

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/hcpcs 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/hcpcs/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.

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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

this Panel on January 21, 1999 (64 FR 7849), and approved the renewal of the charter on January 21, 2003.

The Panel advises and makes recommendations to the Secretary and the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on opportunities to enhance the effectiveness of consumer education strategies concerning the Medicare program.

The goals of the Panel are as follows:

- To develop and implement a national Medicare education program that describes the options for selecting a health plan under Medicare.
- To enhance the Federal government's effectiveness in informing the Medicare consumer, including the appropriate use of public-private partnerships.
- To expand outreach to vulnerable and underserved communities, including racial and ethnic minorities, in the context of a national Medicare education program.
- To assemble an information base of best practices for helping consumers evaluate health plan options and build a community infrastructure for information, counseling, and assistance.

The current members of the Panel are: James L. Bildner, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Tier Technologies; Dr. Jane Delgado, Chief Executive Officer, National Alliance for Hispanic Health; Joyce Dubow, Senior Policy Advisor, Public Policy Institute, American Association of Retired Persons (AARP); Clayton Fong, President and Chief Executive Officer, National Asian Pacific Center on Aging; Timothy Fuller, Executive Director, National Gray Panthers; John Graham IV, President and Chief Executive Officer, American Society of Association Executives; Dr. William Hagggett, Senior Vice President, Government Programs, Independence Blue Cross; Thomas Hall, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Cardio-Kinetics, Inc.; David Knutson, Director, Health System Studies, Park Nicollet Institute for Research and Education; Brian Lindberg, Executive Director, Consumer Coalition for Quality Health Care; Katherine Metzger, Director, Medicare and Medicaid Programs, Fallon Community Health Plan; Dr. Laurie Powers, Co-Director, Center on Self-Determination, Oregon Health Sciences University; Dr. Marlon Priest, Professor of Emergency Medicine, University of Alabama at Birmingham; Dr. Susan Reinhard, Co-Director, Center for State Health Policy, Rutgers University and Chairperson of the Advisory Panel on Medicare Education; Dr. Everard Rutledge, Vice President of Community

Health, Bon Secours Health Systems, Inc.; Dallas Salisbury, President and Chief Executive Officer, Employee Benefit Research Institute; Rosemarie Sweeney, Vice President, Socioeconomic Affairs and Policy Analysis, American Academy of Family Physicians; and Bruce Taylor, Director, Employee Benefit Policy and Plans, Verizon Communications.

The agenda for the May 11, 2004, meeting will include the following:

- Recap of the previous (February 5, 2004) meeting.
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Update/ Center for Beneficiary Choices Update.
- Medicare Modernization Act.
- Monitoring the Utilization of Drugs Through the Use of the Drug Card.
- Medicare Part D Benefit Overview.
- Public Comment.
- Listening Session with CMS Leadership.
- Next Steps.

Individuals or organizations that wish to make a 5 minute oral presentation on an agenda topic must submit a written copy of the oral presentation to 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 or by e-mail at ljohnson3@cms.hhs.gov no later than 12 noon, May 4, 2004. The number of oral presentations may be limited by the time available. Individuals not wishing to make a presentation may submit written comments to Ms. Johnson by 12 noon, May 4, 2004. The meeting is open to the public, but attendance is limited to the space available.

Special Accommodation: Individuals requiring sign language interpretation or other special accommodations must contact Ms. Johnson at least 15 days before the meeting.

Authority: Sec. 222 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 217a) and sec. 10(a) of Pub. L. 92-463 (5 U.S.C. App. 2, sec. 10(a) and 41 CFR 102-3). (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.733, Medicare—Hospital Insurance Program; and Program No. 93.774, Medicare—Supplementary Medical Insurance Program)

Dated: April 8, 2004.

Mark B. McClellan,

Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

[FR Doc. 04-8833 Filed 4-22-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS-4071-N2]

Medicare Program; Listening Sessions on Performance Measures for Public Reporting on the Quality of Hospital Care During April, May, and June 2004

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

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces dates and locations for five listening sessions to be held in various sites throughout the country to focus discussion on the next steps in the development of an expanded set of performance measures for public reporting on the quality of hospital care. Health care consumers, payers, plans, providers, purchasers, and other interested parties are invited to attend these sessions to present their individual views. The opinions and alternatives provided during these sessions will assist us in our collaboration with the National Voluntary Hospital Reporting Initiative, as well as in our other hospital quality reporting and improvement efforts. Attendance at the listening session is free and open to the public, but advance registration is strongly encouraged.

DATES: *Session Dates:* The dates, time, and location of the five listening sessions are as follows:

Tuesday, April 27, 2004 Time: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Location: Boston, MA. Site: Hilton Hotel-Logan Airport: 85 Terminal Road, Boston, MA 02128. Phone: (617) 568-6700. The notice announcing the April 27, 2004 Listening Session was previously published in the March 26, 2004 **Federal Register** (69 FR 15884).

Monday, May 17, 2004 Time: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Location: Orlando, FL. Site: Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites at Universal Orlando, 5905 Kirkman Road, Orlando, FL 32819. Phone: (407) 351-3333.

Tuesday, June 8, 2004 Time: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Location: Dallas, TX. Site: Cooper Guest Lodge, 12230 Preston Road, Dallas, TX 75230. Phone: (972)-386-0306.

Monday, June 14, 2004 Time: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Location: San Francisco, CA. Site: San Francisco Airport Marriott, 1800 Old Bayshore Highway, Burlingame, CA 94010. Phone: (650) 692-9100.

Monday, June 28, 2004 Time: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Location: Chicago, IL. Site: Oak Brook Marriott, 1401 West 22nd