

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation; Medicare Program; Meeting of the Technical Advisory Panel on Medicare Trustee Reports

AGENCY: Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, HHS.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a public meeting of the Technical Advisory Panel on Medicare Trustee Reports (Panel). Notice of this meeting is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. 2, section 10(a)(1) and (a)(2)). The Panel will discuss the long-term rate of change in health spending and may make recommendations to the Medicare Trustees on how the Trustees might more accurately estimate health spending in the long run. The Panel's discussion is expected to be very technical in nature and will focus on the actuarial and economic methods by which Trustees might more accurately measure health spending. Although panelists are not limited in the topics they may discuss, the Panel is not expected to discuss or recommend changes in current or future Medicare provider payment rates or coverage policy.

DATES: October 6, 2004, 8 a.m.–4 p.m. e.d.t.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at HHS headquarters at 200 Independence Ave., SW., 20201, Room 325A.

Comments: The meeting will allocate time on the agenda to hear public comments. In lieu of oral comments, formal written comments may be submitted for the record to Jacob Kaplan, OASPE, 200 Independence Ave., SW., 20201, Room 411B.3. Those submitting written comments should identify themselves and any relevant organizational affiliations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jacob Kaplan at (202) 401-6119, jacob.kaplan@hhs.gov. **Note:** Although the meeting is open to the public, procedures governing security procedures and the entrance to Federal buildings may change without notice. Those wishing to attend the meeting should call or e-mail Mr. Kaplan by October 1, 2004, so that their name may be put on a list of expected attendees and forwarded to the security officers at HHS Headquarters.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On April 22, 2004, we published a notice announcing the establishment and

requesting nominations for individuals to serve on the Panel. The panel members are: Mark Pauly, Edwin Husted, Alice Rosenblatt, Michael Chernew, David Meltzer, John Bertko, and William Scanlon.

Topics of the Meeting: The Panel is specifically charged with discussing and possibly making recommendations to the Medicare Trustees on how the Trustees might more accurately estimate the long term rate of health spending in the United States. The discussion is expected to focus on highly technical aspects of estimation involving economics and actuarial science. Panelists are not restricted, however, in the topics that they choose to discuss.

Procedure and Agenda: This meeting is open to the public. Interested persons may observe the deliberations and discussions, but the Panel will not hear public comments during this time. The Commission will also allow an open public session for any attendee to address issues specific to the topic.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 217a; Section 222 of the Public Health Services Act, as amended. The panel is governed by provisions of Public Law 92-463, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), which sets forth standards for the formation and use of advisory committees.

Dated: September 17, 2004.

Michael J. O'Grady,

Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.

[FR Doc. 04-21205 Filed 9-20-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[60Day-04-04KI]

Proposed Data Collections Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 for opportunity for public comment on proposed data collection projects, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will publish periodic summaries of proposed projects. To request more information on the proposed projects or to obtain a copy of the data collection plans and instruments, call 404-498-1210 or send comments to Sandi Gambescia, CDC Assistant Reports Clearance Officer, 1600 Clifton Road, MS-E11, Atlanta, GA 30333 or send an e-mail to omb@cdc.gov.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

Proposed Project

2004 State Medicaid Survey—New—National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control (NCCDPHP), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Background and Brief Description

The proposed 2004 State Medicaid Survey will assess State Medicaid Programs to determine the extent of coverage for tobacco-dependence treatment. Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States. One of the 2010 National Health Objectives is to increase insurance coverage of evidence-based treatment for nicotine dependence (*i.e.*, Food and Drug Administration [FDA]-approved pharmacotherapies and total coverage of behavioral therapies in Medicaid programs) from 36 states to all 50 states and the District of Columbia. To increase both the use of treatment by smokers attempting to quit and the number of smokers who quit successfully, the Guide to Community Preventive Services recommends reducing the out-of-pocket cost of effective tobacco-dependence treatments (*i.e.*, individual, group and telephone counseling and FDA-approved pharmacotherapies). The 2000 Public Health Service (PHS) Clinical Practice Guideline supports expanded insurance coverage for tobacco-dependence treatment.

