

C. CERCLA

Those priority data needs that are not addressed by TSCA/FIFRA or initial voluntarism will be considered for funding by ATSDR through its CERCLA budget. Much of this research program is envisioned to be unique to CERCLA—for example, research on substances not regulated by other programs or research needs specific to public health assessments. A current example of the direct use of CERCLA funds is a cooperative agreement with the Minority Health Professions Foundation (MHPF) that supports the MHPF's Environmental Health, Health Services, and Toxicology Research Program.

Mechanisms to address these priority data needs may include a second call for voluntarism. Again, scientific peer review of study protocols and results would occur for all research conducted under this auspice.

Substance-Specific Priority Data Needs

Table 1 identifies the priority data needs. ATSDR encourages private-sector organizations and other governmental programs to use ATSDR's priority data needs to plan their research activities.

Dated: December 19, 2007.

Ken Rose,

Director, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, National Center for Environmental Health/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

[FR Doc. E7-25213 Filed 12-27-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4163-70-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[Document Identifier: CMS-222 and CMS-R-268]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, HHS.

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is publishing the following summary of proposed collections for public comment. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including any of the following subjects: (1) The necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper

performance of the agency's functions; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

1. *Type of Information Collection Request:* Extension of currently approved collection; *Title of Information Collection:* Independent Rural Health Center/Freestanding Federally Qualified Health Center Cost Report and Supporting Regulations 42 CFR 413.20 AND 42 CFR 413.24; *Use:* Providers of service in the Medicare program are required to submit annual information to achieve reimbursement for health care services rendered to Medicare beneficiaries. The Form CMS-222 cost report is needed to determine the amount of reasonable cost due to the providers for furnishing medical services to Medicare beneficiaries; *Form Number:* CMS-222 (OMB# 0938-0107); *Frequency:* Yearly; *Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit and Not-for-profit institutions; *Number of Respondents:* 3,159; *Total Annual Hours:* 157,950.

2. *Type of Information Collection Request:* Revision of currently approved collection; *Title of Information Collection:* Survey Tool for <http://www.medicare.gov> and <http://www.cms.hhs.gov>; *Use:* The purpose of this submission is to request a revision of 0938-0756 (CMS-R-268) to continue to collect information from Internet users as they exit from the Websites Medicare.gov and CMS.hhs.gov. As part of the revised collection we are combining the content from the collection 0938-0900 that was discontinued on 5/31/2007. The packages are being combined to eliminate a duplication of effort. We are requesting a three-year clearance, so that the feedback received through the survey can be used continually to update and improve the sites. To ensure that we gather information about user reactions to the Websites, we have developed a survey tool that users can complete when they exit either site or by accessing a link on the bottom bar on the page. The responses on this survey tool will help CMS to make appropriate changes to the Websites in the future. The survey tool contains questions about the information that visitors are seeking from the sites, the degree to which either site was useful to them, the improvements that they would like to see in the sites, and their general comments. *Form Number:* CMS-R-268

(OMB# 0938-0756); *Frequency:* On occasion; *Affected Public:* Individuals and households, Private sector—Business or other for-profit; *Number of Respondents:* 7,000; *Total Annual Responses:* 7,000; *Total Annual Hours:* 1,167.

To obtain copies of the supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed paperwork collections referenced above, access CMS' Web Site address at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PaperworkReductionActof1995>, or E-mail your request, including your address, phone number, OMB number, and CMS document identifier, to Paperwork@cms.hhs.gov, or call the Reports Clearance Office on (410) 786-1326.

To be assured consideration, comments and recommendations for the proposed information collections must be received at the address below, no later than 5 p.m. on February 26, 2008. CMS, Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs, Division of Regulations Development—C, Attention: Bonnie L Harkless, Room C4-26-05, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

Dated: December 20, 2007.

Michelle Shortt,

Director, Regulations Development Group, Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs.

[FR Doc. E7-25289 Filed 12-27-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4120-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS-7007-N]

Medicare Program; Request for Nominations for the Advisory Panel on Medicare Education

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice requests nominations for individuals to serve on the Advisory Panel on Medicare Education (the Panel) to fill current vacancies and vacancies that will become available in 2008. 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 the effectiveness of consumer education strategies concerning the Medicare program.

