

**SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION****[Docket No. SSA-2010-0001]****Future Systems Technology Advisory Panel Meeting****AGENCY:** Social Security Administration (SSA).**ACTION:** Notice of sixth Panel meeting.**DATES:** February 3, 2010, 10:30 a.m.–5 p.m. and February 4, 2010, 8:30 a.m.–12 p.m.*Location:* The Latham Hotel Georgetown.**ADDRESSES:** 3000 M Street, Northwest, Washington, District of Columbia 20007.**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:***Type of meeting:* The meeting is open to the public.

*Purpose:* The Panel, under the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, as amended, (hereinafter referred to as “the FACA”) shall report to and provide the Commissioner of Social Security independent advice and recommendations on the future of systems technology and electronic services at the agency five to ten years into the future. The Panel will recommend a road map to aid SSA in determining what future systems technologies may be developed to assist in carrying out its statutory mission. Advice and recommendations can relate to SSA’s systems in the area of internet application, customer service, or any other arena that would improve SSA’s ability to serve the American people.

*Agenda:* The Panel will meet on Wednesday, February 3, 2010, from 10:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Thursday, February 4, 2010, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. The agenda will be available on the Internet at <http://www.ssa.gov/fstap/index.htm> or available by e-mail or fax on request, one week prior to the starting date.

During the sixth meeting, the Panel may have experts address items of interest and other relevant topics to the Panel. This additional information will further the Panel’s deliberations and the effort of the Panel subcommittees.

Public comments will be heard on Wednesday, February 3, 2010, from 4:30 p.m. until 5 p.m. Persons interested in providing comments in person should contact the Panel staff as outlined below to schedule a time slot. Members of the public must schedule a time slot in order to comment. In the event public comments do not take the entire scheduled time period, the Panel may use that time to deliberate or conduct other Panel business. Each person providing public comment will be acknowledged by the Chair in the order

in which they are scheduled to provide comments and is limited to a maximum five-minute, verbal presentation. In addition to or in lieu of public comments provided in person, written comments may be provided to the panel for their review and consideration. Comments in written or oral form are for informational purposes only for the Panel. Public comments will not be specifically addressed or receive a written response by the Panel.

For hearing impaired persons and those in need of sign language services please contact the Panel staff as outlined below at least 10 business days prior to the meeting so that timely arrangements can be made to provide this service.

*Contact Information:* Records are kept of all proceedings and will be available for public inspection by appointment at the Panel office. Anyone requiring information regarding the Panel should contact the staff by:

Mail addressed to SSA, Future Systems Technology Advisory Panel, Room 800, Altmeyer Building, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235-0001; Telephone at 410-965-9951; Fax at 410-965-0201; or E-mail to [FSTAP@ssa.gov](mailto:FSTAP@ssa.gov).

Dated: January 4, 2010.

**Dianne L. Rose,***Designated Federal Officer, Future Systems Technology Advisory Panel.*

[FR Doc. 2010-244 Filed 1-8-10; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4191-02-P****SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION****[Docket No. SSA-2009-0088]****Rate of Payment for Medical Records Received Through Health Information Technology (IT) Necessary To Make Disability Determinations****AGENCY:** Social Security Administration.**ACTION:** Notice of a uniform national rate of Federal payment for medical records received through health IT.

**SUMMARY:** We have set \$15 as the reasonable reimbursement to non-Federal medical providers for their costs in supplying medical records through health IT in response to a request. We will pay the uniform national rate to a medical provider that satisfies a medical records request through health IT. We are establishing this uniform national rate under our authority in sections 205(a), 223(d)(5)(A) and 1631(e) of the Social Security Act (Act).

**DATES:** We are establishing the reasonable rate for medical records received through health IT in response to our requests on or after the date of

publication of this notice. We will periodically review this rate and publish updates in the **Federal Register**.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Cheryl Elksnis, Office of Disability Programs, Social Security Administration, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235-6401, 410-966-0497, for information about this notice. For information on eligibility or filing for benefits, call our national toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213 or TTY 1-800-325-0778, or visit our Internet site, Social Security Online, at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** We are experiencing a significant increase in the number of initial claims for disability insurance benefits and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments on the basis of disability, and we expect this trend to continue. The increasing volume of claims, coupled with the backlog of disability cases in the hearings process, underscores our need to process cases more efficiently by using advanced technologies.

Applicants for disability insurance benefits and SSI payments on the basis of disability must provide medical evidence to support their claims for benefits. We assist these applicants in obtaining medical records. We use these medical records to make disability determinations for more than 2.6 million people who apply each year for benefits. We rely on medical providers such as doctors, hospitals, clinics, and others in the healthcare field to respond to our requests for medical records in a timely manner.

We are now in a position to use health IT to transform the disability process. Health IT is an electronic system that provides for a secure exchange of data between health care consumers and providers. We intend to use health IT in developing medical evidence and requesting, receiving, and managing medical information. By using health IT, we will be able to request and receive medical information within minutes, rather than the days or months it may take to receive medical evidence by traditional methods. With the advent of health IT, we will be able to replace a largely paper-based, labor intensive, manual process with system-to-system data exchange transactions.

We have set \$15 as the reasonable reimbursement to non-Federal medical providers for their costs in supplying medical records through health IT in response to a request. The \$15 rate is based on our average payment for medical records obtained through non-health IT processes. As increasing numbers of medical providers