

submit a brief statement of the general nature of the evidence or arguments they wish to present, the names and addresses of proposed participants, and an indication of the approximate time requested to make their presentation.

Notice of this meeting is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C., app. 2).

Dated: March 3, 1999.

Michael A. Friedman,

Deputy Commissioner for Operations.

[FR Doc. 99-6531 Filed 3-17-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care Financing Administration

[Document Identifier: HCFA-0317]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Health Care Financing Administration, HHS.

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), Department of Health and Human Services, is publishing the following summary of proposed collections for public comment. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including any of the following subjects: (1) The necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

Type of Information Collection Request: Extension of a currently approved collection; *Title of Information Collection:* State Medicaid Eligibility Quality Control (MEQC) Sampling Plan and Supporting Regulations in 42 CFR 431.800-431.865; *Form No.:* HCFA-317 (OMB# 0938-0146); *Use:* MEQC is operated by the State Title XIX agency to monitor and improve the administration of its Medicaid system. The MEQC system is based on monthly State reviews of Medicaid cases identified through statistically reliable statewide samples of cases selected from the eligibility files. These reviews are conducted to

determine whether or not the sampled cases meet applicable State Title XIX eligibility requirements. The reviews are also used to assess beneficiary liability, if any, and to determine the amounts paid to provide Medicaid services for these cases.; *Frequency:* Semi-annually; *Affected Public:* State, Local, or Tribal Government; *Number of Respondents:* 55; *Total Annual Responses:* 110; *Total Annual Hours:* 2,640.

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/prduct95.htm>, or E-mail your request, including your address, phone number, OMB number, and HCFA document identifier, to Paperwork@hcfa.gov, or call the Reports Clearance Office on (410) 786-1326. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collections must be mailed within 30 days of this notice directly to the OMB desk officer:

OMB Human Resources and Housing Branch, Attention: Allison Eydt, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235 Washington, D.C. 20503

Dated: March 9, 1999.

John P. Burke III,

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

[FR Doc. 99-6548 Filed 3-17-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care Financing Administration

[Document Identifier: HCFA-R-262]

Emergency Clearance: Public Information Collection Requirements Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

AGENCY: Health Care Financing Administration, HHS.

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), Department of Health and Human Services, is publishing the following summary of proposed collections for public comment. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including any of the following subjects: (1) The necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper

performance of the agency's functions; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

We are, however, requesting an emergency review of the information collection referenced below. In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA of 1995, we have submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) the following requirements for emergency review. Due to the fact that the collection of this information is needed before the expiration of the normal time limits under OMB's regulations at 5 CFR, Part 1320, we are requesting an emergency review. This collection is necessary to ensure compliance with section 1852 and 1854 of the Balanced Budget Act (BBA). The Plan Benefit Package (PBP) implements the BBA provisions and the regulations, HCFA-1030-FC (which establishes the Medicare+Choice (M+C) program). Under Part C of the Social Security Act (ACT), an M+C organization is required to submit an Adjusted Community Rate Proposal (ACRP), which includes the ACR (Document Identifier: HCFA-R-228) and the PBP (Document Identifier: HCFA-R-262) no later than May 1 of each calendar year. Without emergency approval, entities interested in participating in the M+C program will not be afforded enough time to participate in the PBP prior to the 05/01/1999 time period. (This pilot test is intended to ensure reasonable usability of the reporting tool.) As a result, public harm could occur because eligible individuals may not receive the M+C health insurance options stipulated by the BBA. We need to implement by 05/01/1999 so we can evaluate the results of the pilot and proceed with our plan to implement the PBP for the Plan Year 2001. In order to obtain this goal our time table is as follows: obtain emergency PRA approval for the pilot test by April 1999; evaluate, modify, and submit the revised PRA package by August 1999; receive OMB approval by February 2000; in order to meet the deadline for distribution of ACRP instructions by March 2000 for the contract year 2001.

The PBP will be implemented as a pilot project for Plan Year 2000 ACRP submissions, in addition HCFA requires plans to submit PBP's for Plan Year 2001. The PBP tool collects plan level information, replaces the Benefits Information File (BIF), and standardizes

the format for collecting benefit data. The PBP is a data driven instrument containing options and pick lists, and a data collection tool that collects data on access to a benefit package.

