

information provided in the Direct Final action that is located in the Rules section of this **Federal Register**.

Dated: October 23, 1998.

Felicia Marcus,

Regional Administrator, Region IX.

[FR Doc. 98-30274 Filed 11-12-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-U

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 62

[GA-41-9829b; FRL-6187-3]

Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants: Georgia

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: EPA proposes to approve the section 111(d) Plan submitted by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the State of Georgia on January 20, 1998, for implementing and enforcing the Emissions Guidelines applicable to existing Municipal Solid Waste Landfills. The Plan was submitted by the Georgia DNR to satisfy certain Federal Clean Air Act requirements. In the Rules section of this **Federal Register**, EPA is approving the Georgia State Plan submittal as a direct final rule without prior proposal because the Agency views this as a noncontroversial submittal and anticipates that it will not receive any significant, material, and adverse comments. A detailed rationale for the approval is set forth in the direct final rule and incorporated by reference herein. If no significant, material, and adverse comments are received in response to this proposed rule, no further activity is contemplated in relation to this proposed rule. If EPA receives adverse comments, the direct final rule will be withdrawn and all public comments received will be addressed in a subsequent final rule based on this proposed rule. EPA will not institute a second comment period on this action.

DATES: Comments must be received by December 14, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to Scott Martin at the EPA Regional Office listed below. Copies of the documents relevant to this proposed rule are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the following locations. The interested persons wanting to examine these documents should make an

appointment with the appropriate office at least 24 hours before the day of the visit.

Environmental Protection Agency,
Region 4, Air Planning Branch, 61
Forsyth Street, SW, Atlanta, Georgia
30303-3104.

Air Protection Branch, Georgia
Environmental Protection Division,
Georgia Department of Natural
Resources, 4244 International
Parkway, Suite 120, Atlanta, Georgia
30354.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Scott Martin at (404) 562-9036 or Scott Davis at (404) 562-9127.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: See the information provided in the Direct Final action which is located in the Rules section of this **Federal Register** and incorporated by reference herein.

Dated: September 21, 1998.

A. Stanley Meiburg,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region 4.

[FR Doc. 98-30400 Filed 11-12-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-U

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care Financing Administration

42 CFR Parts 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 419, 489, 498, and 1003

[HCFA-1005-N]

RIN 0938-AI56

Medicare Program; Prospective Payment System for Hospital Outpatient Services; Extension of Comment Period

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

ACTION: Notice of extension of comment period for proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This notice extends the comment period for a proposed rule published in the **Federal Register** on September 8, 1998, (63 FR 47552). In that rule, as required by sections 4521, 4522, and 4523 of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, we proposed to eliminate the formula-driven overpayment for certain outpatient hospital services, extend reductions in payment for costs of hospital outpatient services, and establish in regulations a prospective payment system for hospital outpatient services (and for Medicare Part B services furnished to inpatients who have no Part A coverage.) The comment period is extended for 60 days.

DATES: The comment period is extended to 5 p.m. on January 8, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Mail written comments (one original and three copies) to the following address: Health Care Financing Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, Attention: HCFA-1005-N, P.O. Box 26688, Baltimore, MD 21207-0488.

If you prefer, you may deliver your written comments (one original and three copies) to one of the following addresses: Room 443-G, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20201, or Room C5-09-26, Central Building, 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 HCFA-1005-N. 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 443-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: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503, Attn: Allison Herron Eydt, HCFA Desk Officer.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet Wellham, (410) 786-4510.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On September 8, 1998, we issued a proposed rule in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 47552) that would do the following:

- Eliminate the formula-driven overpayment for certain outpatient hospital services;
- Extend reductions in payment for costs of hospital outpatient services;
- Establish in regulations a prospective payment system for hospital outpatient services, for partial hospitalization services furnished by community mental health centers, and for certain Medicare Part B services furnished to inpatients who have no Part A coverage;
- Propose new requirements for provider departments and provider-based entities;
- Implement section 9343(c) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986, which prohibits Medicare payment for nonphysician services furnished to a hospital outpatient by a provider or supplier other than a

hospital unless the services are furnished under an arrangement with the hospital;

- Authorize the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Inspector General to impose a civil money penalty against any individual or entity who knowingly presents a bill for non-physician or other bundled services not provided directly or under such an arrangement.

