

would be accurate, reasonable, and consistent with statutory requirements.

The second issue is whether the proposed amendment provided sufficient information on the payment methodology or rate structure to demonstrate that the requirements of 42 CFR part 447, subpart F (Payment Methods for Other Institutional and Noninstitutional Services) were met. HCFA concluded that the proposed amendment did not meet the requirements because it (including all associated communications with the State) did not fully explain how payments would be calculated and how rates would be determined. Therefore, based on the above, and after consultation with the Secretary as required under 42 CFR 430.15(c)(2), HCFA disapproved Missouri SPA 99-29.

The notice to Missouri announcing an administrative hearing to reconsider disapproval of its SPA reads as follows:

Mr. Steven E. Renne, Acting Director, Missouri Department of Social Services, P.O. Box 1527, Broadway State Office Building, Jefferson City, MO 65102-1527

Dear Mr. Renne:

I am responding to your request received January 3, 2001, for reconsideration of the October 31, 2000, decision by the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) to disapprove Missouri State Plan Amendment (SPA) 99-29. I set forth below a statement of the issues and scheduled a hearing on your request.

The first issue is whether payment for Medicaid services using a bundled rate methodology, under which payment is made at a single rate for one or more in a group of different services furnished to an eligible individual over a fixed period of time, meets the conditions set forth in section 1902(a)(30) of the Social Security Act (Act). Section 1902(a)(30)(A) provides that Medicaid State plans must provide for such methods and procedures relating to the payment for care and services available under the plan as may be necessary to ensure that payments are consistent with efficiency, economy, and quality of care. The amendment proposed to pay for school-based assessment services furnished to special education children pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act using a bundled rate methodology. Under the proposed payment methodology, one rate would be paid for a variable package of assessment services, regardless of the number of assessment services provided to a particular child. As explained below, HCFA was unable to approve Missouri SPA 99-29 because the proposed payment methodology was not in compliance with section 1902(a)(30)(A) of

the statute, and sufficient documentation was not provided to establish such compliance.

On May 21, 1999, HCFA issued a letter to all State Medicaid directors indicating that it would no longer approve State plan amendments proposing reimbursement for school-based health services using a bundled rate. That letter described a bundled rate as a single rate for one or more in a group of different services furnished to an eligible individual during a fixed period of time. In the May 21 letter, HCFA explained that such rates do not ensure accurate and reasonable payments consistent with efficiency, economy, and quality of care. Specifically, HCFA stated that the bundled rate is inconsistent with economy since the rate is not designed to accurately reflect true costs or reasonable fee-for-service rates. The bundled rate is also inconsistent with efficiency since it requires substantially more Federal oversight resources to establish the accuracy and reasonableness of State expenditures. In sum, HCFA concluded that, with a bundled rate, there is no reliable basis for determining that the payments would be accurate, reasonable, and consistent with statutory requirements.

The second issue is whether the proposed amendment provided sufficient information on the payment methodology or rate structure to demonstrate that the requirements of 42 CFR part 447, subpart F (Payment Methods for Other Institutional and Noninstitutional Services) were met. HCFA concluded that the proposed amendment did not meet these requirements because it (including all associated communications with the State) did not fully explain how payments would be calculated and how rates would be determined.

A hearing on your request for reconsideration has been scheduled for 10:00 A.M. on March 8, 2001, Plaza Room 664, Richard Bolling Federal Building, 601 E. Twelfth Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64106. If this date is not acceptable, we would be glad to set another date that is mutually agreeable to the parties. The hearing will be governed by the procedures prescribed at 42 CFR, part 430.

I am designating Ms. Kathleen Scully-Hayes as the presiding officer. If these arrangements present any problems, please contact the presiding officer. In order to facilitate any communication, which may be necessary between the parties to the hearing, please notify the presiding officer to indicate acceptability of the scheduled hearing date and provide names of the individuals who will represent the State at the hearing. The presiding officer may be reached at (410) 786-2055.

Sincerely,
Michael McMullan,
Acting Deputy Administrator.

Section 1116 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C., section 1316); 42 CFR, section 430.18).
(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 13.714, Medicaid Assistance Program)

Dated: January 31, 2001.

