

10, 1999. Checks should be made payable to NCAFD. There is limited seating, so registration will be honored on a first-come-first-served basis.

For hotel reservations, please contact The Lodge at McDonald's Office Campus, 2815 Jorie Blvd., Oak Brook, IL 60523. To obtain the preferred room rate of \$159 per single room, please call the hotel at 630-990-5800, and state that you will be attending the Drug Repackager Workshop.

If you need special accommodations due to a disability, please contact Lorelei S. Jarrell at least 7 days in advance.

Dated: April 1, 1999.

William K. Hubbard,

Acting Deputy Commissioner for Policy.

[FR Doc. 99-8658 Filed 4-7-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-01-F

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care Financing Administration [HCFA-1071-N]

Medicare Program; April 23, 1999 Open Town Hall Meeting to Discuss the Skilled Nursing Facility Prospective Payment System (SNF/PPS) and Quality of Care in Nursing Facilities

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

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a Town Hall meeting to provide an opportunity for nursing homes, beneficiary advocates, and other interested parties to ask questions and raise issues regarding the prospective payment system for skilled nursing facilities and the quality of care in nursing facilities. The meeting represents one aspect of the evolving process for making our payment, coverage, and quality reviews more open and responsive to the public. The meeting will address the following topics:

- An update and future refinements to the skilled nursing facility/prospective payment system including a discussion of nontherapy ancillary services and consolidated billing.
- Outpatient therapy caps and other Part B issues.
- Skilled nursing facility coverage and medical review.
- Nursing home enforcement and quality issues.

DATES: The meeting is scheduled for April 23, 1999 from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., E.D.T.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the HCFA headquarters auditorium, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland, 21244.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jackie Gordon, (410) 786-4517, or Martha Kuespert, (410) 786-4605.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

We are announcing a Town Hall meeting to provide an opportunity for nursing homes, beneficiary advocates, and other interested parties to ask questions and raise issues regarding the skilled nursing facility (SNF) prospective payment system (PPS) and the quality of care in nursing homes. On May 12, 1998, we published an interim final rule with comment period to implement SNF PPS (63 FR 26252). Initially, we provided a 60-day period for public comment. In response to requests from the industry, we extended the comment period twice (see 63 FR 37498 (July 13, 1998) and 63 FR 65561 (November 27, 1998)). The comment period for the SNF PPS interim final rule ended on December 28, 1998. We are currently developing the final rule and we expect to publish it soon. In developing the final rule, we are considering all public comments properly submitted during the public comment period. We will not accept any further comments on the interim final rule at this Town Hall meeting; that is, this meeting does not mean we are extending the public comment period.

In addition to the implementation of SNF PPS, we have embarked on an ambitious program to improve the quality of care in all nursing facilities. These two major initiatives have had wide-ranging effects on nursing facilities. The public has raised questions about how we propose to implement various aspects of these initiatives; how they interrelate; and how, and to what extent, we currently anticipate acting on current research and experience as a means of initiating future improvements in our quality assurance and payment systems.

This Town Hall meeting provides a forum for addressing these issues. We anticipate participation by nursing homes, nursing home organizations, hospital organizations, professional medical and allied health organizations, therapy and other nursing home supplier organization groups, national nursing home advocacy organizations, the press, and other members of the public with an interest in future SNF PPS and quality of care nursing home issues.

We intend that the meeting will provide a forum for the aforementioned

groups to ask questions and raise issues about SNF PPS and quality of care in nursing homes. We intend to discuss our research efforts and the general direction that we are moving toward concerning these topics.

The format of the meeting will include an overview of the SNF PPS and quality of care topics. There will be a panel for each of the following topics:

- An update and future refinements to the skilled nursing facility/prospective payment system including a discussion of nontherapy ancillary services and consolidated billing.
- Outpatient therapy caps and other Part B issues.
- Skilled nursing facility coverage and medical review.
- Nursing home enforcement and quality issues.

We will allow short (10-20 minutes) presentations by the public and our staff on these topics. The meeting will conclude with a question-and-answer session during which the public may raise issues related to the topics discussed.

