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Director, Division of the Executive Secretariat.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

[OMHA-1902-N]

Medicare Program; Administrative Law Judge Hearing Program for Medicare Claim and Entitlement Appeals; Quarterly Listing of Program Issuances—April Through June 2019

AGENCY: Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals (OMHA), HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This quarterly notice lists the OMHA Case Processing Manual (OCPM) instructions that were published from April through June 2019. This manual standardizes the day-to-day procedures for carrying out adjudicative functions, in accordance with applicable statutes, regulations, and OMHA directives, and gives OMHA staff direction for processing appeals at the OMHA level of adjudication.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jason Green, by telephone at (571) 777-2723, or by email at jason.green@hhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals (OMHA), a staff division within the Office of the Secretary within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), administers the nationwide Administrative Law Judge hearing program for Medicare claim; organization, coverage, and at-risk determination; and entitlement appeals under sections 1869, 1155, 1876(c)(5)(B), 1852(g)(5), and 1860D-4(h) of the Social Security Act (the Act). OMHA ensures that Medicare beneficiaries and the providers and suppliers that furnish items or services to Medicare beneficiaries, as well as Medicare Advantage organizations (MAOs), Medicaid State agencies, and applicable plans, have a fair and impartial forum to address disagreements with Medicare coverage and payment determinations made by Medicare contractors, MAOs, or Part D plan sponsors (PDPs), and determinations related to Medicare eligibility and entitlement, Part B late enrollment penalty, and income-related monthly adjustment amounts (IRMAA) made by the Social Security Administration (SSA).

The Medicare claim, organization determination, coverage determination, and at-risk determination appeals processes consist of four levels of administrative review, and a fifth level of review with the Federal district courts after administrative remedies under HHS regulations have been exhausted. The first two levels of review are administered by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and conducted by Medicare contractors for claim appeals, by MAOs and an Independent Review Entity (IRE) for Part C organization determination appeals, or by PDPs and an IRE for Part D coverage determination and at-risk determination appeals. The third level of review is administered by OMHA and conducted by Administrative Law Judges and attorney adjudicators. The fourth level of review is administered by the HHS Departmental Appeals Board (DAB) and conducted by the Medicare Appeals Council (Council). In addition, OMHA and the DAB administer the second and third levels of appeal, respectively, for Medicare eligibility, entitlement, Part B late enrollment penalty, and IRMAA reconsiderations made by SSA; a fourth level of review with the Federal district courts is available after administrative remedies within SSA and HHS have been exhausted.

Sections 1869, 1155, 1876(c)(5)(B), 1852(g)(5), and 1860D-4(h) of the Act are implemented through the regulations at 42 CFR part 405 subparts I and J; part 417, subpart Q; part 422, subpart M; part 423, subparts M and U; and part 478, subpart B. As noted above, OMHA administers the nationwide Administrative Law Judge hearing program in accordance with these statutes and applicable regulations. To help ensure nationwide consistency in that effort, OMHA established a manual, the OCPM. Through the OCPM, the OMHA Chief Administrative Law Judge establishes the day-to-day procedures for carrying out adjudicative functions, in accordance with applicable statutes, regulations, and OMHA directives. The OCPM provides direction for processing appeals at the OMHA level of adjudication for Medicare Part A and B claims; Part C organization determinations; Part D coverage determinations and at-risk determinations; and SSA eligibility and entitlement, Part B late enrollment penalty, and IRMAA determinations.

Section 1871(c) of the Act requires that the Secretary publish a list of all Medicare manual instructions, interpretive rules, statements of policy, and guidelines of general applicability

not issued as regulations at least every three months in the **Federal Register**.

II. Format for the Quarterly Issuance Notices

This quarterly notice provides the specific updates to the OCPM that have occurred in the three-month period of April through June 2019. A hyperlink to the available chapters on the OMHA website is provided below. The OMHA website contains the most current, up-to-date chapters and revisions to chapters, and will be available earlier than we publish our quarterly notice. We believe the OMHA website provides more timely access to the current OCPM chapters for those involved in the Medicare claim; organization, coverage, and at-risk determination; and entitlement appeals processes. We also believe the website offers the public a more convenient tool for real time access to current OCPM provisions. In addition, OMHA has a listserv to which the public can subscribe to receive notification of certain updates to the OMHA website, including when new or revised OCPM chapters are posted. If accessing the OMHA website proves to be difficult, the contact person listed above can provide the information.

III. How To Use the Notice

This notice lists the OCPM chapters and subjects published during the quarter covered by the notice so the reader may determine whether any are of particular interest. The OCPM can be accessed at <https://www.hhs.gov/about/agencies/omha/the-appeals-process/case-processing-manual/index.html>.

IV. OCPM Releases for April Through June 2019

The OCPM is used by OMHA adjudicators and staff to administer the OMHA program. It offers day-to-day operating instructions, policies, and procedures based on statutes and regulations, and OMHA directives.

The following is a list and description of OCPM provisions that were issued or revised in the three-month period of April through June 2019. This information is available on our website at <https://www.hhs.gov/about/agencies/omha/the-appeals-process/case-processing-manual/index.html>.

