

durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS). Under the law, suppliers can receive payments from Medicare for items and services covered by the demonstration only if their bids are competitive in terms of quality and price. Each demonstration project may be conducted in up to three metropolitan areas for a three year period. Authority for the demonstration expires on December 31, 2002. The schedule for the demonstration anticipates about a six month period required between mailing the bidding forms to potential bidders and the start of payments for DMEPOS under the demonstration. HCFA intends to operate the demonstration in two rounds, the first of two years, and the second of one year. HCFA has announced that it intends to operate its first demonstration in Polk County, Florida, which is the Lakeland-Winter Haven Metropolitan Area.

There are five forms that are required for the demonstration. The first, HCFA-R-0264A, will be filled out by suppliers to describe the attributes of their organization, including quality of services and financial data. Form HCFA-R-0264B will be filled out by suppliers for each of the categories of DMEPOS for which they bid, and includes information about their supply of that category of equipment or supplies, and the prices that they bid for each item in that category. Form HCFA-R-0264C will be used by site inspectors who gather information at the facilities of bidders. Form HCFA-R-0264D is used to gather data by telephone from referral sources of business for the bidding suppliers, and form HCFA-R-0264E is used to gather data by telephone from banks and other financial institutions for financial and business references.

The competitive bidding demonstration for DMEPOS has the following objectives:

- Test the policies and implementation methods of competitive bidding to determine whether or not it should be expanded as a Medicare Program.
- Reduce the price that Medicare pays for medical equipment and supplies.
- Limit beneficiary out-of-pocket expenditures for copayments.
- Improve beneficiary access to high quality medical equipment and supplies.
- Prevent business transactions with suppliers who engage in fraudulent practices.

HCFA plans to mail the bidding package, including the referenced forms A and B, to potential bidders at the first

demonstration sites in Polk County, Florida on November 16, 1998, and to request bidder submissions by December 16, 1998. The remaining forms C, D and E will be used for inspections and reference checking in the three months following the bid submissions. These forms will be used by HCFA or its agents to gather information regarding bidders who have made financially attractive bids and are being evaluated for quality, financial stability, and other attributes for consideration as demonstration suppliers.

Frequency: Two times at each demonstration site;

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit, and not-for-profit institutions;

Number of Respondents: 2,040;

Total Annual Responses: 2,040;

Total Annual Hours: 25,260

To obtain copies of the supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed paperwork collections referenced above, access HCFA's Web Site address at <http://www.hcfa.gov/regs/prdact95.htm>, OR E-mail your request, including your address, phone number, and HCFA form number(s) referenced above, to Paperwork@hcfa.gov, or call the Reports Clearance Office on (410) 786-1326.

Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding the burden or any other aspect of these collections of information requirements. However, as noted above, comments on these information collection and recordkeeping requirements must be mailed and/or faxed to the designee referenced below, within five working days:

Health Care Financing Administration,
 Office of Information Services,
 Security and Standards Group,
 Division of HCFA Enterprise
 Standards, Room: N2-14-26, 7500
 Security Boulevard, Baltimore,
 Maryland 21244-1850, Fax Number:
 (410) 786-0262, Attn: John Burke
 or

Office of Information and Regulatory
 Affairs, Office of Management and
 Budget, Room 10235, New Executive
 Office Building, Washington, DC
 20503, Fax Number: (202) 395-6974
 or (202) 395-5167, Attn: Allison
 Herron Eydt, HCFA Desk Officer.

Dated: November 10, 1998.

John P. Burke III,

*HCFA Reports Clearance Officer, HCFA,
 Office of Information Services, Security and
 Standards Group, Division of HCFA
 Enterprise Standards.*

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Resources and Services Administration

Advisory Council; Meeting

In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), announcement is made of the following National Advisory body scheduled to meet during the month of December, 1998.

Name: Advisory Commission on Childhood Vaccines (ACCV).

Date and Time: December 2, 1998; 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Place: Parklawn Building, Conference Rooms G & H, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857.

The meeting is open to the public.

The full Commission will meet on Wednesday, December 2, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Agenda items will include, but not be limited to: a report on the Anthrax Vaccine Expert Committee, a presentation on options for coverage of the Hepatitis A vaccine, an update on the Vaccine Safety Action Plan, reports from the Department of Justice, the National Vaccine Program Office, and routine program reports.

Public comment will be permitted before lunch and at the end of the Commission meeting on December 2. Oral presentations will be limited to 5 minutes per public speaker. Persons interested in providing an oral presentation should submit a written request, along with a copy of their presentation to: Ms. Melissa Palmer, Principal Staff Liaison, Division of Vaccine Injury Compensation, Bureau of Health Professions, Health Resources and Services Administration, Room 8A-46, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857, Telephone (301) 443-6593. Requests should contain the name, address, telephone number, and any business or professional affiliation of the person desiring to make an oral presentation. Groups having similar interests are requested to combine their comments and present them through a single representative. The allocation of time may be adjusted to accommodate the level of expressed interest. The Division of Vaccine Injury Compensation will notify each presenter by mail or telephone of their assigned presentation time. Persons who do not file an advance request for a presentation, but desire to make an oral statement, may sign up in Conference Rooms G and H on December 2. These persons will be allocated time as time permits.

Anyone requiring information regarding the Commission should contact Ms. Melissa Palmer at the address mentioned above.

Agenda items are subject to change as priorities dictate.

Dated: November 10, 1998.

Jane M. Harrison,

Director, Division of Policy Review and Coordination.

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