

extending the comment period for the June 12, 1998, ASC proposed rule to be concurrent with the extended comment period for the September 8, 1998, hospital outpatient proposed rule because Medicare payments to ASCs are closely linked to the manner in which Medicare proposes to pay hospitals under a prospective payment system for surgical services furnished on an outpatient basis.

Authority: Secs. 1102 and 1871 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1302 and 1395hh).

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

Dated: June 24, 1999.

Nancy-Ann Min DeParle,

Administrator, Health Care Financing Administration.

Dated: June 30, 1999.

Donna E. Shalala,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care Financing Administration

42 CFR Parts 416 and 488

[HCFA-1885-6N]

RIN 0938-AH81

Medicare Program; Update of Ratesetting Methodology, Payment Rates, Payment Policies, and the List of Covered Procedures for Ambulatory Surgical Centers Effective October 1, 1998; Extension of Comment Period

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

ACTION: Notice of extension of comment period for proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This notice extends the comment period for the sixth time on a proposed rule published in the **Federal Register** on June 12, 1998, (63 FR 32290). In that rule we proposed to make various changes, including changes to the ambulatory surgical center (ASC) payment methodology and the list of Medicare covered procedures.

DATES: The comment period is extended to 5 p.m. on July 30, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Mail written comments (one original and three copies) to the following address: Health Care Financing Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, Attention: HCFA-1885-P, P.O. Box 26688, Baltimore, MD 21207-0488.

If you prefer, you may deliver your written comments (one 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 C5-09-26, Central Building, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21244-1850.

Because of staffing and resource limitations, we cannot accept comments by facsimile (FAX) transmission. In commenting, please refer to file code HCFA-1885-P. Comments received timely will be available for public inspection as they are received, generally beginning approximately 3 weeks after publication of a document, in Room 443-G of the Department's offices at 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC, on Monday through Friday of each week from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (phone: (202) 690-7890).

For comments that relate to information collection requirements, mail a copy of comments to: Health Care Financing Administration, Office of Information Services, Standards And Security Group, Division of HCFA Enterprise Standards, Room N2-14-26, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21244-1850. Attn: John Burke HCFA-1885-P and, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503, Attn: Allison Herron Eydt, HCFA Desk Officer.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Terri Harris, (410) 786-6830.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 12, 1998, we issued a proposed rule in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 32290) that would do the following:

- Update the criteria for determining which surgical procedures can be appropriately and safely performed in an ASC.
- Make additions to and deletions from the current list of Medicare covered ASC procedures based on the revised criteria.
- Rebase the ASC payment rates using cost, charge, and utilization data collected by a 1994 survey of ASCs.
- Refine the ratesetting methodology that was implemented by a final notice published on February 8, 1990, in the **Federal Register**.
- Require that ASC payment, coverage, and wage index updates be implemented annually on January 1 rather than having these updates occur randomly throughout the year.
- Reduce regulatory burden.

- Make several technical policy changes.

The proposed rule would also implement requirements of section 1833(i)(1) and (2) of the Social Security Act. We indicated that comments would be considered if we received them by August 11, 1998.

We received requests from numerous ASCs and professional associations for more time to analyze the potential consequences of the rule. We issued a notice in the **Federal Register** on August 14, 1998, (63 FR 43655) announcing extension of the public comment period to September 10, 1998.

On September 8, 1998, we published a proposed rule in the **Federal Register** entitled "Medicare Program; Prospective Payment System for Hospital Outpatient Services" (63 FR 47552). We received additional requests from ASCs and professional associations for more time to analyze the impact of the hospital outpatient proposed rule, and for a delay in the implementation of the ASC final rule to be concurrent with implementation of the hospital outpatient prospective payment system.

On October 1, 1998, we reopened the comment period for the June 12, 1998 ASC proposed rule until November 9, 1998, to coincide with the comment period for the September 8, 1998, hospital outpatient proposed rule. We also gave notice in the October 1, 1998, **Federal Register** (63 FR 52663) of a delay in the adoption of the provisions of the June 12, 1998 ASC proposed rule as a final rule to be concurrent with the adoption as final of the hospital outpatient prospective payment system as soon as possible after January 1, 2000. In the November 13, 1998 **Federal Register** (63 FR 63430), we further extended the comment period until January 8, 1999. In the January 12, 1999, **Federal Register** (64 FR 1785), we again extended the comment period until March 9, 1999. In the March 12, 1999 **Federal Register** (64 FR 12278), we again extended the comment period to June 30, 1999 due to further requests from the industry. On June 30, 1999, we published a correction notice (64 FR 35258) in the **Federal Register** that corrects a number of technical and typographical errors contained in the September 8, 1998 hospital outpatient PPS proposed rule. The correction notice is entitled "Medicare Program; Prospective Payment System for Hospital Outpatient Services; Correction Notice." Due to the publication of the correction notice and our wish to provide potential commenters to have adequate time to analyze the potential consequences of the proposed rule and because Medicare payments to ASCs are

closely linked to the way Medicare proposes to pay hospitals under a prospective payment system for surgical services furnished on an outpatient basis, we find it appropriate to extend the current comment period. Therefore, we are again extending the comment period to July 30, 1999 to be concurrent with the hospital outpatient PPS proposed rule. Also published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register** is a notice extending the comment period for the September 8, 1998 hospital outpatient proposed rule, (63 FR 47552) until July 30, 1999.