In 2000, approximately 32 million low-income persons in the United States received their health insurance coverage through federally funded State Medicaid programs; approximately 11.5 million (36%) of these persons smoked. The amount and type of coverage for tobacco-dependence treatment offered by Medicaid has been reported for 1998 and annually from 2000-2003. In 2002 and 2003, surveys were funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). RWJF will no longer be tracking

this coverage; therefore, CDC proposes to fund the survey. CDC proposed to fund the survey from 2004–2010. The survey will allow CDC to continue to measure progress of State Medicaid Programs toward the 2010 National Health Objective and document changes in the provision of coverage toward reaching the Healthy People 2010 goal.

The objectives of the project are as follows:

- Conduct a study of all 50 states and the District of Columbia Medicaid Programs to determine coverage for tobacco dependence treatment (counseling and FDA-approved pharmacotherapies) and assess compliance with the PHS recommendations.

- Analyze and publish the data.

Medicaid recipients have approximately 50% greater smoking

prevalence than the overall U.S. adult population, and they are disproportionately affected by tobacco-related disease and disability.

Substantial action to improve coverage will be needed if the United States is to achieve the 2010 National Health Objective of 12% smoking prevalence among adults.

This project will provide an opportunity to assess the extent of coverage for tobacco-dependence treatment under Medicaid. In 2002, 36 states provided coverage for some FDA approved medications; however, only 10 states provided some form of coverage for counseling and only 2 states provided comprehensive coverage, counseling and medication. Fifteen states provided no coverage. This project will be conducted with a mailed request to State Medicaid

directors to identify a knowledgeable person within their system to respond to the survey. The survey will be mailed to the identified individuals.

Respondents will be asked to submit a written copy of their Medicaid coverage policies. If responses are not received, individuals will receive a telephone follow-up. Respondents are mailed the survey that they completed the previous year and asked to make revisions if changes have occurred. If this is being done by the person who completed the survey the previous year, the response burden is reduced. If the questions are not answered or not answered clearly, follow-up is required which takes additional time. All 50 states plus the District of Columbia have reported in the past. There is no cost to respondents except the time to complete the survey.

ANNUALIZED BURDEN TABLE

Respondents	Number of respondents	Number of responses per respondent	Average burden per response (in hrs)	Total burden hours
State Medicaid Programs with Minimal Response	35	1	15/60	9
State Medicaid Programs with Maximum Response	16	1	1	16
Total	51	25

Dated: September 14, 2004.

Alvin Hall,

Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

[FR Doc. 04–21170 Filed 9–20–04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Board of Scientific Counselors, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)

In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92–463), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces the following committee meeting:

Name: Board of Scientific Counselors, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (BSC, NIOSH).

Time and Date: 9 a.m.–3:15 p.m., October 21, 2004.

Place: Holiday Inn on the Hill, 415 New Jersey Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20001, telephone (202) 638–1616, fax (202) 347–1813.

Status: Open to the public, limited only by the space available. The meeting room accommodates approximately 50 people.

Purpose: The Secretary, the Assistant Secretary for Health, and by delegation the Director, CDC, are authorized under Sections 301 and 308 of the Public Health Service Act to conduct directly or by grants or contracts, research, experiments, and demonstrations relating to occupational safety and health and to mine health. The Board of Scientific Counselors, NIOSH shall provide guidance to the Director, NIOSH on research and preventions programs. Specifically, the Board shall provide guidance on the Institute's research activities related to developing and evaluating hypotheses, systematically documenting findings and disseminating results. The Board shall evaluate the degree to which the activities of the NIOSH:

- (1) Conform to appropriate scientific standards;
- (2) Address current, relevant needs; and
- (3) Produce intended results.

Matters To Be Discussed: Agenda items include orientation for new Board members; report from the Director of NIOSH; the CDC Futures Initiative; NIOSH program assessment; the NIOSH research to practice initiative; the NIOSH nanotechnology initiative; and closing remarks.

Agenda items are subject to change as priorities dictate.

For Further Information Contact: Roger Rosa, Executive Secretary, BSC, NIOSH, CDC, 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 715H,

Washington, DC 20201, telephone (202) 205–7856, fax (202) 260–4464.

The Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, has been delegated the authority to sign **Federal Register** notices pertaining to announcements of meetings and other committee management activities for both CDC and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

Dated: September 13, 2004.

Alvin Hall,

Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

[FR Doc. 04–21169 Filed 9–20–04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

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Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, HHS.