

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, October 2, 1995.

Jennifer J. Johnson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 95-24885 Filed 10-5-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-F

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics Meeting

Pursuant to Pub. L. 92-463, the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), announces the following committee meeting.

Name: National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS).

Times and Dates: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., October 24, 1995; 9 a.m.-5 p.m., October 25, 1995; 9 a.m.-5 p.m., October 26, 1995.

Place: Room 703A, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, D.C. 20201.

Status: Open.

Purpose: The purpose of this meeting is for the Committee to plan for the upcoming special meetings on the Core Data Elements Project; to discuss the Committee's work plan for the coming year; to consider reports from each NCVHS subcommittee; to receive reports from offices of the Department of Health and Human Services and department-wide Data Council; and to address new business as appropriate.

Notice: In the interest of security, the Department has instituted stringent procedures for entrance to the Hubert H. Humphrey building by non-government employees. Thus, persons without a government identification card should plan to arrive at the building each meeting day either between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m. or 12:30 and 1:00 p.m. so they can be escorted to the meeting. Entrance to the meeting at other times during the day cannot be assured.

Contact Person for More Information: Substantive program information as well as summaries of the meeting and a roster of committee members may be obtained from Gail F. Fisher, Ph.D., Executive Secretary, NCVHS, NCHS, CDC, Room 1100, Presidential Building, 6525 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Maryland 20782, telephone 301/436-7050.

Dated: September 29, 1995.

Carolyn J. Russell,

Director, Management Analysis and Services Office Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

[FR Doc. 95-24898 Filed 10-5-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4163-18-M

Health Care Financing Administration

[BPD-797-PN]

RIN 0938-AG65

Medicare Program; Limitations on Medicare Coverage of Cataract Surgery

AGENCY: Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), HHS.

ACTION: Proposed notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the Medicare program's proposal to define medical necessity with respect to Medicare coverage of preoperative testing for cataracts, cataract surgery, and Nd:YAG capsulotomy.

DATES: Comments will be considered if we receive them at the appropriate address, as provided below, no later than 5 p.m. on December 5, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Mail written comments (1 original and 3 copies) to the following address: Health Care Financing Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, Attention: BPD-797-PN, P.O. Box 26688, Baltimore, MD 21207.

If you prefer, you may deliver your written comments (1 original and 3 copies) to one of the following addresses:

Room 309-G, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20201, or Room C5-09-26, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21244-1850.

Because of staffing and resource limitations, we cannot accept comments by facsimile (FAX) transmission. In commenting, please refer to file code BPD-797-PN. Comments received timely will be available for public inspection as they are received, generally beginning approximately 3 weeks after publication of a document, in Room 309-G of the Department's offices at 200 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC, on Monday through Friday of each week from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (phone: (202) 690-7890).

For comments that relate to information collection requirements, mail a copy of comments to: Allison Herron Eydt, HCFA Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

Copies: To order copies of the Federal Register containing this document, send your request to: New Orders, Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954. Specify the date of the issue requested and enclose a check or money order

payable to the Superintendent of Documents, or enclose your Visa or Master Card number and expiration date. Credit card orders can also be placed by calling the order desk at (202) 512-1800 or by faxing to (202) 512-2250. The cost for each copy is \$8. As an alternative, you can view and photocopy the Federal Register document at most libraries designated as Federal Depository Libraries and at many other public and academic libraries throughout the country that receive the Federal Register.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen McVeary, (410) 786-4643.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

A. Medicare Program Description

The Medicare program was established by the Congress in 1965 through the enactment of title XVIII of the Social Security Act (the Act). This program provides payment for certain medical services and supplies for persons 65 years of age and over, certain disabled persons, and beneficiaries with end-stage renal disease.

While Medicare does cover many health care costs, the program was not designed to pay for every type of medical care for its beneficiaries. Section 1862(a)(1)(A) of the Act prohibits Medicare payment for any expenses incurred for items or services that are not reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of an illness or injury or to improve the functioning of a malformed body member.

Longstanding Medicare policy has interpreted the term "reasonable and necessary" to mean that an item or service is safe and effective, not experimental or investigational, and generally accepted in the medical community. We have used various methods for seeking medical and scientific opinion in determining whether a health care technology is reasonable and necessary. These methods have included, at one time or another, the use of the Office of Health Technology Assessment (OHTA), a unit of the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR) within the Public Health Service (PHS), and various forms of consultation and liaison with national medical associations and groups along with carrier medical directors, our central office staff physicians, and PHS representatives.

In developing this proposal for a national coverage policy concerning preoperative testing, cataract removal surgery, and postoperative issues, we