DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS–7021–N]

Medicare, Medicaid, and Children’s Health Insurance Programs; Meeting of the Advisory Panel on Outreach and Education (APOE) July 28, 2011

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

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Advisory Panel on Outreach and Education (APOE) (the Panel) in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act. 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, Medicaid, and Children’s Health Insurance (CHIP) programs. This meeting is open to the public.

DATES: Meeting Date: Thursday, July 28, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time (E.D.T.).

Deadline for Meeting Registration, Presentations, and Comments: Thursday, July 14, 2011, 5 p.m., E.D.T.

Deadline for Requesting Special Accommodations: Thursday, July 14, 2011, 5 p.m., E.D.T.


Meeting Registration, Presentations, and Written Comments: Jennifer Kordonski, Designated Federal Official (DFO), Division of Forum and Conference Development, Office of Communications, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 7500 Security Boulevard, Mailstop S1–13–05, Baltimore, MD 21244–1850 or contact Ms. Kordonski via e-mail at Jennifer.Kordonski@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 the DFO at the address listed in the ADDRESSES section of this notice or by telephone at number listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section of this notice, by the date listed in the DATES section of this notice.

Individuals requiring sign language interpretation or other special accommodations should contact the DFO at the address listed in the ADDRESSES section of this notice by the date listed in the DATES section of this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Kordonski, (410) 786–1840, or on the Internet at http://www.cms.gov/FACA/04_APOE.asp for additional information and updates on committee activities. Press inquiries are handled through the CMS Press Office at (202) 690–6145.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), this notice announces a meeting of the Advisory Panel on Outreach and Education (APOE) (the Panel). 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.” 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 Panel is also authorized by section 1114(f) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 1314(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, February 17, 1999) and approved the renewal of the charter on January 21, 2011 (76 FR 11782, March 3, 2011).

Pursuant to the amended charter, the Panel advises and makes recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) concerning optimal strategies for the following:

• Developing and implementing education and outreach programs for individuals enrolled in, or eligible for, Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).
• Informing Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP consumers, providers and stakeholders pursuant to education and outreach initiatives about the availability of other health coverage that may be available to them (for example, via health insurance exchanges starting
in 2014), including the appropriate use of public-private partnerships to leverage the resources of the private sector in educating beneficiaries, providers, and stakeholders.

- Expanding outreach to vulnerable and underserved communities, including racial and ethnic minorities, in the context of Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP education programs.
- Assembling and sharing an information base of “best practices” for helping consumers evaluate health plan options.
- Building and leveraging existing community infrastructures for information, counseling, and assistance.
- Drawing the program link between outreach and education, promoting consumer understanding of health care coverage choices and facilitating consumer selection/enrollment, which in turn support the overarching goal of improved access to quality care, including prevention services, envisioned under health care reform.

The current members of the Panel are: Samantha Artiga, Principal Policy Analyst, Kaiser Family Foundation; Joseph Baker, President, Medicare Rights Center; Marjorie Cadogan, Executive Deputy Commissioner, Department of Social Services; Jonathan Dauphine, Senior Vice President, AARP; Jason Dollharide, Deputy Executive Director, Housing Authority of the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma; Barbara Ferrer, Executive Director, Boston Public Health Commission; Shelby Gonzales, Senior Health Outreach Associate, Center on Budget & Policy Priorities; Richard Frank, Director, Whittingham Cancer Center; Jan Henning, Benefits Counseling & Special Projects Coordinator, North Central Texas Council of Governments’ Area Agency on Aging; Deana Jang, Policy Director, Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum; Warren Jones, Executive Director, Mississippi Institute for Improvement of Geographic Minority Health; Madeline Lawson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Institute for the Advancement of Multicultural & Minority Medicine; John Lui, Executive Director, Stout Vocational Rehabilitation Institute; Sandy Markwood, Chief Executive Officer, National Association of Area Agencies on Aging; Miriam Moby-Smith, Dean, Chicago State University, College of Pharmacy; Ana Natalie-Pereira, Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey; Megan Padden, Vice President, Sentara Health Plans; David W. Roberts, Vice-President, Healthcare Information and Management System Society; Julie Boden Schmidt, Associate Vice President, National Association of Community Health Centers; Winston Wong, Medical Director, Community Benefit Director, Kaiser Permanente and Donna Yee, Chief Executive Officer, Asian Community Center of Sacramento Valley.

The agenda for the July 28, 2011 meeting will include the following:
- Welcome and Listening Session with CMS Leadership.
- Swearing in of new members.
- Recap of the previous (October 13, 2010) meeting.
- Medicare, Medicaid & CHIP Outreach & Education Strategies.
- An opportunity for public comment.
- Next steps.

Individuals or organizations that wish to make a 5-minute oral presentation on an agenda topic should submit a written copy of the oral presentation to the DFO at the address listed in the ADDRESSES section of this notice by the date listed in the DATES section of this notice. The number of oral presentations may be limited by the time available.

Individuals not wishing to make a presentation may submit written comments to the DFO at the address listed in the ADDRESSES section of this notice by the date listed in the DATES section of this notice.

Authority: Sec. 222 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 217a) and sec. 10(a) of Pub. L. 92–463 (5 U.S.C. App. 2, sec. 10(a) and 41 CFR 102–3).

(Department of Health and Human Services)

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS–1584–N]

Medicare Program; Second Semi-Annual Meeting of the Advisory Panel on Ambulatory Payment Classification Groups—August 10, 2011 Through August 12, 2011

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the second semi-annual meeting of the Advisory Panel on Ambulatory Payment Classification (APC) Groups (the Panel) for 2011. The purpose of the Panel is to review the APC groups and their associated weights and to advise the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) (the Secretary) and the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) (the Administrator) concerning the clinical integrity of the APC groups and their associated weights. We will consider the Panel’s advice as we prepare the final rule that would update the hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) for CY 2012.

DATES: Meeting Dates: We are scheduling the second semi-annual meeting in 2011 for the following dates and times:

- Wednesday, August 10, 2011, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. eastern standard time (e.s.t.)
- Thursday, August 11, 2011, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (e.s.t.)
- Friday, August 12, 2011, 8 a.m. to 12 Noon (e.s.t.)

Note: The times listed in this notice are approximate times; consequently, the meetings may last longer than listed in this notice, but will not begin before the posted times.

If the Panel’s business concludes on Thursday, August 11, 2011, there will be no meeting on Friday, August 12, 2011.

Deadlines

Deadline for Hardcopy Comments and electronic format suggested agenda topics—5 p.m. (e.s.t.), Friday, July 15, 2011.

Deadline for Hardcopy Presentations, including the required electronic documents as discussed below—5 p.m. (e.s.t.), Friday, July 15, 2011.

Deadline for Attendance Registration—5 p.m. (e.s.t.), Wednesday, July 27, 2011.

Deadline for Special Accommodations—5 p.m. (e.s.t.), Wednesday, July 27, 2011.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the Auditorium, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Central Office, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21244–1850.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paula Smith, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), CMS, CMM, HAPG, DOC, 7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop C4–05–17, Baltimore, MD 21244–1850. Phone: (410) 786–3985.

Note: We recommend that you advise couriers of the following information: When