

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**Health Care Financing Administration
[HCFA-1165-N]****Medicare Program; December 11, 2000,
Meeting of the Practicing Physicians
Advisory Council**

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

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 10(a) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, this notice announces a meeting of the Practicing Physicians Advisory Council. This meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2000, from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m., e.s.t.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in Room 800, 8th Floor, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20201.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Rudolf, M.D., J.D., Executive Director, Practicing Physicians Advisory Council, Room 435-H, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C. 20201, (202) 690-7874. News media representatives should contact the HCFA Press Office, (202) 690-6145. Please refer to the HCFA Advisory Committees Information Line (1-877-449-5659 toll free)/(410-786-9379 local) or the Internet (<http://www.hcfa.gov/fac>) for additional information and updates on committee activities.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (the Secretary) is mandated by section 1868 of the Social Security Act to appoint a Practicing Physicians Advisory Council (the Council) based on nominations submitted by medical organizations representing physicians. The Council meets quarterly to discuss certain proposed changes in regulations and carrier manual instructions related to physicians' services, as identified by the Secretary. To the extent feasible and consistent with statutory deadlines, the consultation must occur before publication of the proposed changes. The Council submits an annual report on its recommendations to the Secretary and the Administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration not later than December 31 of each year.

The Council consists of 15 physicians, each of whom has submitted at least 250 claims for physicians' services under Medicare or Medicaid in the previous

year. Members of the Council include both participating and nonparticipating physicians, and physicians practicing in rural and underserved urban areas. At least 11 members must be doctors of medicine or osteopathy authorized to practice medicine and surgery by the States in which they practice. Members have been invited to serve for overlapping 4-year terms. In accordance with section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, terms of more than 2 years are contingent upon the renewal of the Council by appropriate action before the end of the 2-year term.

The Council held its first meeting on May 11, 1992.

The current members are: Jerold M. Aronson, M.D.; Richard Bronfman, D.P.M.; Joseph Heyman, M.D.; Sandra Hullett, M.D.; Stephen A. Imbeau, M.D.; Jerilynn S. Kaibel, D.C.; Angelyn L. Moultrie, D.O.; Derrick K. Latos, M.D.; Dale Lervick, O.D.; Sandra B. Reed, M.D.; Amilu Rothhammer, M.D.; Maisie Tam, M.D.; Victor Vela, M.D.; Kenneth M. Viste, Jr., M.D.; and Douglas L. Wood, M.D. The Council Chairperson is Derrick L. Latos, M.D.

Council members will be updated on the following subjects—status of the Stark II Regulations and Advance Beneficiary Notices.

The agenda will provide for discussion and comment on the listed following topics:

- Proposed Program Integrity Customer Service Project.
- Health Care Financing Administration/Office of the Inspector General Audits.
- Guidelines for Documenting Evaluation and Management Services.
- Physician Regulatory Issues Team (Sentinel Clinicians, Sentinel Data, Frequently Asked Questions and Medicare Basics).

For additional information and clarification on the topics listed, call the contact person in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this notice.

Individual physicians or medical organizations that represent physicians that wish to make 5-minute oral presentations on agenda issues should contact the Executive Director by 12 noon, December 1, 2000, to be scheduled. Testimony is limited to listed agenda issues only. The number of oral presentations may be limited by the time available. A written copy of the presenter's oral remarks should be submitted to the Executive Director no later than 12 noon, December 4, 2000, for distribution to Council members for review prior to the meeting. Physicians and organizations not scheduled to speak may also submit written

comments to the Executive Director and Council members. The meeting is open to the public, but attendance is limited to the space available. Individuals requiring sign language interpretation for the hearing impaired or other special accommodation should contact John Lanigan at (202) 690-7418 at least 10 days before the meeting.

(Section 1868 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ee) and section 10(a) of Public Law 92-463 (5 U.S.C. App. 2, section 10(a)); 45 C.F.R. Part 11)

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.773, Medicare—Hospital Insurance; and Program No. 93.774, Medicare—Supplementary Medical Insurance Program)

Dated: November 22, 2000.

Michael M. Hash,

Acting Administrator, Health Care Financing Administration.

[FR Doc. 00-30271 Filed 11-24-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4120-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****Availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment and Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact, and Receipt of an Application for an Incidental Take Permit for Forest Management and Timber Harvest in Mississippi and Alabama**

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

International Paper (Applicant) has requested an incidental take permit (ITP) pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), as amended (Act). The Applicant anticipates taking the threatened gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) over the next 5 years incidental to forest management for timber production and wildlife enhancement, road construction, research, and timber harvest. The anticipated take and measures to minimize and mitigate these takings will occur on 80,000 acres of the Applicant's fee simple and leased lands in Lamar, George, Pearl River, Greene, Stone, Harrison, Perry, Forrest, and Jackson counties, Mississippi; and in Washington and Mobile counties, Alabama. The proposed permit would authorize incidental take of up to 1,420 tortoises that are not associated with gopher tortoise colonies. Of the tortoises incidentally taken, most would be harmed but not actually killed or