

persons are further invited to review these submissions and provide replies, including follow-up comments and suggestions by July 30, 2007.

Commenters are requested to specifically explain how suggestions will comport with the specific applicable statutory objectives and factors as set out below.

A. Objectives

The modern service standards for market dominant products shall be designed to meet the following objectives:

1. Enhance the value of postal services to both senders and recipients;
2. Preserve regular and effective access to postal services in all communities, including those in rural areas or where post offices are not self-sustaining;
3. Reasonably assure Postal Service customers delivery reliability, speed and frequency consistent with reasonable rates and best business practices; and
4. Provide a system of objective external performance measurements for each market dominant product as a basis for measurement of Postal Service performance. (**Note:** An internal measurement system may be implemented instead with the Commission's approval.)

B. Factors

The modern service standards for market dominant products shall take into account the following factors:

1. The actual level of service that the Postal Service customers receive under any service guidelines previously established;
2. The degree of customer satisfaction with Postal Service performance in the acceptance, processing and delivery of mail;
3. The needs of Postal Service customers, including those with physical impairments;
4. Mail volumes and revenues projected for future years;
5. The projected growth in the number of addresses the Postal Service will be required to serve in future years;
6. The current and projected future cost of serving Postal Service customers;
7. The effect of changes in technology, demographics, and population distribution on the efficient and reliable operation of the postal delivery system; and
8. The policies of title 39 and other factors as the Postal Service determines are appropriate.

II. Ordering Paragraphs

It is ordered:

1. Docket No. PI2007-1 is established for the purpose of receiving comments to provide guidance to the Postal Service in connection with the Commission's obligations regarding service standards and performance measurement.

2. Interested persons are invited to provide written comments and suggestions on what the modern service standards should be and what system or systems of performance measurement should be utilized to evaluate whether those service standards have been met by July 16, 2007.

3. Reply comments also may be filed by July 30, 2007.

4. Kenneth E. Richardson, acting director of the Office of the Consumer Advocate, is designated to represent the interests of the general public in this docket.

5. The Secretary shall arrange for publication of this document in the **Federal Register**.

By the Commission.

Steven W. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. E7-11939 Filed 6-21-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710-FW-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

42 CFR Parts 405, 413, and 417

[CMS-1727-RCN]

RIN 0938-AL54

Medicare Program; Provider Reimbursement Determinations and Appeals; Extension of Timeline for Publication of Final Rule

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

ACTION: Extension of timeline.

SUMMARY: Section 1871(a)(3)(A) of the Social Security Act (the Act) requires us to publish a Medicare final rule no later than 3 years after the publication date of the proposed rule. This notice announces an extension of the timeline for publication of a Medicare final rule in accordance with section 1871(a)(3)(B) of the Act, which allows us to extend the timeline for publication of final rules under exceptional circumstances.

DATES: The timeline for the publication of a final rule is extended until June 25, 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Morton Marcus, (410) 786-4477. Donald Romano, (410) 786-1401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Section 1871(a)(3)(A) of the Act requires us to establish and publish a regular timeline for the publication of final regulations based on the previous publication of a proposed regulation. In accordance with section 1871(a)(3)(B) of the Act, the timeline may vary among different regulations based on differences in the complexity of the regulation, the number and scope of comments received, and other relevant factors, but may not be longer than 3 years except under exceptional circumstances. If the Secretary intends to vary the timeline for publication of a final rule, the Secretary is required to publish notice of the different timeline in the **Federal Register** no later than the timeline previously established for the final rule. The notice is required to include a brief explanation of the justification for the variation in timeline.

II. Notice of Continuation

In the June 25, 2004 **Federal Register** (69 FR 35716), we published a proposed rule that would update, clarify, and revise various provisions of the regulations governing provider reimbursement determinations, appeals before the Provider Reimbursement Review Board (PRRB), appeals before the intermediaries and Administrator review of decisions made by the PRRB.

This notice extends the timeline for publication of the final rule. We are not able to meet the 3-year timeline for publication due to the complexity of the public comments received, and the complex policy and legal issues raised by those comments, which require extensive consultation and analysis. These extraordinary circumstances require an extension of the timeline; therefore this notice extends the timeline for publication of the final rule until June 25, 2008.

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

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

Dated: June 12, 2007.

Ann Agnew,

Executive Secretary to the Department.

[FR Doc. E7-11721 Filed 6-21-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4120-01-P