

other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

DATES: Comments on the collection(s) of information must be received by the OMB desk officer by February 26, 2018.

ADDRESSES: When commenting on the proposed information collections, please reference the document identifier or OMB control number. To be assured consideration, comments and recommendations must be received by the OMB desk officer via one of the following transmissions: OMB, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs; Attention: CMS Desk Officer; Fax Number: (202) 395-5806 OR Email: OIRA_submission@omb.eop.gov.

To obtain copies of a supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed collection(s) summarized in this notice, you may make your request using one of following:

1. Access CMS' website address at website address at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/PaperworkReductionActof1995/PRA-Listing.html>.

2. Email your request, including your address, phone number, OMB number, and CMS document identifier, to Paperwork@cms.hhs.gov.

3. Call the Reports Clearance Office at (410) 786-1326.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William Parham at (410) 786-4669.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. The term "collection of information" is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3(c) and includes agency requests or requirements that members of the public submit reports, keep records, or provide information to a third party. Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)) requires federal agencies to publish a 30-day notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension or reinstatement of an existing collection of information, before submitting the collection to OMB for approval. To comply with this requirement, CMS is publishing this notice that summarizes the following proposed collection(s) of information for public comment:

1. *Type of Information Collection Request:* Revision of a currently approved collection; *Title of Information Collection:* Medicare Part C and Part D Data Validation (42 CFR 422.516(g) and 423.514(g)); *Use:*

Medicare Part C and Part D sponsoring organizations (Medicare Advantage Organizations), must submit Medicare Part C, Medicare Part D, or Medicare Part C and Part D data (depending on the type of contracts they have in place with CMS). In order for the reported data to be useful for monitoring and performance measurement, the data must be reliable, valid, complete, and comparable among sponsoring organizations. To maintain the independence of the validation process, sponsoring organizations are responsible for hiring external, independent data validation contractors (DVCs) who meet a minimum set of qualifications and credentials. For the retrospective review in 2018, the DVCs will review data submitted by sponsoring organizations for CY2017. The main changes for the 2018 DV are to eliminate the Part C/D reporting section Sponsor Oversight of Agents and adding the Part D reporting section Improving Drug Utilization Review Controls. *Form Number:* CMS-10305 (OMB control number: 0938-1115); *Frequency:* Yearly; *Affected Public:* Private sector (Business or other for-profits); *Number of Respondents:* 574; *Total Annual Responses:* 574; *Total Annual Hours:* 24,050. (For policy questions regarding this collection contact Maria Sotirelis at 410-786-0552.)

Dated: January 23, 2018.

William N. Parham, III,

Director, Paperwork Reduction Staff, Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS-1703-N]

Medicare Program; Request for Nominations to the Advisory Panel on Hospital Outpatient Payment

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is requesting nominations to fill vacancies on the Advisory Panel (the Panel) on Hospital Outpatient Payment (HOP). The purpose of the Panel is to advise the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (the Secretary) and the Administrator of the Centers for

Medicare & Medicaid Services (the Administrator) on the clinical integrity of the Ambulatory Payment Classification (APC) groups and their associated weights, and supervision of hospital outpatient therapeutic services.

DATES: The agency will receive nominations on a continuous basis.

ADDRESSES: Please submit nominations electronically to the following email address: APCPanel@cms.hhs.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Persons wishing to nominate individuals to serve on the Panel or to obtain further information may submit an email to the following email address: APCPanel@cms.hhs.gov.

News Media: Representatives should contact the CMS Press Office at (202) 690-6145.

Website: For additional information on the HOP Panel, updates to the Panel's activities, and submission of nominations to the HOP Panel, we refer readers to our website at: <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/FACA/AdvisoryPanelonAmbulatoryPaymentClassificationGroups.html>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (the Secretary) is required by section 1833(t)(9)(A) of the Social Security Act (the Act), and allowed by section 222 of the Public Health Service Act (PHS Act) to consult with an expert outside panel, that is, the Advisory Panel (the Panel) on Hospital Outpatient Payment (HOP) regarding the clinical integrity of the Ambulatory Payment Classification (APC) groups and relative payment weights that are components of the Medicare Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS), and the appropriate supervision level for hospital outpatient therapeutic services. The Panel is governed by the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) (Pub. L. 92-463), as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), which sets forth standards for the formation and use of advisory panels. The Panel may consider data collected or developed by entities and organizations (other than the Department of Health and Human Services) as part of their deliberations.

We consider the technical advice provided by the Panel as we prepare both the proposed and final rulemaking to update the OPPS for the following calendar year (CY).

On May 20, 2016, we published a notice in the **Federal Register** that announced the August 2016 summer

panel meeting and the transition to one meeting of the panel per year (81 FR 31941).

