

Requirements for this submission are described in Section B of this notice.

The burden associated with this information collection is estimated to be 1,200 hours annually (80 hours per response \times 15 respondents).

This information collection requirement is subject to the PRA; however, the burden associated with this requirement is currently approved under OMB control number 0938-0880 entitled "Medicare Demonstration Waiver Application" with a current expiration date of 7/31/2006.

If you comment on these information collection and recordkeeping requirements, please mail copies directly to the following:

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs, Regulations Development Group, Attn: Dawn Willingham, CMS-5004-N, Room C5-14-03, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21244-1850; and

Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503, Attn: Brenda Aguilar, CMS Desk Officer.

Comments submitted to OMB may also be emailed to the following address: e-mail: baguilar@omb.eop.gov; or faxed to OMB at (202) 395-6974.

Authority: Section 721 of Pub. L. 108-173, the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.779, Health Care Financing Research, Demonstrations and Evaluations).

Dated: March 3, 2004.

Dennis G. Smith,

Acting Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

[FR Doc. 04-9127 Filed 4-20-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS-1273-N]

Medicare Program; Public Meetings in Calendar Year 2004 for New Durable Medical Equipment Coding and Payment Determinations

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), HHS.

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the dates and location of public meetings to be held in calendar year 2004 to discuss

our preliminary coding and payment determinations for new durable medical equipment (DME). These meetings provide a forum for interested parties to make oral presentations or to submit written comments in response to preliminary coding and pricing recommendations for DME that have been submitted using the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System coding modification process. Discussion is directed toward response to our specific preliminary recommendations, and will be limited to items on the new DME public meeting agenda.

DATES: The public meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, June 29; Wednesday, June 30; and Thursday, July 1, 2004. Each meeting day will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 5 p.m., e.d.t. A meeting will only be held on July 1, 2004, if the number of agenda items cannot be managed in two meeting days.

ADDRESSES: The public meetings will be held in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Auditorium, located at 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21244.

Web site: Additional details regarding the public meeting process for new DME, along with information on how to register and guidelines for an effective presentation, will be posted at least one month before the first meeting date on the official HCPCS Web site, and can be accessed at <http://cms.hhs.gov/medicare/hcpcs/default.asp>.

Individuals who intend to provide a presentation at a public meeting for new DME need to familiarize themselves with this information. This Web site also includes a description of the HCPCS coding process, along with a detailed explanation of the procedures used to make coding and payment determinations for DME and other items and services that are coded in the HCPCS.

A summary of each public meeting for new DME will be posted on the above Web site within one month after the meeting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Carver, (410) 786-6610.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

On December 21, 2000, the Congress passed the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Benefits Improvement and Protection Act of 2000 (BIPA), Public Law 106-554. Section 531(b) of BIPA mandated that we establish procedures that permit public consultation for coding and payment determinations for new DME under Medicare Part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act (the Act). The procedures and public

meetings announced in this notice for new DME are in response to the mandate of section 531(b) of BIPA.

We published a notice in the November 23, 2001, **Federal Register** (66 FR 58743) with information regarding the establishment of the public meeting process for DME.

II. Registration

Registration Procedures: Registration may be completed online at <http://cms.hhs.gov/medicare/hcpcs/default.asp>, or you may contact the DME Public Meeting Coordinator, Jennifer Carver at 410-786-6610, to register by phone. The following information must be provided when registering: Name, company name and address, telephone and fax numbers, e-mail address and special needs information. Registrants must also indicate whether they are the "Primary Speaker" for an agenda item, designated by the entity that submitted the HCPCS coding request. A CMS staff member will confirm your registration by mail, e-mail or fax.

Registration Deadline: Individuals must register for each date they plan to attend and/or provide a presentation. The deadline for registration for all of the meetings dates is Tuesday, June 15, 2004.

III. Presentations and Comment Format

A. Primary Speaker Presentations

The entity that submitted the HCPCS coding request for an item that appears on the Public Meeting agenda may designate one person to be the "Primary Speaker" and make a presentation at the meeting. We will post guidelines regarding the amount of time allotted to the speaker, as well as other presentation guidelines, on the official HCPCS website at least a month before the first public meeting in 2004 for new DME. Persons designated to be a Primary Speaker must register to attend the meeting using the registration procedures described above and, at least 15 days before the meeting, contact the DME Public Meeting Coordinator, Jennifer Carver at 410-786-6610. At the time of registration, Primary Speakers must provide a brief, written statement regarding the nature of the information they intend to provide, and advise the meeting coordinator regarding needs for Audio/Visual Support. In order to avoid disruption of the meeting and ensure compatibility with our systems, tapes and disk files are tested and arranged in speaker sequence well in advance of the meeting. We will accommodate tapes and disk files that are received by the DME Public Meeting Coordinator 7 or

more calendar days before the meeting. In addition, on the day of the meeting, Primary Speakers must provide a written summary of their comments to the DME Public Meeting Coordinator.