Individuals who wish to make a presentation or be panelists at the meeting must contact Jackie Gordon at (410) 786-4517 or via e-mail at JGordon2@hcfa.gov or Martha Kuespert at (410) 786-4605 or via e-mail MKuespert@hcfa.gov no later than April 16, 1999. It is important that parties wishing to participate at the meeting include the topic for the panel on which they wish to participate. Also, because of time constraints, only a limited number of parties will be able to make presentations. We will notify participants who have been selected to make a presentation. We will not assign presentation times until the end of the public notice period established by this notice.

While the meeting is open to the public, attendance is limited to space available. Individuals must register in advance as described below.

Registration

The Office of Professional Relations will handle registration for the meeting. Individuals may register by sending a fax to the attention of Bernice Harper, Ph.D., at the Office of Professional Relations. At the time of registration, please provide your name, address, telephone number, and fax number.

Receipt of your fax will constitute confirmation of your registration. You will be provided with meeting materials at the time of the meeting.

For fax registration, the number is 202-401-7438.

If you have questions regarding registration please contact either

Bernice Harper, Ph.D., at 202-690-7899 or I. David Wolfson, J.D., R.Ph., at 410-786-4585.

We will accept written questions or other materials, either before the meeting, or up to 14 days after the meeting. Written submissions should be sent to: Health Care Financing Administration, ATTN: Jackie Gordon, Room C5-06-25, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850. You may contact Ms. Gordon at: Telephone Number: (410) 786-4517, Fax Number (410) 786-0765, E-mail: JGordon2@hcfa.gov.

Authority: Section 1102 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1302).

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.773 Medicare—Hospital Insurance Program; and No. 93.774, Medicare—Supplementary Medical Insurance Program)

Dated: April 5, 1999.

Nancy-Ann Min DeParle,

Administrator, Health Care Financing Administration.

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BILLING CODE 4120-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of Inspector General

Program Exclusions: March 1999

AGENCY: Office of Inspector General, HHS.

ACTION: Notice of program exclusions During the month of March 1999, the HHS Office of Inspector General imposed exclusions in the cases set forth below. When an exclusion is imposed, no program payment is made to anyone for any items or services (other than an emergency item or service not provided in a hospital emergency room) furnished, ordered or prescribed by an excluded party under the Medicare, Medicaid, and all Federal Health Care programs. In addition, no program payment is made to any business or facility, e.g., a hospital, that submits bills for payment for items or services provided by an excluded party. Program beneficiaries remain free to decide for themselves whether they will continue to use the services of an excluded party even though no program payments will be made for items and services provided by that excluded party. The exclusions have national effect and also apply to all Executive Branch procurement and non-procurement programs and activities.

