

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care Financing Administration
[HCFA-R-118]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), Department of Health and Human Services, is publishing the following summary of proposed collections for public comment. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including any of the following subjects: (1) The necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

Type of Information Collection Request: Reinstatement without change of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired; *Title of Information Collection:* Peer Review Organization Contracts; Solicitation Statements of Interest from In-State Organizations, General Notice; *Form No.:* HCFA-R-118; *Use:* This notice is a solicitation of sources sought for the procurement of medical review services. This information is required for potential contractors to demonstrate that they meet the statutory requirements as a Peer Review Organization; *Frequency:* On occasion; *Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit; *Total Annual Hours:* 1.

To obtain copies of the supporting statement for the proposed paperwork collections referenced above, or to obtain the supporting statement and any related forms, E-mail your request, including your address and phone number, to Paperwork@hcfa.gov, or call the Reports Clearance Office on (410) 786-1326. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collections must be mailed within 60 days of this notice directly to the HCFA Paperwork Clearance Officer designated at the following address: HCFA, Office of Information Services, Information Technology Investment Management Group, Division of HCFA

Enterprise Standards, Attention: John Rudolph, Room C2-26-17, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

Dated: January 20, 1998.

John P. Burke III,

HCFA Reports Clearance Officer, Division of HCFA Enterprise Standards, Health Care Financing Administration.

[FR Doc. 98-2125 Filed 1-28-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4120-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care Financing Administration

[Form # HCFA-1500; OMB #0938-0008]

Emergency Clearance: Public Information Collection Requirements Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) the following request for Emergency review. We are requesting an emergency review because the collection of this information is needed prior to the expiration of the normal time limits under OMB's regulations at 5 CFR, part 1320. The HCFA-1500 is used to determine proper payment for certain Medicare services rendered to Medicare beneficiaries. Without this information HCFA would not be able to obtain the information necessary to reimburse providers. The Agency cannot reasonably comply with the normal clearance procedures because public harm is likely to result due to the possibility of providers not rendering services to Medicare beneficiaries due to the possibility of non-payment.

HCFA is requesting OMB review and approval of this collection by February 28, 1998, with a 180-day approval period. During this 180-day period HCFA will publish a separate **Federal Register** notice announcing the initiation of an extensive 60-day agency review and public comment period on these requirements. Then HCFA will submit the requirements for OMB review and an extension of this emergency approval. In this submission HCFA will respond as appropriate to the public comments received in response to the October 24, 1996 **Federal Register** notice requesting public comment on the continued use of the HCFA-1500 and related data.

1. *Type of Information Collection Request:* Extension of a currently approved collection, without change; *Title of Information Collection:* Medicare/Medicaid Health Insurance Common Claim Form and Instructions, and Supporting Regulations 42 CFR 424.32 (Basic Requirements for all Claims) and 42 CFR 414.40 (Coding and Ancillary Policies); *Form No.:* HCFA-1500 (OMB #0938-0008); *Use:* This form and instructions are standardized for use in the Medicare/Medicaid programs to apply for reimbursement for covered services. HCFA does not require exclusive use of this form for Medicaid. 42 CFR 424.32 and 42 CFR 414.40 are regulations underlying the use of the form HCFA-1500 and the information captured on the form HCFA-1500, including the use of diagnostic and procedural coding systems. HCFA solicits comments on any and all aspects of the HCFA-1500, and the use of diagnostic and procedural coding systems: HCFA currently uses the most current version of the ICD-9-CM and CPT/HCPCS; *Frequency:* On occasion; *Affected Public:* Business or other for profit, not for profit institutions, State, local or tribal government; *Number of Respondents:* 976,239; *Total Annual Responses:* 644,802,413; *Total Annual Hours:* 46,797,008.

To obtain copies of the supporting statement and any related forms and instructions for the proposed paperwork collection referenced above, E-mail your request, including your address and phone number, to Paperwork@hcfa.gov, or call the Reports Clearance Office on (410) 786-1326.

HCFA is requesting OMB review and approval of this collection by February 28, 1998, with a 180-day approval period.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be faxed (202) 395-6974 or sent directly to the OMB Desk Officer designated at the following address, by February 27, 1998. OMB Human Resources and Housing Branch, Attention: Allison Eydt, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: January 22, 1998.

John P. Burke III,

HCFA Reports Clearance Officer, Office of Information Services, Information Technology Investment Management Group, Division of HCFA Enterprise Standards, Health Care Financing Administration.

[FR Doc. 98-2239 Filed 1-28-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4120-03-P