

that the Secretary's findings consider the applying accreditation organization's requirements for accreditation, its survey procedures, its ability to provide adequate resources for conducting required surveys and supplying information for use in enforcement activities, its monitoring procedures for entities found out of compliance with the conditions or requirements, and its ability to provide the Secretary with necessary data for validation. The Secretary then examines the national accreditation organization's accreditation requirements to determine if they meet or exceed the Medicare conditions as we would have applied them.

Section 1865(b)(3)(A) of the Act requires that the Secretary publish within 60 days of receipt of a completed application, a notice identifying the national accreditation body making the request, describing the nature of the request, and providing at least a 30-day public comment period. In addition, the Secretary has 210 days from receipt of the request to publish a finding of approval or denial of the application. If the Secretary recognizes an accreditation organization in this manner, any entity accredited by the national accreditation body's CMS-approved program for that service will be "deemed" to meet the Medicare conditions of coverage.

II. Purpose

The purpose of this notice is to notify the public of the Indian Health Service's (IHS) request for the Secretary's approval as a national accreditation organization for accrediting American Indian and Alaska Native entities to furnish outpatient diabetes self-management training services. The IHS proposes to endorse the NSDSMEP as its quality standards. This notice also solicits public comments on the ability of the IHS to develop and apply its standards to entities furnishing outpatient diabetes self-management training services that meet or exceed the Medicare conditions for coverage.

We understand the current template for the proposed notice includes only the identity of the organization seeking to become an accrediting body, but no other information on its proposed program to inform those proposing to comment in response to the notice. Since our regulation highlights the quality standards as a key factor in our determination of whether or not to accept an entity as an accrediting body, some basic information on this subject would make comments we receive more useful and relevant to our decision, both in the IHS case and in other cases.

III. Outpatient Diabetes Self-Management Training Services Conditions for Coverage and Requirements

The regulations specifying the Medicare conditions for coverage for outpatient diabetes self-management training services are located in 42 CFR part 410, subpart H. These conditions implement section 1861(qq) of the Act, which provides for Medicare Part B coverage of outpatient diabetes self-management training services specified by the Secretary.

Under section 1865(b)(2) of the Act and our regulations at §§ 410.142 (CMS process for approving national accreditation organizations) and 410.143 (Requirements for approved accreditation organizations), we evaluate a national accreditation organization based on (but not necessarily limited to) the criteria set forth in § 410.142(b), and we review the ongoing responsibilities of an approved accreditation organization.

We may visit the prospective organization's offices to verify information in the organization's application, including, but not limited to, review of documents, and interviews with the organization's staff. For oversight activities, we may conduct an onsite visit to inspect the approved accreditation organization's operations and office in order to assess its compliance with its own policies and procedures. The onsite inspection may include, but is not limited to, reviewing documents, auditing documentation of meetings concerning the accreditation process, evaluating accreditation results or the accreditation status decision making process, and interviewing the organization's staff.

IV. Notices Upon Completion of Evaluation

The process for becoming an accrediting body, as outlined in the regulation, includes two **Federal Register** notices. The first notice would solicit comments on the accreditation organization's proposed accreditation program. Upon completion of our evaluation, including evaluation of comments received as a result of this notice, we will publish the second notice announcing CMS's approval or disapproval of the organization as an accrediting body.

V. Responses to Public Comments

Because of the large number of comments we normally receive on **Federal Register** documents published for comment, we are not able to acknowledge or respond to them

individually. We will consider all comments we receive by the date and time specified in the **DATES** section of this notice and will respond to them in a forthcoming notice document.

In accordance with the provisions of Executive Order 12866, the Office of Management and Budget did not review this notice.

Authority: Section 1865 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395bb).

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

Dated: October 1, 2001.

Thomas A. Scully,

Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS-3072-FN]

Medicare Program; Approval of Application by the American Diabetes Association (ADA) for Recognition as a National Accreditation Program for Accrediting Entities to Furnish Outpatient Diabetes Self-Management Training

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), HHS.

ACTION: Final notice.

SUMMARY: This final notice announces the approval of the American Diabetes Association (ADA) as a national accreditation organization for purposes of determining that an entity meets the necessary quality standards to furnish outpatient diabetes self-management and training services under Part B of the Medicare program. Therefore, diabetes self-management training (DSMT) programs accredited by the ADA will receive deemed status under the Medicare program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This accreditation is effective on October 26, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joan A. Brooks, (410) 786-5526; Eva L. Fung, (410) 786-7539.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

To participate in the Medicare program, diabetes self-management training (DSMT) programs must meet conditions for coverage specified in our

regulations at 42 CFR part 410, subpart H. One requirement is that entities must satisfy required quality standards. Currently, one way of satisfying the quality standards under 42 CFR 410.145 is to be approved by an approved accrediting body. The regulations pertaining to the application procedures for national accreditation organizations for DSMT are at 410.142. After we approve and recognize the accreditation organization, it may accredit an entity to meet one of the sets of quality standards described in 410.144.