DATES: *Deadline for Nominations by Regular Mail:* Friday, January 18, 2008 at 5 p.m., e.s.t.

Deadline for Nominations by Electronic Mail: Friday, January 25, 2008 at 5 p.m., e.s.t.

ADDRESSES: *Regular Mail:* Lynne G. Johnson, Office of External Affairs, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 7500 Security Boulevard, S1-05-06, Baltimore, MD 21244-1850.

Electronic Mail:
Lynne.Johnson@cms.hhs.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lynne G. Johnson, Health Insurance Specialist, Division of Forum and Conference Development, (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, or contact Ms. Johnson via e-mail at Lynne.Johnson@cms.hhs.gov. Press inquiries are handled through the CMS Press Office at (202) 690-6145.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Section 9(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services (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." Section 1804 of the Social Security Act (the Act) requires 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." To help inform these activities, section 1114(f) of the Act and section 222 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 217a) authorize the creation of an advisory panel. The Secretary signed the charter establishing this Panel on January 21, 1999 and approved the renewal of the charter on November 14, 2006. The establishment of the charter and the renewal of 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 (the Administrator) on

opportunities to enhance the effectiveness of consumer education strategies concerning the Medicare program. The Secretary delegates authority to the Administrator.

The goals of the Panel are as follows:

- To provide recommendations on the development and implementation of a national Medicare education program that describes the options for selecting a health plan and prescription drug benefits under Medicare.

- To enhance the Federal government's effectiveness in informing the Medicare consumer, including the appropriate use of public-private partnerships.

- To make recommendations on how 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 Panel shall consist of a maximum of 20 members. The Chair shall either be appointed from among the 20 members, or a Federal official will be designated to serve as the Chair. The charter requires that meetings shall be held approximately 4 times per year. Members will be expected to attend all meetings. The members and the Chair shall be selected from authorities knowledgeable in the fields of senior citizen advocacy; outreach to minority communities; health communications; disease-related health advocacy; disability policy and access; health economics research; health insurers and plans; providers and clinicians; labor and retirement, and web education. Members of the general public are invited to apply.

This notice is an invitation to interested organizations or individuals to submit their nominations for membership on the Panel. The Secretary or his designee will appoint new members to the Panel from among those candidates determined to have the expertise required to meet specific agency needs and in a manner to ensure an appropriate balance of membership.

II. Nomination Requirements

Each nomination must state that the nominee has expressed a willingness to serve as a Panel member and must be accompanied by a resume or description of the nominee's experience and a brief biographical summary. In order to permit an evaluation of possible sources of conflict of interest, potential candidates will be asked to provide

detailed information concerning such matters as financial holdings, consultancies, and research grants or contracts. Self-nominations will also be accepted. All nominations must be received at the appropriate address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice by the date specified in the **DATES** section of this notice.

Authority: Sections 9(a) and 10 of Public L. 92-463 (5 U.S.C. App. 2, sections 9(a) and 10); 41 CFR Part 102-3; Sections 1114(f), 1804, and 1851(d) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1314(f), 1395b-2, and 1394w-21(d)); and Section 222 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 217a).

Dated: December 3, 2007.

Kerry Weems,

Acting Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

[FR Doc. E7-24273 Filed 12-27-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4120-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS-2269-N]

RIN 0938-AO75

Medicaid Program; Fiscal Year Disproportionate Share Hospital Allotments and Disproportionate Share Hospital Institutions for Mental Disease Limits

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the final Federal share disproportionate share hospital (DSH) allotments for Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2006 and the preliminary Federal share DSH allotments for FFY 2008. This notice also announces the final FFY 2006 and the preliminary FFY 2008 limitations on aggregate DSH payments that States may make to institutions for mental disease and other mental health facilities. In addition, this notice includes background information describing the methodology for determining the amounts of States' FFY DSH allotments. **DATES:** *Effective Date:* December 28, 2007.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard Strauss, (410) 786-2019.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

A. Disproportionate Share Hospital Allotments for Federal Fiscal Year 2003

Under section 1923(f)(3) of the Social Security Act (the Act), States' Federal