

For Further Information Contact:
Sandra M. Peay, Contact Representative,
or Renee Hallman, Legal Technician,
Federal Trade Commission, Premerger
Notification Office, Bureau of
Competition, Room H-303, Washington,
DC 20580. (202) 326-3100.

By direction of the Commission.

Donald S. Clark,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-30861 Filed 12-12-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6750-01-M

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Office of Governmentwide Policy

Cancellation of an Optional Form by the Department of State

AGENCY: Office of Governmentwide
Policy, GSA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of State
cancelled the following Optional Form:
OF 137, Designation of Beneficiary (12/
77).

This form is now a State Department
form. You can request copies from:
Department of State, A/RPS/DIR, SA-
22, 18th and G Streets, NW.; Suite 2400,
Washington, DC 20520-2201, 202-312-
9605.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr.
Charles Cunningham, Department of
State, 202-312-9605.

DATES: Effective December 15, 2003.

Dated: December 5, 2003.

Barbara M. Williams,

*Deputy Standard and Optional Forms
Management Officer, General Services
Administration.*

[FR Doc. 03-30891 Filed 12-12-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6820-34-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS-1370-N]

Medicare Program; The Practicing Physicians Advisory Council's Request for Nominations

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice invites all
organizations representing physicians to
submit nominees for membership on the
Council. There will be several vacancies
on the Council as of February 28, 2004.

DATES: Nominations will be considered
if received at the appropriate address,
no later than 5 p.m. (EST) December 26,
2003.

ADDRESSES: Mail or deliver nominations
to the following address: Centers for
Medicare & Medicaid Services, Center
for Medicare Management, Division of
Provider Relations and Evaluations,
Attention: Cheryl L. Slay, Designated
Federal Official, Practicing Physicians
Advisory Council, 7500 Security
Boulevard, Mail Stop C4-11-27,
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Kenneth Simon, M.D., Executive
Director, Practicing Physicians Advisory
Council, 7500 Security Boulevard, Mail
Stop C4-10-07, Baltimore, MD 21244-
1850, (410) 786-3377. Please refer to the
CMS Advisory Committees Information
Line: (1-877-449-5659 toll free)/(410-
786-9379 local) or the Internet at [http://
www.cms.hhs.gov/faca/ppac/
default.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/faca/ppac/default.asp) for additional information
and updates on committee activities.
News media representatives must
contact the CMS Press Office, (202) 690-
6145.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The
Secretary of the Department of Health
and Human Services (the Secretary) is
mandated by section 1868 of the Social
Security Act (the Act) to appoint a
Practicing Physicians Advisory Council
(the Council) based on nominations
submitted by medical organizations
representing physicians. The Council
meets quarterly to discuss certain
proposed changes in regulations and
carrier manual instructions related to
physicians' services, as identified by the
Secretary. To the extent feasible and
consistent with statutory deadlines, the
consultation must occur before
publication of the proposed changes.
The Council submits an annual report
on its recommendations to the Secretary
and the Administrator of the Centers for
Medicare & Medicaid Services not later
than December 31 of each year.

The Council consists of 15 physicians,
each of whom has submitted at least 250
claims for physicians' services under
Medicare in the previous year. Members
of the Council include both
participating and nonparticipating
physicians, and physicians practicing in
rural and underserved urban areas. At
least 11 members of the Council must be
physicians described in section
1861(r)(1) of the Act; that is, State-
licensed doctors of medicine or
osteopathy. The remaining 4 members
may include dentists, podiatrists,
optometrists, and chiropractors.
Members serve for overlapping 4-year
terms; terms of more than 2 years are

contingent upon the renewal of the
Council by appropriate action before its
termination. Section 1868(a) of the Act
provides that nominations to the
Secretary for Council membership must
be made by medical organizations
representing physicians.

The Council held its first meeting on
May 11, 1992. The current members are:
James Bergeron, M.D.; Ronald
Castallanos, M.D.; Rebecca Gaughan,
M.D.; Carlos R. Hamilton, M.D.; Joseph
Heyman, M.D.; Dennis K. Iglar, M.D.;
Christopher Leggett, M.D.; Joe Johnson,
D.O.; Barbara McAneny, M.D.; Angelyn
L. Moultrie-Lizana, D.O.; Laura B.
Powers, M.D.; Michael T. Rapp, M.D.;
Amilu Rothhammer, M.D.; Robert L.
Urata, M.D.; and Douglas L. Wood, M.D.

This notice serves as an invitation to
all organizations representing
physicians to submit nominees for
membership on the Council. Each
nomination must state that the nominee
has expressed a willingness to serve as
a Council member and must be
accompanied by a short résumé or
description of the nominee's experience.
To permit an evaluation of possible
sources of conflicts of interest, potential
candidates will be asked to provide
detailed information concerning
financial holdings, consultant positions,
research grants, and contracts. Section
1868(b) of the Act provides that the
Council meet quarterly to discuss
certain proposed changes in regulations
and manual issuances that relate to
physicians' services, as identified by the
Secretary. Council members are
expected to participate in all meetings.
Section 1868(c) of the Act provides for
payment of expenses and a per diem
allowance for Council members at a rate
equal to payment provided members of
other advisory committees. In addition
to making these payments, the
Department of Health and Human
Services/Centers for Medicare &
Medicaid Services provides
management and support services to the
Council. The Secretary will appoint new
members to the Council from among
those candidates determined to have the
expertise required to meet specific
agency needs and in a manner to ensure
appropriate balance of the Council's
membership.

Authority: (Section 1868 of the Social
Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ee) and section
10(a) of Public Law 92-463 (5 U.S.C. App. 2,
sections 10(a) and 14)

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