Michael McMullan,

Acting Deputy Administrator, Health Care Financing Administration.

[FR Doc. 01-3058 Filed 2-5-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Application for the Pharmacology Research Associate Program

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, for opportunity for public comment on proposed data collection projects, the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS), the National Institutes of Health (NIH) will publish periodic summaries of proposed projects to be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval.

Proposed Collection

Title: Application for the Pharmacology Research Associate Program. *Type of Information Collection Request:* Extension of a currently approved collection, OMB No. 0925-0378, expiration date July 31, 2001. *Form Numbers:* NIH 2721-1, NIH 2721-2. *Need and Use of Information Collection:* The Pharmacology Research Associate (PRAT) Program will use the applicant and referee information to award opportunities for training and experience in laboratory or clinical investigation to individuals with a Ph.D. degree in pharmacology or a related science, M.D., or other professional degree through appointments as PRAT Fellows at the National Institutes of Health or the Food and Drug Administration. The goal of the program is to develop leaders in pharmacological research for key positions in academic, industrial, and Federal research laboratories. *Frequency of Response:* Once a year. *Affected Public:* Individuals or households; Businesses or other for-profit. *Type of Respondents:* Applicants and Referees.

The annual reporting burden is as follows:

| Type and number of respondents | Estimated number of responses per respondent | Estimated total responses | Average burden hours per responses | Estimated total annual burden hours requested |
|--------------------------------|--|---------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Applicants—50 | 1 | 50 | 2.00 | 100 |
| Referees—150 | 1 | 150 | 0.167 | 25 |

Total Number of Respondents: 200
 Total Number of Responses: 200
 Total Hours: 125

The annualized cost to respondents is estimated at:

Applicants: \$5,500.00
 Referees: \$1,250.00

There are no Capital Costs, Operating costs, and/or Maintenance Costs to report.

Request for Comments

Written comments and/or suggestions from the public and affected agencies are invited on one or more of the following points: (1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the function of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on the proposed project or to obtain a copy of the data collection plans and instruments, contact Ms. Sally Lee, NIGMS, NIH, Natcher Building, Room 2AN-18H, 45 Center Drive, MSC 6200, Bethesda, MD 20892-6200, or call non-toll-free number (301) 594-2755 or e-mail your request, including your address to: LeeS@nigms.nih.gov.

Comments Due Date: Comments regarding this information collection are best assured of having their full effect if received on or before April 9, 2001.

Dated: January 25, 2001.

Martha Pine,

Associate Director for Administration and Operations, National Institute of General Medical Sciences.

[FR Doc. 01-3011 Filed 2-5-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; Notice of Closed Meeting

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is hereby given of the following meeting.

The meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Name of Committee: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Special Emphasis Panel, Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Awards (K23s).

Date: January 30, 2001.

Time: 12:30 pm to 1 pm.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: National Institutes of Health, NHLBI Review Branch, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892 (Telephone Conference Call).

Contact Person: Diane M. Reid, MD, Review Branch, Room 7182, Division of Extramural Affairs, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD 20892.

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the meeting due to the timing limitations imposed by the review and funding cycle.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.233, National Center for Sleep Disorders Research; 93.837, Heart and Vascular Diseases Research; 93.838, Lung Diseases Research; 93.839, Blood Diseases and Resources Research, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: January 29, 2001.

LaVerne Y. Stringfield,

Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 01-3008 Filed 2-5-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke; Notice of Closed Meeting

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is hereby given of the following meeting.

The meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Name of Committee: National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke Special Emphasis Panel.

Date: February 18-19, 2001.

Time: 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: Radisson Resort Coral Springs, 11775 Heron Bay Blvd, Coral Springs, FL 33076

Contact Person: Katherine Woodbury, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Scientific Review Branch, NINDS/NIH/DHHS, Neuroscience Center, 6001 Executive Blvd, Suite 3208, MSC 9529, Bethesda, MD 20892-9529, 301-496-9223 (Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.853, Clinical Research Related to Neurological Disorders; 93.854, Biological Basis Research in the Neurosciences, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: January 29, 2001.

LaVerne Y. Stringfield,

Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 01-3010 Filed 2-5-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M