II. Review Process and Findings

A. Review Process

In evaluating an application from an accrediting organization, we consider the following factors under section 1865(b)(2) of the Act:

- Accreditation requirements.
- Survey procedures.
- Ability to provide adequate resources for conducting required surveys and to supply information for use in enforcement activities.
- Monitoring procedures.
- Ability to provide us with the necessary data for validation.

We are required by 410.142(d) to publish a proposed notice in the **Federal Register** after the receipt of a written request for approval from a national accreditation organization. After review of the national accreditation organization's application, the regulations require that we publish a notice of our approval or disapproval after we receive a complete package of information and the organization's deeming application.

B. Review Findings

We received a complete application from the American Diabetes Association (ADA) on April 20, 2001. On June 27, 2001, we published a proposed notice in the **Federal Register**, (66 FR 34223) announcing the application of the ADA for approval as an accreditation program for diabetes self-management training programs. We reviewed their application to determine if the ADA used one of the sets of quality standards described in 410.144.

III. Analysis of and Responses to Public Comments and Provisions of the Final Notice

We received no public comments on our proposed notice. Therefore, we have approved the ADA's application as an accreditation program for diabetes self-management training programs under 410.142(d). The ADA is the first accreditation organization that we have approved for accrediting diabetes self-management training programs.

Authority: Section 1865 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395bb). (Catalog of Federal Domestic Program No. 93.773, Medicare-Hospital Insurance Program; and No. 93.774, Medicare-Supplementary Medical Insurance Program)

Dated: September 19, 2001.

Thomas A. Scully,

Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

[FR Doc. 01-26288 Filed 10-25-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS-8012-N]

RIN 0938-ZA20

Medicare Program; Part A Premium for 2002 for the Uninsured Aged and for Certain Disabled Individuals Who Have Exhausted Other Entitlement

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the hospital insurance premium for calendar year 2002 under Medicare's hospital insurance program (Part A) for the uninsured, not otherwise eligible aged (hereafter known as the "uninsured aged") and for certain disabled individuals who have exhausted other entitlement. The monthly Medicare Part A premium for the 12 months beginning January 1, 2002 for these individuals is \$319. The reduced premium for certain other individuals as described in this notice is \$175. Section 1818(d) of the Social Security Act specifies the method to be used to determine these amounts.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This notice is effective January 1, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Clare McFarland, (410) 786-6390.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Section 1818 of the Social Security Act (the Act) provides for voluntary enrollment in the Medicare hospital insurance program (Medicare Part A), subject to payment of a monthly premium, of certain persons aged 65 and older who are uninsured under the Old Age Survivors and Disability Insurance Program (OASDI) or Railroad Retirement Acts and do not otherwise meet the requirements for entitlement to Medicare Part A. (Persons insured under the OASDI or Railroad Retirement Acts

and certain others do not have to pay premiums for hospital insurance.)

Section 1818(d) of the Act requires us to estimate, on an average per capita basis, the amount to be paid from the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund for services performed and related administrative costs incurred in the following calendar year with respect to individuals aged 65 and over who will be entitled to benefits under Medicare Part A. We must then determine, during September of each year, the monthly actuarial rate for the following year (the per capita amount estimated above divided by 12) and publish the dollar amount for the monthly premium in the succeeding calendar year. If the premium is not a multiple of \$1, the premium is rounded to the nearest multiple of \$1 (or, if it is a multiple of 50 cents but not of \$1, it is rounded to the next highest \$1). The 2001 premium under this method was \$300 and was effective January 1, 2001. (See 65 FR 62733, October 19, 2000.)

Section 1818A of the Act provides for voluntary enrollment in Medicare Part A, subject to payment of a monthly premium, of certain disabled individuals who have exhausted other entitlement. These are individuals who are not currently entitled to Part A coverage, but who were entitled to coverage due to a disabling impairment under section 226(b) of the Act, and who would still be entitled to Part A coverage if their earnings had not exceeded the statutorily defined substantial gainful activity amount (section 223(d)(4) of the Act).

Section 1818A(d)(2) of the Act specifies that the provisions relating to premiums under section 1818(d) through (f) of the Act for the aged will also apply to certain disabled individuals as described above.

Section 13508 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (Pub. L. 103-66) amended section 1818(d) of the Act to provide for a reduction in the premium amount for certain voluntary (section 1818 and 1818A) enrollees. The reduction applies to an individual who is eligible to buy into the Medicare Part A program and who, as of the last day of the previous month—

- Had at least 30 quarters of coverage under title II of the Act;
- Was married, and had been married for the previous 1-year period, to a person who had at least 30 quarters of coverage;
- Had been married to a person for at least 1 year at the time of the person's death if, at the time of death, the person had at least 30 quarters of coverage; or
- Is divorced from a person and had been married to the person for at least