The PBP was developed with the assistance of industry representatives, including the American Association of Health Plans (AAHP), United Health Care, Humana, Kaiser Permanente, Cigna, and HCFA's regional and central office staff, and establishes a standard format for the submission of M+C organization's plan benefit packages. Outside consultation included a recent two day session with an organized group of approximately 250 Managed Care Plan representatives which worked to review the draft and to provide feedback on the PBP tool.

HCFA is requesting OMB review and approval of this collection within 30 working days with a 180-day approval period. Written comments and recommendations will be accepted from the public if received by the individuals designated below within 29 working days. During the 180-day period, we will publish a separate **Federal Register** notice announcing the initiation of an extensive 60-day agency review and public comment period on these requirements. We will submit the requirements for OMB review and an extension of this emergency approval.

Type of Information Request: New Collection.

Title of Information Collection: Managed Care Plan Benefit Package (PBP)/Adjusted Community Rate Proposal (ACRP).

Form Number: HCFA-R-262 (OMB approval #: 0938-NEW).

Use: The plan year 2000 pilot collection effort will be used to verify that the information collection instrument will produce the data HCFA needs to approve M+C plans in the future. Respondents include any M+C organization that intends to offer an M+C plan in calendar year 2000.

This collection will also allow the Agency to provide a totally automated submission and review capability, replace text with data format, establish a standard set of benefit descriptions/definitions, provide a framework to describe benefits, reduce variation in benefit descriptions, collect benefit information and Medicare Compare data with a single instrument, and eliminate the need to validate Medicare Compare data.

Frequency: One-time.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit, and not-for-profit institution.

Number of Respondents: 25 Medicare managed care organizations for plan year 2000.

Total Annual Responses: 75 for plan year 2000. The total annual responses is based on an estimate of an average of 3 M+C plans per M+C Organization. Each organization defines the content and number of benefit packages.

Total Annual Hours Requested: 150 (2 hours per PBP) for plan year 2000. This estimate was based on a Medicare managed care organization completing a paper version of the PBP. The PBP will allow plans to copy health benefit information from one plan to another.

To obtain copies of the supporting statement 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 and phone number, to Paperwork@hcfa.gov, or call the Reports Clearance Office on (410) 786-1326. To obtain access to the PBP please visit the web site at <http://www.fu.com/hpms>.

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 record keeping requirements must be mailed and/or faxed to the designees referenced below within 29 working days of the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**:

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, MD
21244-1850. Fax Number: (410) 786-
0262, Attn: Louis Blank HCFA-R-262
and,

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: March 8, 1999.

John P. Burke III,

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

[FR Doc. 99-6549 Filed 3-17-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4120-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of the Secretary

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Office for Equal Opportunity, Office of the Secretary, DOI.

ACTION: Notice

SUMMARY: In compliance with the section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office for Equal Opportunity announces the proposed public information collection and seeks public comments on the provisions thereof.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received by May 17, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed information collection should be sent to the Office for Equal Opportunity, Attn: Michael Dole, Department of the Interior, 1849 C St NW., Washington, DC 20240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on this proposed information collection or to obtain a copy of the proposal and associated collection instrument, please write to the above address, or call Michael Dole, (202) 208-5183. The collection instrument is also available on the internet at: http://www.doi.gov/diversity/doc/di_1935.pdf.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: DOI is below parity with the relevant Civilian Labor Force representation for many of our mission critical occupations, and has developed a 5 year Strategic Plan to improve representation and be more responsive to the changing demographics of the country. The only way to determine if there are barriers in the recruitment and selection process is to track the groups that apply and the groups at each stage of the selection process. There is no other objective way to make these determinations, and no source of this information other than directly from applicants.

The information is not provided to selecting officials and plays no part in the selection of individuals. Instead, it is used in summary form to determine trends over many selections within a given occupation or organizational area. The information is treated in a very confidential manner. No information from this form is entered into the Personnel File of the individual selected, and the records of those not selected are destroyed after the conclusion of the selection process.

The format of the questions on ethnicity and race are compliant with the new OMB requirements, and are