DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS–1389–N]

Medicare Program; Meeting of the Practicing Physicians Advisory Council, December 3, 2007

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a quarterly meeting of the Practicing Physicians Advisory Council (the Council). The Council will meet to discuss certain proposed changes in regulations and manual instructions related to physicians' services, as identified by the Secretary of Health and Human Services (the Secretary). This meeting is open to the public.

DATES: *Meeting Date:* Monday, December 3, 2007, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., e.s.t.

Deadline for Registration without Oral Presentation: Thursday, November 29, 2007, 12 noon, e.s.t.

Deadline for Registration with Oral Presentations: Friday, November 16, 2007, 12 noon, e.s.t.

Deadline for Submission of Oral Remarks and Written Comments: Wednesday, November 21, 2007, 12 noon, e.s.t.

Deadline for Requesting Special Accommodations: Monday, November 26, 2007, 12 noon, e.s.t.

ADDRESSES:

Meeting Location: The meeting will be held in Room 705A in the Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20201.

Submission of Testimony: Testimonies should be mailed to Kelly Buchanan, Designated Federal Official (DFO), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, 7500 Security Boulevard, Mail stop C4–13–07, Baltimore, MD 21244–1850, or contact the DFO via e-mail at *PPAC@cms.hhs.gov.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kelly Buchanan, DFO, (410) 786–6132, or e-mail *PPAC@cms.hhs.gov.* News media representatives must contact the CMS Press Office, (202) 690–6145. Please refer to the CMS Advisory Committees' Information Line (1–877–449–5659 toll free), (410) 786–9379 local) or the Internet at *http://www.cms.hhs.gov/home/regsguidance.asp* for additional information and updates on committee activities.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

In accordance with section 10(a) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, this notice announces the quarterly meeting of the Practicing Physicians Advisory Council (the Council). The Secretary is mandated by section 1868(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (the Act) to appoint a Practicing Physicians Advisory Council based on nominations submitted by medical organizations representing physicians. The Council meets quarterly to discuss certain proposed changes in regulations and manual instructions related to physicians' services, as identified by the Secretary. To the extent feasible and consistent with statutory deadlines, the Council's consultation must occur before **Federal Register** publication of the proposed changes. The Council submits an annual report on its recommendations to the Secretary and the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) not later than December 31 of each year.

The Council consists of 15 physicians, including the Chair. Members of the Council include both participating and nonparticipating physicians, and physicians practicing in rural and underserved urban areas. At least 11 members of the Council must be physicians as described in section 1861(r)(1) of the Act; that is, State-licensed doctors of medicine or osteopathy. The remaining 4 members may include dentists, podiatrists, optometrists, and chiropractors. Members serve for overlapping 4-year terms.

Section 1868(a)(2) of the Act provides that the Council meet quarterly to discuss certain proposed changes in regulations and manual issuances that relate to physicians' services, identified by the Secretary. Section 1868(a)(3) of the Act provides for payment of expenses and per diem for Council members in the same manner as members of other advisory committees appointed by the Secretary. In addition to making these payments, the Department of Health and Human Services and CMS provide management and support services to the Council. The Secretary will appoint new members to the Council from among those candidates determined to have the expertise required to meet specific agency needs in a manner to ensure appropriate balance of the Council's membership.

The Council held its first meeting on May 11, 1992. The current members are: Anthony Senagore, M.D., Chairperson; Jose Azocar, M.D.; M. Leroy Sprang, M.D.; Karen S. Williams, M.D.; Peter Grimm, D.O.; Jonathon E. Siff, M.D., MBA; John E. Arradondo, M.D., MPH; Helena Wachslicht Rodbard, M.D.; Vincent J. Bufalino, M.D.; Tye J. Ouzounian, M.D.; Geraldine O'Shea, D.O.; Arthur D. Snow, Jr., M.D.; Gregory J. Przybylski, M.D.; Jeffrey A. Ross, DPM, M.D.; and Roger L. Jordan, O.D.

II. Meeting Format and Agenda

The meeting will commence with the Council's Executive Director providing a status report, and the CMS responses to the recommendations made by the Council at the August 27, 2007 meeting, as well as prior meeting recommendations. Additionally, an update will be provided on the Physician Regulatory Issues Team. In accordance with the Council charter, we are requesting assistance with the following agenda topics:

- Stark Update.
- Overview of Medicare Demonstration Projects.
- Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule.
- Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS)/Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) Final Rule.
- 9th Scope of Work/Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) Program.

For additional information and clarification on these topics, contact the DFO as provided in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this notice. Individual physicians or medical organizations that represent physicians wishing to present a 5-minute oral testimony on agenda issues must register with the DFO by the date listed in the **DATES** section of this notice. Testimony is limited to agenda topics only. The number of oral testimonies may be limited by the time available. A written copy of the presenter's oral remarks must be submitted to the DFO for distribution to Council members for review before the meeting by the date listed in the **DATES** section of this notice. Physicians and medical organizations not scheduled to speak may also submit written comments to the DFO for distribution by the date listed in the **DATES** section of this notice.

III. Meeting Registration and Security Information

The meeting is open to the public, but attendance is limited to the space available. Persons wishing to attend this meeting must register by contacting the DFO at the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice or by telephone at (410) 786–6132 by the date specified in the **DATES** section of this notice.