B. "5-Minute" Speaker Presentations

Meeting attendees will be permitted to sign up at the meeting, on a first-come, first-served basis, to make 5-Minute presentations on individual agenda items. Based on the number of items on the agenda and the progress of the meeting, a determination will be made at the meeting by the meeting coordinator and the meeting moderator, regarding how many 5-Minute speakers can be accommodated. In order to offer the same opportunity to all attendees, there is no pre-registration for 5-Minute speakers. Attendees may sign up only on the day of the meeting to do a 5-Minute presentation. They must provide their name, company name and address, contact information as specified on the sign-up sheet, and identify the specific agenda item that will be addressed. On the day of the meeting, 5-Minute speakers must provide a written summary of their comments to the DME Public Meeting Coordinator.

C. Speaker Declaration

The Primary Speakers and the 5-Minute Speakers must declare, at the meeting as well as in their written summary, whether or not they have any financial involvement with the manufacturers or competitors of any items or services being discussed. This includes any payment, salary, remuneration, or benefit provided to the speaker by the manufacturer.

D. Written Comments from Meeting Attendees

We welcome written comments from persons in attendance at a public meeting, whether or not they had the opportunity to make an oral presentation. Written comments may be submitted at the meeting, or prior to the meeting via e-mail to www.cms.hhs.gov/medicare/hcps or via regular mail to the HCPCS Coordinator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop C5-08-27, Baltimore, MD 21244.

IV. General Information

The meetings are held in a Federal government building; therefore, Federal measures are applicable. In planning your arrival time, we recommend allowing additional time to clear security. In order to gain access to the building and grounds, participants must bring a government-issued photo identification and a copy of your

confirmation of pre-registration for the meeting. Access may be denied to persons without proper identification.

Security measures also include inspection of vehicles, inside and out, at the entrance to the grounds. In addition, all persons entering the building must pass through a metal detector. All items brought to CMS, whether personal or for the purpose of demonstration or to support a presentation, are subject to inspection. CMS cannot assume responsibility for coordinating the receipt, transfer, transport, storage, set-up, safety, or timely arrival of any personal belongings or items used for demonstration or to support a presentation.

Special Accommodations: Persons attending a meeting who are hearing or visually impaired and have special requirements, or a condition that requires special assistance or accommodations, must provide this information upon registering for the meeting.

Each meeting day will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 5 p.m., e.d.t. Because it is impossible to anticipate, in advance of the April 1, 2004, submission deadline, the nature and the number of coding requests that will be submitted for new DME, we can only estimate the amount of meeting time that will be needed, and we are unable to post a final agenda at this time. We may not need three full-day meetings. We will consider each meeting individually, and we may modify the meeting dates and times published in this notice. Final confirmation of meeting dates and times, and agenda items will be posted three weeks in advance of each scheduled meeting, on the official HCPCS Web site and can be accessed at <http://cms.hhs.gov/medicare/hcps/default.asp>.

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

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

Dated: March 25, 2004.

Dennis G. Smith,

Acting Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

[FR Doc. 04-8832 Filed 4-22-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS-4066-N]

Medicare Program; Meeting of the Advisory Panel on Medicare Education—May 11, 2004

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), HHS.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. appendix 2, section 10(a) (Pub. L. 92-463), this notice announces a meeting of the Advisory Panel on Medicare Education (the Panel) on May 11, 2004. The Panel advises and makes recommendations to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services on opportunities to enhance the effectiveness of consumer education strategies concerning the Medicare program. This meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2004, from 9:15 a.m. to 4 p.m., e.s.t.

Deadline for Presentations and Comments: May 4, 2004, 12 noon, e.s.t.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Wyndham Washington Hotel, 1400 M Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005, (202) 429-1700.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lynne Johnson, Health Insurance Specialist, Division of Partnership Development, Center for Beneficiary Choices, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 7500 Security Boulevard, mail stop S2-23-05, Baltimore, MD 21244-1850, (410) 786-0090. Please refer to the CMS Advisory Committees' Information Line (1-877-449-5659 toll free)/(410-786-9379 local) or the Internet (<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/faca/apme/default.asp>) for additional information and updates on committee activities, or contact Ms. Johnson via e-mail at ljohnson3@cms.hhs.gov. Press inquiries are handled through the CMS Press Office at (202) 690-6145.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 222 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 217a), as amended, grants to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (the Secretary) the authority to establish an advisory panel if the Secretary finds the panel necessary and in the public interest. The Secretary signed the charter establishing