

16920 through 16923) (April 8 Interim Rules).

In order to meet HIPAA's goal of improving portability of health care coverage, participants need to understand their right to demonstrate prior creditable coverage when entering a group health plan that imposes pre-existing condition exclusion provisions. In addition, participants entering plans that use an alternative method of determining creditable coverage also need to be informed of the plan's provisions. Therefore, the Department has determined that plans that contain these provisions must disclose that fact to new participants, as well as inform individual participants of the extent to which a pre-existing condition exclusion applies to them.

Review Focus

The Department of Labor (Department) is particularly interested in comments which:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

Current Actions: The Department has not modified the ICR incorporated in the April 8 Interim Rules, but intends to submit the ICR to OMB for continued clearance. Comments received in response to this notice will be incorporated in the submission of OMB. The existing collection of information should be continued because it implements disclosure requirements mandated by the portability provisions enacted in section 701 of HIPAA. Under the April 8 Interim Final Rules, a group health plan or health insurance issuer may not impose any pre-existing condition exclusions on a participant unless the participant has been notified in writing that the plan contains preexisting condition exclusions, that a participant has a right to demonstrate any period of prior creditable coverage,

and that the plan or issuer will assist the participant in obtaining a certificate of prior coverage from any prior plan or issuer, if necessary. Plans that use the alternative method of crediting coverage must disclose their method at the time of enrollment in the plan.

In addition, the April 8 Interim Rules require that before a plan or issuer imposes a preexisting condition exclusion on a particular participant, it must first disclose that determination in writing, including the basis of the decision, and an explanation of any appeal procedure established by the plan or issuer.

Agency: Department of Labor, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration.

Title: Notice of Pre-Existing Exclusion.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

OMB Number: 1210-0102.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit, Not-for-profit institutions, Individuals or households.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Respondents: 6,900.

Responses: 1,612,750.

Total Estimated Burden Hours: 6,875.

Total Burden Cost (Operating and Maintenance): \$710,000.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: December 22, 1999.

Gerald B. Lindrew,

Deputy Director, Office of Policy and Research, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration.

[FR Doc. 99-33600 Filed 12-27-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-29-M

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration

Proposed Extension of Information Collection Request Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations; Establishing Prior Creditable Coverage, Health Insurance Portability for Group Health Plans

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, provides the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork

Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA 95) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration is soliciting comments concerning the proposed extension of a currently approved collection of information, Establishing Prior Creditable Coverage. A copy of the proposed information collection request (ICR) can be obtained by contacting the addressee below.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before February 28, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Gerald B. Lindrew, Department of Labor, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20210, (202) 219-4782, FAX (202) 219-4745 (not toll-free numbers).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Subtitle B of title 1 of ERISA, Part 7, section 707, added by the Health Care Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104-191, August 31, 1996) (HIPAA) authorizes the Secretary of Labor, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Secretary of the Treasury, to promulgate such regulations as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the provisions of the statute. Accordingly, Interim Rules implementing the Portability Requirement for Group Health Plans were published on April 8, 1997, (62 FR 16920 through 16923) (April 8 Interim Rules).

In order to meet HIPAA's goal of improving access to and portability of health care benefits, the statute provides that, after the submission of evidence establishing prior creditable coverage, a subsequent health insurance provider would be limited to the extent to which it could use pre-existing condition exclusions to limit coverage. This ICR covers the submission of materials sufficient to establish prior creditable coverage.

Review Focus

The Department of Labor (Department) is particularly interested in comments which:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including

whether the information will have practical utility;

- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

Current Actions: The Department has not modified the ICR incorporated in the April 8 Interim Rules, but intends to submit the ICR to OMB for continued clearance. Comments received in response to this notice will be incorporated in the submission to OMB. The existing collection of information should be continued because it implements disclosure provisions mandated by the portability provisions enacted in section 701 of HIPAA. Specifically, this ICR implements statutory requirements for establishing prior creditable coverage. Under the April 8 Interim Rules, a group health plan is obligated to provide a written certificate of information suitable for establishing prior creditable coverage of a participant or beneficiary. To the extent that a certification is not available or is inadequate to prove prior creditable coverage, alternative methods of establishing creditable coverage are provided.

The April 8 Interim Rules offer model certification and notice forms to be used by group health plans and health insurance issuers, containing the minimum information mandated by the statute.

Agency: Department of Labor, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration.

Title: Establishing Prior Creditable Coverage.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

OMB Number: 1210-0103.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit, Not-for-profit institutions, Individuals or households.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Respondents: 15,604.

Responses: 8,000,000.

Total Estimated Burden Hours: 336,060.

Total Burden Cost (Operating and Maintenance): \$31,800,000.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the

information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: December 22, 1999.

Gerald B. Lindrew,

Deputy Director, Office of Policy and Research, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration.

[FR Doc. 99-33601 Filed 12-27-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-29-M

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[Notice 99-163]

NASA Advisory Council (NAC), Space Science Advisory Committee (SScAC), Sun-Earth Connection Advisory Subcommittee.

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Pub. L. 92-463, as amended, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration announces a meeting of the NASA Advisory Council, Space Science Advisory Committee, Sun-Earth Connection Advisory Subcommittee.

DATES: Tuesday, January 25, 2000, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Wednesday, January 26, 2000, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Thursday, January 27, 2000, 8:30 a.m. to 12 Noon.

ADDRESS: National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 300 E Street, SW, Conference Room 7H46, Washington, DC 20546.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: George L. Withbroe, Code S, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Washington, DC 20546, (202) 358-2150.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting will be open to the public up to the capacity of the room. The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

Overview of Strategic Plan and Present Status

Roadmap Process & Lessons Learned Roadmap Team

Office of Space Science Status Report Living with a Star Initiative and Status Global Electrodynamics Connector Education/Public Outreach Processes and Status Review in Sun-Earth Connection

It is imperative that the meeting be held on these dates to accommodate the scheduling priorities of the key participants. Visitors will be requested to sign a visitor's register.

Dated: December 16, 1999.

Matthew M. Crouch,

Advisory Committee Management Officer, National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

[FR Doc. 99-33557 Filed 12-27-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7510-01-P

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR LITERACY

Meeting Notice

AGENCY: National Institute for Literacy.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the National Institute for Literacy Board (Board). This notice also describes the function of the Board. Notice of this meeting is required under Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. This document is intended to notify the general public of their opportunity to attend the meeting.

DATE AND TIME: January 12, 2000 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ADDRESS: National Institute for Literacy, 1775 I Street, NW, Suite 730, Washington, DC 20006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shelly Coles, Executive Assistant, National Institute for Literacy, 1775 I Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006. Telephone (202) 233-2027.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Board is established under Section 384 of the Adult Education Act, as amended by Title I of Pub. L. 102-73, the National Literacy Act of 1991. The Board consists of ten individuals appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Board is established to advise and make recommendations to the Interagency Group, composed of the Secretaries of Education, Labor, and Health and Human Services, which administers the National Institute for Literacy (Institute). The Interagency Group considers the Board's recommendations in planning the goals of the Institute and in the implementation of any programs to achieve the goals of the Institute.

Specifically, the Board performs the following functions: (a) Makes recommendations concerning the appointment of the director and the staff of the Institute; (b) provides independent advice on operation of the Institute; and (c) receives reports from the Interagency Group and Director of the Institute. In addition, the Institute consults with the Board on the award of fellowships.

The National Institute for Literacy Advisory Board will be meeting on January 12, 2000. The Board will