

- Frank G. Opelka, M.D., F.A.C.S.
- Louis Potters, M.D., F.A.C.R.
- James V. Rawson, M.D.
- Lou Ann Schraffenberger, M.B.A., R.H.I.A., C.C.S.-P.
- Judie S. Snipes, R.N., M.B.A., F.A.C.H.E.
- Timothy Gene Tyler, Pharm.D.
- Kim Allan Williams, M.D., F.A.C.C., F.A.B.C.
- Robert Matthew Zwolak, M.D., Ph.D., F.A.C.S.

II. Agenda

The agenda for the March 2007 meeting will provide for discussion and comment on the following topics as designated in the Panel's Charter:

- Reconfiguring APCs (for example, splitting of APCs, moving Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System [HCPCS] codes from one APC to another and moving HCPCS codes from new technology APCs to clinical APCs).
- Evaluating APC weights.
- Packaging device and drug costs into APCs: methodology, effect on APCs, and need for reconfiguring APCs based upon device and drug packaging.
- Removing procedures from the inpatient list for payment under the OPPS.
- Using single and multiple procedure claims data.
- Addressing other APC structure technical issues.

The subject matter before the Panel shall be limited to these and related topics. Issues related to calculation of the OPPS conversion factor, charge compression, pass-through payments, or wage adjustments are not related to the subject matter that the Panel reviews.

The Panel may use data collected or developed by entities and organizations, other than DHHS and CMS, in conducting its review. Organizations are urged to submit data to CMS for review.

III. Written Comments and Suggested Agenda Topics

Send hardcopy written comments and suggested agenda topics to the DFO at the address indicated above. The DFO must receive these items by 5 p.m. (e.s.t.), Wednesday, February 7, 2007.

The written comments and suggested agenda topics for the March 2007 APC Panel meeting must fall within the subject categories outlined in the Panel's Charter and as listed in the Agenda section of this notice.

IV. Oral Presentations

Individuals or organizations wishing to make 5-minute oral presentations must submit hardcopies of their presentations to the DFO by 5 p.m. (e.s.t.), Wednesday, February 7, 2007, for consideration.

The number of oral presentations may be limited by the time available. Oral presentations should not exceed 5 minutes in length for an individual or organization.

The Chair may further limit time allowed for presentations due to the number of oral presentations, if necessary.

V. Presenter and Presentation Information

All presenters must submit Form CMS-20017. Hardcopies are required for oral presentations; however, electronic submissions of Form CMS-20017 are optional. The DFO must receive the following information from those wishing to make oral presentations:

- Form CMS-20017 completed with all pertinent information identified on the first page of the presentation.
- One hardcopy of presentation.
- Electronic copy of presentation.
- Personal registration information as described in the Meeting Attendance section below.

(Those persons wishing to submit comments only must send hard-copy and electronic versions of their comments, but they are not required to submit Form CMS-20017.)

VI. Oral Comments

In addition to formal oral presentations, there will be opportunity during the meeting for public oral comments, which will be limited to 1 minute for each individual and a total of 3 minutes per organization.

VII. Meeting Attendance

The meeting is open to the public; however, attendance is limited to space available. Attendance will be determined on a first-come, first-served basis.

Persons wishing to attend this meeting, which is located on Federal property, must e-mail the Panel DFO to register in advance no later than 5 p.m. (e.s.t.), Wednesday, February 28, 2007. A confirmation will be sent to the requester(s) via return e-mail.

The following personal information must be e-mailed or telephoned to the DFO by the date and time above:

- Name(s) of attendee(s),
- Title(s),
- Organization,
- E-mail address(es), and
- Telephone number(s).

VIII. Security, Building, and Parking Guidelines

Persons attending the meeting must present photographic identification to the Federal Protective Service or Guard

Service personnel before they will be allowed to enter the building.

Security measures will 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, including personal items such as desktops, cell phones, palm pilots, etc., are subject to physical inspection.

Individuals who are not registered in advance will not be permitted to enter the building and will be unable to attend the meeting.

Note: Presenters must register for the meeting. The public may enter the building 30 to 45 minutes before the meeting convenes each day.

All visitors must be escorted in areas other than the lower and first-floor levels in the Central Building.

Parking permits and instructions are issued upon arrival by the guards at the main entrance.

IX. Special Accommodations

Individuals requiring sign-language interpretation or other special accommodations must send a request for these services to the DFO by 5 p.m. (e.s.t.), Wednesday, February 28, 2007.