II. Request for Nominations; Criteria for Nominees

The Panel shall consist of a chair and up to 15 members who are full-time employees of hospitals, hospital systems, or other Medicare providers that are subject to the OPPTS. For supervision deliberations, the Panel shall also include members that represent the interests of Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs), who advise the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) only regarding the level of supervision for hospital outpatient therapeutic services. (For purposes of the Panel, consultants or independent contractors are not considered to be full-time employees in these organizations.)

The HOP Panel currently consists of 13 panel members. Two additional vacancies will occur in CY 2018. The list of HOP Panel members is located in the FACA database, Advisory Panel on Hospital Outpatient Payment Committee page, on the FACA database website at: <https://www.facadatabase.gov/committee/committee.aspx?cid=1791&aid=76>.

Panel members serve on a voluntary basis, without compensation, according to an advance written agreement; however, for the meetings, CMS reimburses travel, meals, lodging, and related expenses in accordance with standard Government travel regulations. CMS has a special interest in ensuring, while taking into account the nominee pool, that the Panel is diverse in all respects of the following: Geography; rural or urban practice; race, ethnicity, sex, and disability; medical or technical specialty; and type of hospital, hospital health system, or other Medicare provider subject to the OPPTS. Appointment to the HOP Panel shall be made without discrimination on the basis of age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and cultural, religious, or socioeconomic status.

Based upon either self-nominations or nominations submitted by providers or interested organizations, the Secretary, or his or her designee, appoints new members to the Panel from among those candidates determined to have the required expertise. New appointments are made in a manner that ensures a balanced membership under the FACA guidelines. This notice requests nominations for HOP Panel members on a continuous basis. Nominations for a person not serving on the committee may be reconsidered as committee vacancies arise, but should be updated

and resubmitted no later than 3 years after the original nomination submittal to continue to be considered for committee vacancies. CMS will consider the nominations submitted in response to the notice published in the **Federal Register** on December 23, 2016, entitled "Medicare Program; Renewal of the Advisory Panel on Hospital Outpatient Payment and Solicitation of Nominations to the Advisory Panel on Hospital Outpatient Payment" (81 FR 94378), unless they are withdrawn or the nominees' qualifications have changed. Nominations will be considered as vacancies occur.

The Panel must be balanced in its membership in terms of the points of view represented and the functions to be performed. Each panel member must be employed full-time by a hospital, hospital system, or other Medicare provider subject to payment under the OPPTS (except for the CAH members, since CAHs are not paid under the OPPTS). All members must have technical expertise to enable them to participate fully in the Panel's work. Such expertise encompasses hospital payment systems; hospital medical care delivery systems; provider billing systems; APC groups; Current Procedural Terminology codes; and alpha-numeric Health Care Common Procedure Coding System codes; and the use of, and payment for, drugs, medical devices, and other services in the outpatient setting, as well as other forms of relevant expertise. For supervision deliberations, the Panel shall have members that represent the interests of CAHs, who advise CMS only regarding the level of supervision for hospital outpatient therapeutic services.

It is not necessary for a nominee to possess expertise in all of the areas listed, but each must have a minimum of 5 years of experience and currently have full-time employment in his or her area of expertise. Generally, members of the Panel serve overlapping terms up to 4 years, based on the needs of the Panel and contingent upon the rechartering of the Panel. A member may serve after the expiration of his or her term until a successor has been sworn in.

Any interested person or organization may nominate qualified individuals. Self-nominations will also be accepted. Each nomination must include the following:

- Letter of Nomination stating the reasons why the nominee should be considered.
- Curriculum vitae or resume of the nominee that includes an email address where the nominee can be contacted.
- Written and signed statement from the nominee that the nominee is willing

to serve on the Panel under the conditions described in this notice and further specified in the Charter.

- The hospital or hospital system name and address, or CAH name and address, as well as all Medicare hospital and or Medicare CAH billing numbers of the facility where the nominee is employed.

Future updates or changes to the panel nomination process may be published in the **Federal Register** or posted on the CMS Advisory Panel for Hospital Outpatient Payment website, referenced in section II, "Request for Nominations; Criteria for Nominees," of this notice.

IV. Copies of the Charter

To obtain a copy of the Panel's Charter, we refer readers to our website at: <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/FACA/AdvisoryPanelonAmbulatoryPaymentClassificationGroups.html>.

V. Collection of Information Requirements

This document does not impose information collection requirements, that is, reporting, recordkeeping or third-party disclosure requirements. Consequently, there is no need for review by the Office of Management and Budget under the authority of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

Dated: January 12, 2018.

Seema Verma,

Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

[FR Doc. 2018-01474 Filed 1-25-18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS-9106-N]

Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Quarterly Listing of Program Issuances—October Through December 2017

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This quarterly notice lists CMS manual instructions, substantive and interpretive regulations, and other **Federal Register** notices that were published from October through December 2017, relating to the Medicare and Medicaid programs and other programs administered by CMS.