Because of the scope of the proposed rule, hospitals and numerous professional associations have requested more time to analyze the potential consequences of the rule. Therefore, we are extending the public comment period for an additional 60 days, until January 8, 1999.

Published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register** is a notice extending for an additional 60 days, the comment period for the proposed rule published in the June 12, 1998, **Federal Register** in which we propose to rebase Medicare payment rates and update the list of approved procedures for ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs) (63 FR 32290). We are extending the comment period for the June 12, 1998, ASC proposed rule to be concurrent with the extended comment period for the September 8, 1998, hospital outpatient proposed rule because Medicare payments to ASCs are closely linked to the manner in which Medicare proposes to pay hospitals under a prospective payment system for surgical services furnished on an outpatient basis.

Authority: Secs. 1102 and 1871 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1302 and 1395hh).

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.774, Medicare—Supplementary Medical Insurance Program)

Dated: November 3, 1998.

Nancy-Ann Min DeParle,

Administrator, Health Care Financing Administration.

Dated: November 9, 1998.

Donna E. Shalala,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-30388 Filed 11-9-98; 3:10 pm]

BILLING CODE 4120-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care Financing Administration

42 CFR Parts 416 and 488

[HCFA-1885-3N]

RIN 0938-AH81

Medicare Program; Update of Ratesetting Methodology, Payment Rates, Payment Policies, and the List of Covered Procedures for Ambulatory Surgical Centers Effective October 1, 1998; Extension of Comment Period

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

ACTION: Notice of extension of comment period for proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This notice extends the comment period for the third time on a proposed rule published in the **Federal Register** on June 12, 1998, (63 FR 32290). In that rule we proposed to make various changes, including changes to the ambulatory surgical center (ASC) payment methodology and the list of Medicare covered procedures. The comment period is extended for 60 days.

DATES: The comment period is extended to 5 p.m. on January 8, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Mail written comments (one original and three copies) to the following address: Health Care Financing Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, Attention: HCFA-1885-P, P.O. Box 26688, Baltimore, MD 21207-0488.

If you prefer, you may deliver your written comments (one original and three copies) to one of the following addresses: Room 443-G, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20201, or Room C5-09-26, Central Building, 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 HCFA-1885-P. 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 443-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:

Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and

Budget, Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503, Attn: Allison Herron Eydt, HCFA Desk Officer.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joan H. Sanow, (410) 786-5723.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 12, 1998, we issued a proposed rule in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 32290) that would do the following:

- Update the criteria for determining which surgical procedures can be appropriately and safely performed in an ASC.

- Make additions to and deletions from the current list of Medicare covered ASC procedures based on the revised criteria.

- Rebase the ASC payment rates using cost, charge, and utilization data collected by a 1994 survey of ASCs.

- Refine the ratesetting methodology that was implemented by a final notice published on February 8, 1990, in the **Federal Register**.

- Require that ASC payment, coverage, and wage index updates be implemented annually on January 1 rather than having these updates occur randomly throughout the year.

- Reduce regulatory burden.

- Make several technical policy changes.

The proposed rule would also implement requirements of section 1833(i)(1) and (2) of the Social Security Act. We indicated that comments would be considered if we received them by August 11, 1998.

We received requests from numerous ASCs and professional associations for more time to analyze the potential consequences of the rule. We issued a notice in the **Federal Register** on August 14, 1998, (63 FR 43655) announcing extension of the public comment period to September 10, 1998.

On September 8, 1998, we published a proposed rule in the **Federal Register** entitled "Medicare Program; Prospective Payment System for Hospital Outpatient Services" (63 FR 47552). We received additional requests from ASCs and professional associations for more time to analyze the impact of the hospital outpatient proposed rule, and for a delay in the implementation of the ASC final rule to be concurrent with implementation of the hospital outpatient prospective payment system.

On October 1, 1998, we reopened the comment period for the June 12, 1998, ASC proposed rule until November 9, 1998, to coincide with the comment period for the September 8, 1998, hospital outpatient proposed rule. We also gave notice in the October 1, 1998, **Federal Register** (63 FR 52663) of a