Authority: Section 1833(t)(9) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(t)). The Panel is governed by the provisions of Pub. L. 92-463, as amended (54 U.S.C. Appendix 2).

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

Dated: December 7, 2006.

Leslie V. Norwalk,

Acting Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

[FR Doc. E6-21736 Filed 12-21-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4120-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS-7002-N]

Medicare Program; Meeting of the Advisory Panel on Medicare Education, January 24, 2007

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 January 24, 2007. The Panel advises and makes recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Human Services (the Secretary) 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: *Meeting Date:* January 24, 2007 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., e.s.t. *Deadline for Meeting Registration, Presentations, and Written Comments:* January 17, 2007, 12 noon, e.s.t.

Deadline for Requesting Special Accommodations: January 9, 2007, 12 noon, e.s.t.

ADDRESSES: *Meeting Location:* Marriott Metro Center Hotel, 775 12th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005, (202) 737-2200.

Meeting Registration, Presentations, and Written Comments: Lynne Johnson, Health Insurance Specialist, Division of Partnership Development, Office of External Affairs, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 7500 Security Boulevard, Mail stop S1-05-06, Baltimore, MD 21244-1850 or contact Ms. Johnson via e-mail at Lynne.Johnson@cms.hhs.gov. *Meeting Registration:* The meeting is open to the public, but attendance is limited to the space available. Persons wishing to attend this meeting must register by contacting Lynne Johnson at the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice or by telephone at (410) 786-0090, by 12 noon, e.s.t., on January 17, 2007.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lynne Johnson, (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/04_APME.asp) for additional information and updates on committee activities. 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 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 and approved the renewal of the charter on January 14, 2005. The establishment of the charter and renewal of the charter were announced in the February 17, 1999 *Federal Register* (64 FR 7899), and the January 28, 2005 *Federal Register* (70

FR 4129), respectively. 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:

Anita B. Boles, Executive Director, Partnership for Clear Health Communications; Gwendolyn T. Bronson, SHINE/SHIP Counselor, Massachusetts SHINE Program; Dr. Yanira Cruz, President and Chief Executive Officer, National Hispanic Council on Aging; Clayton Fong, President and Chief Executive Officer, National Asian Pacific Center on Aging; Nan Kirsten-Forte, Executive Vice President, Consumer Services, WebMD; Dr. Jessie C. Gruman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Center for the Advancement of Health; Betty L. Kennard, Vice President, Government Programs and Compliance, Health First Health Plans; Dr. David Lansky, Director, Health Program, Markle Foundation; Dr. Daniel Lyons, Senior Vice President, Government Programs, Independence Blue Cross; Dr. Frank B. McArdle, Manager, Hewitt Research Office, Hewitt Associates; Traci McClellan, J.D., Executive Director, National Indian Council on Aging; Dr. Keith Mueller, Professor and Section Head, Health Services Research and Rural Health Policy, University of Nebraska; Lee Partridge, Senior Health Policy Advisor, National Partnership for Women and Families; Myisha M. Patterson, National Health Coordinator, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Susan O. Raetzman, Associate Director, Public Policy Institute, American Association of Retired Persons; Rebecca Snead, Executive Vice President/Chief Executive Officer, National Alliance of

State Pharmacy Associations; William A. Steel, President, The National Grange; Marvin Tuttle, Jr., CAE, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, Financial Planning Association; Catherine Valenti, Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer, Caring Voice Coalition; and Grant Wedner, Manager, Business Development Team, Cosmix Corporation.

The agenda for the January 24, 2007 meeting will include the following:

- Recap of the previous (October 17, 2006) meeting.
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Update.
- Medicare Preventive Benefits and Quality.
- Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Update.
- 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 should submit a written copy of the oral presentation to Lynne Johnson at the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice by the date listed in the **DATES** section of this notice. 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 at the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice by the date listed in the **DATES** section of this notice.

Individuals requiring sign language interpretation or other special accommodations should contact Ms. Johnson at the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice by the date listed in the **DATES** section of this notice.

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, 10(a) and 41 CFR 102-3).

Dated: November 30, 2006.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.733, Medicare—Hospital Insurance Program; and Program No. 93.774, Medicare—Supplementary Medical Insurance Program).

Leslie V. Norwalk,

Acting Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

[FR Doc. E6-21434 Filed 12-21-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4120-01-P