Subject city, state	Effective date	Subject city, state	Effective date
PROGRAM-RELATED CONVICTIONS		FT LAUDERDALE, FL	
ALVERA, CHRISTINE MIAMI, FL	04/20/1999	FELONY CONVICTION FOR HEALTH CARE FRAUD	
AWE, OLUWAFEMI AYORNDE MIAMI, FL	04/20/1999	SICKLES, KATHLEEN M LORTON, VA	04/20/1999
BENDER, CYNTHIA ORANGE, CA	04/20/1999	FELONY CONTROL SUBSTANCE CONVICTIONS	
BURK, KATHLEEN ANN GORDONVILLE, TX	04/20/1999	HOCHADEL, KEITH J ALLIANCE, OH	04/20/1999
CASTILLO, REYNALDO LOS ANGELES, CA	04/20/1999	OSBORNE, RONALD T BEAVERCREEK, OH	04/20/1999
DAVIS, LAWERENCE VANCE JR BEAUMONT, TX	04/20/1999	STREET, JUDY S RICHLANDS, VA	04/20/1999
F & J CAM, INC E MARLBORO, NJ	04/20/1999	PATIENT ABUSE/NEGLECT CONVICTIONS	
FRIESEN, CAROL D F. WORTH, TX	04/20/1999	ANDERSON, ROBERT JAMES TAYLORVILLE, UT	04/20/1999
FUSILLO, ANA MARIE SAN JOSE, CA	04/20/1999	BARNES, REATHEE (RITA) D JACKSON, MS	04/20/1999
HIEKE, HARRY A JR NEWPORT NEWS, VA	04/20/1999	BROWN, CASSANDRA MARIE KANSAS CITY, MO	04/20/1999
HOFFMAN, FRANK WARWICK, RI	04/20/1999	CHEATHAM, PHYLLIS MACON, MS	04/20/1999
HOLMES, PHILIP J HILLSBORO, OH	04/20/1999	GILBERT, DENNIS ALAN FT WORTH, TX	04/20/1999
HOUSER, JAMES J FRANKLIN, PA	04/20/1999	GILMORE, ISIAH BATON ROUGE, LA	04/20/1999
JACKSON, KAREN RAMSEY .. N RICHLAND HILLS, TX	04/20/1999	GODFREY, DORETHA DARLING, SC	04/20/1999
JORGE, DAISY SANTANA COLEMAN, FL	04/20/1999	HOUGH, IMANUEL, JR CHESTERFIELD, SC	04/20/1999
KNOLL, MARJORIE A LEWISTON, ME	04/20/1999	MULLEN, REBECCA RIVERSIDE, RI	04/20/1999
LALANI, TALAT YUMA, AZ	04/20/1999	MUNN, BARBARA ANN BAKERSFIELD, CA	04/20/1999
LEE, WON KOO MONTEREY PARK, CA	04/20/1999	SAMUELS, CONRAD MERIDIAN, MS	04/20/1999
MALIK, ANIL SUNLAND, CA	04/20/1999	THOMAS, JULIANN WEST VALLEY, UT	04/20/1999
MENENDEZ, CARIDAD N BAY VILLAGE, FL	04/20/1999	WOODS, ALLEN A W VALLEY CITY, UT	04/20/1999
MIDDLETON, JACQUELYN BATESBURG, SC	04/20/1999	LICENSE REVOCATION/SUSPENSION/ SURRENDERED	
NEGRON, EDWIN VALRICO, FL	04/20/1999	ALI, MOHAMMED J. WILLOWBROOK, IL	04/20/1999
OKONGWU, BENNETH OBIOINMA MISSOURI CITY, TX	04/20/1999	ANDERSON, MICHAEL R. QUICKSBURG, VA	04/20/1999
OYHENART, DANIEL MIAMI, FL	04/20/1999	BAMBARGER, JOYCE ELIZA- BETH FLOYD, VA	04/20/1999
RATINOV, MIKHAIL BROOKLYN, NY	04/20/1999	BARTON, THERESSA L KELLERTON, IA	04/20/1999
RIVERA, EDGAR E WARWICK, RI	04/20/1999	BECKER, MICHAEL F MEDFORD, MA	04/20/1999
SANTANA, IRIS COLEMAN, FL	04/20/1999	BELL, WILLIAM J WINTER HAVEN, FL	04/20/1999
SCHEINER, DAVE E PHILADELPHIA, PA	01/25/1999	BILLINGS, CYNTHIA S OSAGE, IA	04/20/1999
SLANE, AMY D COLUMBUS, OH	04/20/1999	BILLUPS, GENEVA CHICAGO, IL	04/20/1999
SWAITHESS, DAVID MANFORD BOONEVILLE, AR	04/20/1999	BLOCK, MICHAEL NEW MILFORD, CT	04/20/1999
SYAL, PARVIN NORTHBRIDGE, CA	04/20/1999	BOLL, MARY KATHERINE MINNEAPOLIS, MN	04/20/1999
TOUCHSTONE, ALLEN LAUREL SPRINGS, NJ	04/20/1999	BROWN, BARRY D TERRY, MS	04/20/1999
WRIGHT, SHARON THOMAS	04/20/1999	BROWN, REBECCA F BROWN, REBECCA F	04/20/1999