000, December 31, 2000, March 31, 2001, and June 30, 2001, that they may conduct annual physical inspections of their units in accordance with HUD's Housing Quality Standards.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information contact the Real Estate Assessment Center (REAC), Attention: Wanda Funk, U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 1280 Maryland Avenue,

SW, Suite 800, Washington DC, 20024; telephone Technical Assistance Center at (888)-245-4860 (this is a toll free number). Persons with hearing or speech impairments may access that number via TTY by calling the Federal Information Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additional information is available from the REAC Internet Site, <http://www.hud.gov/reac>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

On January 11, 2000 (65 FR 1712), HUD issued a final rule, as amended June 6, 2000 (65 FR 36042), that made certain amendments to the Public Housing Assessment System (PHAS) regulations. The PHAS was implemented by final regulations published on September 1, 1998. The amendments published to the PHAS regulations on January 11, 2000, followed a proposed rule published on June 22, 1999, and were prompted by both statutory and administrative changes to the PHAS.

II. Additional Transition Assistance to Certain PHAs

Following publication of the January 11, 2000, final rule, HUD was asked to provide further transition assistance to PHAs with fiscal years ending March 31, 2000, and June 30, 2000, by allowing these PHAs to inspect occupied units in accordance with HUD's Housing Quality Standards (HQS). Under sub-indicator #3 of PHAS Indicator #3, Management Operations, PHAs are assessed on the percentage of units and systems that a PHA inspects on an annual basis in order to determine short-term maintenance needs and long-term Capital Fund needs. PHAs must inspect these units in accordance with HUD's Uniform Physical Condition Standards (UPSC). In a June 6, 2000 (65 FR 36047) notice, HUD advised PHAs with fiscal years ending March 31, 2000 and June 30, 2000, of the extended transition assistance permitting these PHAs to inspect their units in accordance with HQS because HUD only recently released its physical inspection and training guidebook.

Through this notice, HUD advises that it will further extend the transition assistance provided in the June 6, 2000, notice to PHAs with fiscal years ending September 30, 2000, December 31, 2000, March 31, 2001, and June 30, 2001. All PHAs with fiscal years ending on or after September 30, 2001, must inspect units in accordance with HUD's UPSC.

Dated: October 16, 2000.

Harold Lucas,

Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing.

Donald J. LaVoy,

Director, Real Estate Assessment Center.

[FR Doc. 00-27188 Filed 10-23-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4280-N-06]

Uniform Physical Condition Standards and Physical Inspection Requirements; Notice of Availability of Physical Inspection Software and Guidebook and Notice of Compliance Date With Physical Inspection Procedures

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Housing—Federal Housing Commissioner, and Office of the Director of the Real Estate Assessment Center, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: On September 1, 1998, HUD published its final rule on Uniform Physical Conditions Standards and Uniform Physical Inspection Requirements for Certain HUD Housing. In that rule, HUD stated that when HUD issued the physical inspection software and guidebook, the availability would be announced by **Federal Register** notice. The rule also provided that the availability notice would provide the covered entities with 30 days notice to prepare to conduct physical inspections in accordance with the requirements of 24 CFR part 5, subpart G. This notice announces the availability of the software and guidebook, and provides the 30-day notice required by the rule.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information about housing entities covered by this notice, contact Kenneth Hannon, Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh St, SW., Room 6160, Washington, DC 20410, (202) 708-0547, ext. 2599. For further information about other matters covered by this notice, contact Wanda Funk, Real Estate Assessment Center, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 1280 Maryland Avenue, SW., Suite 800, Washington, DC 20024; telephone Customer Service Center at 1-888-245-4860 (this is a toll-free number). Persons with hearing or speech impairments may access that number via TTY by calling the Federal Information Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additional information is

available from the REAC Internet Site, <http://www.hud.gov/reac>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Uniform Physical Conditions Standards (UPCS)

On September 1, 1998 (63 FR 46566), HUD published its final rule on Uniform Physical Conditions Standards (UPCS) and Uniform Physical Inspection Requirements for Certain HUD Housing. The standards provided in the September 1, 1998 final rule, and codified at 24 CFR part 5, subpart G, are intended to ensure that housing insured and/or assisted under certain HUD programs is decent, safe, sanitary and in good repair. The September 1, 1998, final rule also generally established new physical inspection procedures that allow HUD to determine that the housing is in conformity with the standards.

In the preamble to the September 1, 1998, final UPCS rule (64 FR 46566) and in § 5.705(b) of the regulation itself, HUD advised that entities responsible for conducting inspections to determine compliance with the UPCS would not be required to conduct inspections in accordance with the UPSC until HUD issued the inspection software and accompanying guidebook. HUD advised that when these two items have been issued, HUD would publish a notice in the **Federal Register** to inform the public of the availability of the software and guidebook. HUD also advised that the notice, when issued, would provide 30 days within which those entities must prepare to conduct the physical inspections in accordance with the requirements of 24 CFR part 5, subpart G.

UPCS—Administrative Process for Assessment of Insured and Assisted Properties

On November 26, 1999 (64 FR 66530), HUD published a proposed rule titled Uniform Physical Condition Standards and Physical Inspection Requirements for Certain HUD Housing; Administrative Process for Assessment of Insured and Assisted Properties. This proposed rule establishes for multifamily housing (non-public housing as more fully described) certain administrative processes by which HUD will notify owners of HUD's assessment of the physical condition of their multifamily housing; the owners, under certain circumstances, will be provided an opportunity to seek technical or other review of HUD's physical condition assessment of multifamily housing properties; and HUD may take

action in certain cases when a property is found not to be in compliance with the UPCS.

HUD anticipates the final rule implementing the proposed rule will be published in the **Federal Register** within the next several weeks. The final rule will be effective 30 days after the date of publication in the **Federal Register**.

Thirty Day Notice

This notice constitutes the notice referred in the September 1, 1998, final UPSC rule, now codified in 24 CFR 5.705(b). Physical inspection software for public use and the accompanying guidebook may be obtained, at no cost, by contacting: Technical Assistance Center, Real Estate Assessment Center, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 1280 Maryland Avenue, SW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20024; telephone 1-888-245-4860 (this is a toll-free number). Both items also may be downloaded, at no cost, from the REAC Internet Site, at <http://www.hud.gov/reac/products/pass/pass-demo.html>. In addition, training in the uniform physical condition standards and inspection protocol is available from the trainers on the approved training list on the REAC Internet Site, at http://www.hud.gov/reac/products/pass/pass_srclist.html.

All covered entities that are required to conduct physical inspections of properties to determine compliance with the UPCS regulations, must begin using HUD's physical inspection procedures by November 24, 2000.

Dated: October 16, 2000.

William C. Apgar,

Assistant Secretary for Housing—Federal Housing Commissioner.

Donald J. LaVoy,

Director, Real Estate Assessment Center.

[FR Doc. 00-27189 Filed 10-23-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Information Collection To Be Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Approval Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA)

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) plans to submit the collection of information requirement described below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for