

Number of Respondents: 37;
Total Annual Responses: 37;
Total Annual Hours: 11,100.

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, 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 60 days of this notice directly to the HCFA Paperwork Clearance Officer designated at the following address: HCFA, Office of Information Services, Security and Standards Group, Division of HCFA Enterprise Standards, Attention: Dawn Willingham, HCFA-R-312, Room N2-14-26, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

Dated: April 4, 2001.

John P. Burke III,

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

[FR Doc. 01-9287 Filed 4-13-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care Financing Administration

[Document Identifier: HCFA-R-263]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; 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: Revision of a currently approved collection;

Title of Information Collection: On Site Inspection for Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Supplier Location & Supporting Regulations in 42 CFR, section 424.57;

Form Nos.: HCFA-R-263 (OMB# 0938-0749);

Use: To identify and implement measures to prevent fraud and abuse in the Medicare program. Controlling the entry of suppliers of durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, or supplies (DMEPOS) to Medicare has been identified as one of the most effective ways to prevent fraud and abuse. To meet this challenge, HCFA is moving forward with a plan to improve the quality of the process for enrolling and reenrolling DMEPOS suppliers into the Medicare program by enhancing procedures for verifying supplier information collected on the Form HCFA-855S (DMEPOS Supplier Enrollment Application, OMB Approval No. 0938-0685). This form will be used to complete information on DMEPOS suppliers' compliance with regulations found in 42 CFR § 424.57.

Frequency: On occasion;

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit, Not-for-profit institutions, and State, Local or Tribal Government;

Number of Respondents: 20,000;

Total Annual Responses: 20,000;

Total Annual Hours: 10,000.

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, 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 60 days of this notice directly to the HCFA Paperwork Clearance Officer designated at the following address: HCFA, Office of Information Services, Security and Standards Group, Division of HCFA Enterprise Standards, Attention: Dawn Willingham, HCFA-R-263, Room N2-14-26, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

April 4, 2001.

John P. Burke III,

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

[FR Doc. 01-9288 Filed 4-13-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care Financing Administration

[Document Identifier: HCFA-10037]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; 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: New collection; *Title of Information Collection:* Real Choice Systems Change Grants; Nursing Facility Transition/Access Housing Grants; Community Personal Assistance Service and Supports Grants, National Technical Assistance and Learning Collaborative Grants to Support Systems Change for Community Living; *Form No.:* HCFA-10037 (OMB# 0938-XXXX); *Use:* Information sought by CMSO/DEHPG is needed to award competitive grants to States and other eligible entities for the purposes of designing and implementing effective and enduring improvements in consumer-directed long term service and support systems; *Frequency:* Annually; *Affected Public:* State, local or tribal gov.; *Number of Respondents:* 76; *Total Annual Responses:* 76; *Total Annual Hours:* 7600.

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, 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 60 days of this notice directly to the HCFA Paperwork Clearance Officer designated at the following address: HCFA, Office of Information Services, Security and Standards Group, Division of HCFA Enterprise Standards, Attention: Julie Brown Attn.: HCFA-10037, Room N2-14-26, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

Dated: April 5, 2001.

John P. Burke, III

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

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care Financing Administration [HCFA-2099-PN]

Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Application by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) for Approval of Deeming Authority for Critical Access Hospitals

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

ACTION: Proposed notice.

SUMMARY: This proposed notice with comment period acknowledges the receipt of an initial application by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) for consideration as a national accreditation program for critical access hospitals that wish to participate in the Medicare or Medicaid programs. Section 1865(b)(3)(A) of the Social Security Act (the Act) requires that within 60 days of receipt of an organization's complete application, we publish a notice that identifies the national accrediting body making the request, describes the nature of the request, and provides at least a 30-day public comment period.

DATES: Written comments will be considered if received at the appropriate address, as provided in **ADDRESSES**, no later than 5 p.m. on May 16, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Mail written comments (an original and three copies) to the following address only: Health Care Financing Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, Attention: HCFA-2099-PN, P.O. Box 8010, Baltimore, MD 21244-1850.

If you prefer, you may deliver by courier your written comments (an 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 C5-14-03, Central Building, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21244-1850.

Comments mailed to the indicated addresses may be delayed and could be considered late.

Because of staffing and resource limitations, we cannot accept comments by facsimile (FAX) transmission. In commenting, please refer to file code HCFA-2099-PN.

Comments received timely will be available for public inspection as they are received, generally beginning approximately 3 weeks after publication of a document, at the following address: 7500 Security Blvd., Baltimore, Maryland 21244, Monday through Friday of each week from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (phone: (410) 786-7197) to schedule an appointment.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Irene H. Dustin, (410) 786-0495.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Under the Medicare program, eligible beneficiaries may receive covered services in a critical access hospital (CAH) provided the hospital meets certain requirements. Sections 1820(c)(2)(B) and 1861(mm) of the Social Security Act (the Act) establish distinct criteria for facilities seeking designation as a CAH. Under this authority, the Secretary has set forth in regulations minimum requirements that a CAH must meet to participate in Medicare. The regulations at 42 CFR part 485, subpart F (Conditions of Participation: Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs)) determine the basis and scope of covered services provided by a CAH, set out rural health network specifications and establish staff qualifications. Conditions for Medicare payment for critical access services can be found at § 413.70. Applicable regulations concerning provider agreements are at 42 CFR part 489 (Provider Agreements and Supplier Approval) and those pertaining to the survey and certification of facilities are at 42 CFR part 488, (Survey,

Certification and Enforcement Procedures), subparts A General Provisions and B Special Requirements.

In order for a CAH to be approved for participation in or coverage under the Medicare program, the hospital must have a current provider agreement to participate in the Medicare program as a hospital at the time the hospital applies for CAH designation and be in compliance with part 482 (Conditions of Participation for Hospitals), as well as part 485, subpart F (Conditions of Participation: Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs)). Generally, in order to enter into a provider agreement, a hospital must first be certified by a State survey agency as complying with the conditions or standards set forth in the statute and part 482 of our regulations. Then, the hospital is subject to regular surveys by a State survey agency to determine whether it continues to meet Medicare requirements. There is an alternative, however, to surveys by State agencies. Exceptions are provided in the Balanced Budget Refinement Act of 1999 (Pub. L. 106-113) for rural health clinics that were previously downsized from an acute care hospital, or for a closed hospital that is requesting to reopen as a CAH. In these instances, only the provisions of 42 CFR part 485, subpart F apply.

Section 1865(b)(1) of the Act permits "accredited" hospitals to be exempt from routine surveys by State survey agencies to determine compliance with Medicare conditions of participation. Accreditation by an accreditation organization is voluntary and is not required for Medicare participation. Section 1865(b)(1) of the Act provides that, if a provider demonstrates through accreditation that all applicable Medicare conditions are met or exceeded, we can "deem" the hospital as having met the requirements. If an accrediting organization is recognized in this manner, any provider accredited by a national accrediting body approved program would be deemed to meet the Medicare conditions of coverage. To date, no organizations have been recognized with deeming authority for critical access hospitals.

A national accreditation organization applying for approval of deeming authority under part 488, subpart A must provide us with reasonable assurance that the accreditation organization requires the accredited providers to meet requirements that are at least as stringent as the Medicare conditions of participation.

II. Approval of Deeming Organizations

Section 1865(b)(2) of the Act requires that our findings concerning review of