

In accordance with 5 CFR 1320.8(d) on April 6, 2000 (65 FR 18110), a 60-day notice for public comment was published in the **Federal Register**. One comment was received which questioned the necessity for the information and criticized the funding mechanism for obtaining the information. FDA disagrees with the commentator on both points.

Regarding the necessity for a nationwide adoption of the model FDA Food Code is an important step to further the goals of the President's Council on Food Safety for consistent, scientifically sound, and risk-based food safety standards and practices and to work more effectively with partners in State, local, and tribal governments and with other Federal agencies. To help achieve these aims and FDA's Food Safety Initiative goals, FDA needs a comprehensive, accurate, and current inventory of Food Code adoptions to monitor the effectiveness of FDA's assistance to these agencies and to identify gaps where additional assistance may be needed.

FDA has established a site on the Internet at <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov> "Federal/State Food Programs" and "Retail Food Safety References" to list agencies that have reported adoptions of the FDA Food Code. Because it is self-reported, the current list is incomplete and those codes adopted have not been evaluated for consistency with the model FDA Food Code. FDA has obtained the services of AFDO to develop and implement an active surveillance system to track and report on the adoptions of the FDA Food Code by State and local agencies and tribal nations of native Americans.

AFDO will develop an active computer data base that will capture adoptions of the FDA Food Code; identify and periodically contact State, local, and tribal food safety program administrators to determine the current status of Food Code adoptions; collect information to identify consistency of adopted codes with the FDA Food Code focused only on the Centers for Disease Control identified risk factors and the FDA Food Code interventions; and provide quarterly progress reports to FDA from the data base in tabular and graphic form. Reports may be placed on the Internet at <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov>.

On the comment's second point regarding propriety of funding the project, the purchase requisition for services was well within the limits and fully compliant with regulations for purchasing the services of AFDO to conduct the information gathering.

Dated: July 28, 2000.

William K. Hubbard,
*Senior Associate Commissioner for Policy,
Planning, and Legislation.*

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care Financing Administration

[Document Identifier: HCFA-10013]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Health Care Financing Administration; HHS.

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 this 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: New collection; *Title of Information Collection:* Medicare beneficiary line survey; *Form No.:* HCFA-10013 (OMB# 0938-NEW); *Use:* This survey will be used by the Michigan Peer Review Organization to obtain information that will assist it in improving its services; *Frequency:* On occasion; *Affected Public:* Individuals or households; *Number of Respondents:* 3,600; *Total Annual Responses:* 360; *Total Annual Hours:* 90.

To obtain copies of the supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed paperwork collections referenced above, access HCFA's Web Site address at <http://www.hcfa.gov/regs/prdact95.htm>, or E-mail your request, including your address, phone number, OMB number, and HCFA document identifier, 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, Security and Standards Group, Division of HCFA Enterprise Standards, Attention: Julie Brown, Room N2-14-26, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

Dated: July 25, 2000.

John P. Burke III,
Reports Clearance Officer, Security and Standards Group, Division of HCFA Enterprise Standards.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care Financing Administration

[Document Identifier: HCFA-R-0094]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Health Care Financing Administration; HHS.

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 this 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: Extension of a currently approved collection; *Title of Information Collection:* Sterilization Regulations and Consent Form; *Form No.:* HCFA-R-0094 (OMB# 0938-0481); *Use:* All Medicaid-eligible individuals seeking sterilization are required to provide informed consent, acknowledging that they understand the risks and benefits; *Frequency:* On occasion; *Affected Public:* Individuals or households; State, local or tribal gov't;