Authority: Secs. 1102 and 1871 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1302 and 1395hh).

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

Dated: June 24, 1999.

Nancy-Ann Min DeParle,

Administrator, Health Care Financing Administration.

Dated: June 30, 1999.

Donna E. Shalala

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-17027 Filed 6-30-99; 2:00 pm]

BILLING CODE 4120-01-P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 73

[MM Docket No. 99-239; RM-9658]

Radio Broadcasting Services; Johannesburg and Edwards, CA

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This document requests comments on a petition for rule making filed on behalf of Adelman Communications, Inc., licensee of Station KEDD(FM) (formerly Station KRAJ(FM)), Channel 280B1, Johannesburg, California, requesting the substitution of Channel 280A for Channel 280B1 at Johannesburg, the reallocation to Channel 280A to Edwards, California, as that community's first local aural transmission service, and modification of its authorization accordingly, pursuant to the provisions of Section 1.420(i) of the Commission's Rules. Coordinates used for this proposal are 34-59-40 NL and 117-59-32 WL. Additionally, as Edwards is located within 320 kilometers (199 miles) of the U.S.-Mexico border, the Commission must obtain the concurrence of the Mexican government to this proposal.

DATES: Comments must be filed on or before August 16, 1999, and reply comments on or before August 31, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC 20554. In addition to filing comments with the FCC, interested parties should serve the petitioner's counsel, as follows: David M. Hunsaker and John C. Trent, Esqs., Putbrese, Hunsaker & Trent, P.C., 100 Carpenter Drive, Suite 100, P.O. Box 217, Sterling, VA 20167-0217

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy Joyner, Mass Media Bureau, (202) 418-2180.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making, MM Docket No. 99-239, adopted June 16, 1999, and released June 25, 1999. The full text of this Commission decision is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC's Reference Information Center (Room CY-A257), 445 Twelfth Street, SW., Washington, DC. The complete text of this decision may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Service, Inc., 1231 20th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20036, (202) 857-3800.

Provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 do not apply to this proceeding.

Members of the public should note that from the time a Notice of Proposed Rule Making is issued until the matter is no longer subject to Commission consideration or court review, all *ex parte* contacts are prohibited in Commission proceedings, such as this one, which involve channel allotments. See 47 CFR 1.1204(b) for rules governing permissible *ex parte* contacts.

For information regarding proper filing procedures for comments, See 47 CFR 1.415 and 1.420.

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 73

Radio broadcasting.

Federal Communications Commission.

John A. Karousos,

Chief, Allocations Branch, Policy and Rules Division, Mass Media Bureau.

[FR Doc. 99-17070 Filed 7-2-99; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 73

[MM Docket No. 99-236, RM-9644]

Radio Broadcasting Services; Madisonville, TX

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This document requests comments on a petition filed by Leon Hunt d/b/a Hunt Broadcasting proposing the allotment of Channel 267A at Madisonville, Texas. The channel can be allotted to Madisonville in compliance with the Commission's spacing requirements at coordinates 31-01-20 NL and 95-55-00 WL. There is a site restriction 8.09 kilometers (5.0 miles) north of the community.

DATES: Comments must be filed on or before August 16, 1999, and reply comments on or before August 31, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC. 20554. In addition to filing comments with the FCC, interested parties should serve the petitioner, as follows: Leon Hunt, 102 West Main Street, Madisonville, Texas 77864.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kathleen Scheuerle, Mass Media Bureau, (202) 418-2180.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a summary of the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making, MM Docket No. 99-236, adopted June 16, 1999, and released June 25, 1999. The full text of this Commission decision is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the Commission's Reference Center, 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC. The complete text of this decision may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractors, International Transcription Services, Inc., 1231 20th Street, NW., Washington, DC. 20036, (202) 857-3800, facsimile (202) 857-3805.

Provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 do not apply to this proceeding.

Members of the public should note that from the time a Notice of Proposed Rule Making is issued until the matter is no longer subject to Commission consideration or court review, all *ex parte* contacts are prohibited in Commission proceedings, such as this one, which involve channel allotments. See 47 CFR 1.1204(b) for rules governing permissible *ex parte* contact.