OCPM Chapter 11: Procedural Review and Determinations

This newly issued chapter describes how to conduct a procedural review of an appeal, and how to resolve any identified procedural defects. The procedural review is required to ensure that a request for hearing or review of dismissal meets jurisdictional and filing

requirements, and that procedural determinations are made before case development occurs, or a conference or hearing is scheduled. If there is a procedural defect, the defect may result in a dismissal or may require an opportunity for the appellant to resolve the defect. If an adjudication time frame applies to the case, a procedural defect may delay the start of, or extend, the adjudication time frame. When the procedural review is complete, and any identified defects have been resolved, and any applicable determinations have been made, the case moves forward in the adjudication process. Specialized procedural review is required for requests for expedited hearings in Part D appeals; however, a hearing may be scheduled before the screening is complete and any procedural defects are resolved, to facilitate meeting the expedited adjudication period.

OCPM Chapter 6: CMS, CMS Contractor, Plan Roles—Sections 6.3.1.1, 6.3.2

This chapter was initially released on July 27, 2018, and was included in a quarterly notice published in the November 14, 2018 **Federal Register** (83 FR 56859). Sections 6.3.1.1 and 6.3.2 of this chapter state that a Unified Program Integrity Contractor (UPIC) cannot elect party status in an appeal, and may only participate as a non-party. As initially published, these sections cited to CMS's Medicare Program Integrity Manual, internet-only manual publication 100-08, chapter 4, section 4.8.2, which previously stated that a Zone Program Integrity Contractor (ZPIC) could not elect party status in an appeal, and section 4.1, which stated that all references to ZPICs shall also apply to UPICs, unless otherwise specified in the UPIC Statement of Work (SOW). Effective October 22, 2018, CMS revised the Medicare Program Integrity Manual to directly state that a UPIC cannot invoke party status, and can only participate in OMHA proceedings as a non-party. This revision to OCPM 6.3.1.1 and 6.3.2 updates footnotes in these sections to reflect the CMS manual's revised language. This revision does not change the way that OMHA interprets or implements the underlying policy that a UPIC cannot elect party status.

Dated: July 2, 2019.

Karen W. Ames,

Executive Director, Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals.

[FR Doc. 2019-15151 Filed 7-15-19; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Notice To Announce Request for Information on the Development of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research's Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2020–2025

AGENCY: National Institutes of Health, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) is drafting its Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years (FY) 2020–2025 to help guide the research it supports over the next six years. NIDCR 2030 established five priority areas and accompanying goals, which we're now using to organize the 2020–2025 Strategic Plan. Through this Request for Information, NIDCR invites researchers in academia and industry, health care professionals, patient advocates and health advocacy organizations, scientific or professional organizations, Federal agencies, and other interested members of the public to provide feedback on NIDCR's next strategic plan.

DATES: The NIDCR's Request for Information is open for public comment for a period of 30 days. Comments must be received by August 15, 2019, to ensure consideration. After the public comment period has closed, the comments received by the NIDCR will be considered in a timely manner for the development of the FY 2020–2025 National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research's Strategic Plan.

ADDRESSES: Please visit our website to view the priority areas and provide your feedback electronically: <https://www.nidcr.nih.gov/about-us/strategic-plan/2020-2025-nidcr-strategic-plan>. Feedback can also be submitted via email (NIDCRstrategicPlan@nidcr.nih.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: D. Jonathan Horsford, Ph.D. Acting Director, Office of Science Policy and Analysis, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, NIH, 31 Center Drive, Suite 5B55, Bethesda, MD 20892. Email: Jonathan.Horsford@NIH.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research's (NIDCR) mission is to improve the health of the nation through investments in research focused on dental, oral, and craniofacial (DOC) diseases including caries, periodontal disease, cancers, orofacial pain,

craniofacial disorders, salivary gland disorders, rare diseases, and oral manifestations of systemic diseases. In 2017, NIDCR launched NIDCR 2030, a visioning initiative where we imagined a future world in which DOC health and diseases are understood in the context of the whole body and research transforms how we promote health, treat disease, and overcome health disparities. To get us there, NIDCR requests your help in developing our 2020–2025 Strategic Plan.

Dated: July 9, 2019.

Martha J. Somerman,

Director, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, National Institutes of Health.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

[Docket No. USCG-2019-0258]

Collection of Information Under Review by Office of Management and Budget; OMB Control Number: 1625-0048

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Thirty-day notice requesting comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 the U.S. Coast Guard is forwarding an Information Collection Request (ICR), abstracted below, to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA), requesting approval for reinstatement, without change, of the following collection of information: 1625-0048, Vessel Reporting Requirements. Our ICR describes the information we seek to collect from the public. Review and comments by OIRA ensure we only impose paperwork burdens commensurate with our performance of duties.

DATES: Comments must reach the Coast Guard and OIRA on or before August 15, 2019.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by Coast Guard docket number [USCG-2019-0258] to the Coast Guard using the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <https://www.regulations.gov>. Alternatively, you may submit comments to OIRA using one of the following means:

(1) Email: OIRA-submission@omb.eop.gov.