Since this meeting will be held in a Federal Government Building, the Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Federal security measures are applicable. In planning your arrival time, we recommend allowing additional time to clear security. To gain access to the building, participants will be required to show a government-issued photo identification (for example, driver's license or passport), and must be listed on an approved security list before persons are permitted entrance. Persons not registered in advance will not be permitted into the Hubert H. Humphrey Building and will not be permitted to attend the Council meeting.

All persons entering the building must pass through a metal detector. In addition, all items brought to the Hubert H. Humphrey Building, whether personal or for the purpose of presentation, are subject to inspection. We cannot assume responsibility for coordinating the receipt, transfer, transport, storage, set-up, safety, or timely arrival of any personal belongings or items used for the purpose of presentation.

Individuals requiring sign language interpretation or other special accommodation must contact the DFO via the contact information specified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this notice by the date listed in the **DATES** section of this notice.

Authority: (Section 1868 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ee) and section 10(a) of Pub. L. 92–463 (5 U.S.C. App. 2, section 10(a)).)

Dated: October 5, 2007.

Kerry Weems,

Acting Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

[FR Doc. E7–20484 Filed 10–25–07; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS–7006–N]

Medicare Program; Announcement of Meeting of the Advisory Panel on Medicare Education, December 4, 2007

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

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2, section 10(a) (Pub. L. 92–463), this notice announces a meeting of the Panel on December 4, 2007. The Panel advises and makes recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services on opportunities to enhance the effectiveness of consumer education strategies concerning the Medicare program. This meeting is open to the public.

DATES: *Meeting Date:* December 4, 2007 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., e.d.t.

Deadline for Meeting Registration, Presentations, and Comments: November 27, 2007, 12 noon, e.d.t.

Deadline for Requesting Special Accommodations: November 19, 2007, 12 noon, e.d.t.

ADDRESSES: *Meeting Location:* Doubletree Hotel 1515 Rhode Island Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20005, (202) 232–7000.

Meeting Registration, Presentations, and Written Comments: Lynne Johnson, Designated Federal Official, Division of Forum and Conference Development, Office of External Affairs, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 7500 Security Boulevard, Mailstop S1–05–06, Baltimore, MD 21244–1850 or contact Ms. Johnson via e-mail at *Lynne.Johnson@cms.hhs.gov.*

Registration: The meeting is open to the public, but attendance is limited to the space available. Persons wishing to attend this meeting must register by contacting Lynne Johnson at the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice or by telephone at (410) 786–0090, by 12 noon, e.d.t., on November 27, 2007.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lynne Johnson, (410) 786–0090. Please refer to the CMS Advisory Committees' Information Line (1–877–449–5659 toll free)/(410–786–9379 local) or the Internet (*http://www.cms.hhs.gov/FACA/04_APME.asp*) for additional information and updates on committee activities. Press inquiries are handled through the CMS Press Office at (202) 690–6145.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 9(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act authorizes the Secretary to establish an advisory panel if the Secretary determines that the panel is ''in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed * * * by law.'' Such duties are imposed by section 1804 of the Social Security Act (the Act), requiring the Secretary to provide informational materials to Medicare beneficiaries about the Medicare program, and section 1851(d) of the Act, requiring the Secretary to provide for ''activities * * * to broadly disseminate information to medicare beneficiaries * * * on the coverage options provided under [Medicare Advantage] in order to promote an active, informed selection among such options.''

The Advisory Panel is also authorized by 1114(f) of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1311(f), and section 222 of the Public Health Service Act, 42 U.S.C. 217a. The Secretary signed the charter establishing this Panel on January 21, 1999 (64 FR 7899) and approved the renewal of the charter on November 14, 2006. The establishment of the charter and the renewal of the charter were announced in the February 17, 1999 **Federal Register** (64 FR 7899), and the March 23, 2007 **Federal Register** (72 FR 13796), respectively. The Panel advises and makes recommendations to the Secretary and the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on opportunities to enhance the effectiveness of consumer education strategies concerning the Medicare program.

The goals of the Panel are as follows:

- To develop and implement a national Medicare education program that describes the options for selecting a health plan under Medicare.
- To enhance the Federal government's effectiveness in informing the Medicare consumer, including the appropriate use of public-private partnerships.
- To expand outreach to vulnerable and underserved communities, including racial and ethnic minorities, in the context of a national Medicare education program.
- To assemble an information base of best practices for helping consumers evaluate health plan options and build a community infrastructure for information, counseling, and assistance.

The current members of the Panel are: Anita B. Boles, Independent Consultant, Health Communications; Gwendolyn T. Bronson, SHINE/SHIP Counselor, Massachusetts SHINE Program; Dr. Yanira Cruz, President and Chief Executive Officer, National Hispanic Council on Aging; Clayton Fong, President and Chief Executive Officer, National Asian Pacific Center on Aging; Nan Kirsten-Forte, Executive Vice President, Consumer Services, WebMD; Dr. Jessie C. Gruman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Center for the Advancement of Health; Dr. David Lansky, Director, Health Program, Markle Foundation; Dr. Daniel Lyons, Senior Vice President, Government Programs, Independence Blue Cross; Dr. Frank B. McArdle, Manager, Hewitt Research Office, Hewitt Associates; Traci McClellan, J.D., Executive Director, National Indian Council on Aging; Dr. Keith Mueller, Professor and