

- Antidiscrimination.
- Information on advance directives.
- Provider participation rules.
- Confidentiality and accuracy of enrollees' records.

This notice also solicits public comment on the ability of the applicant's accreditation program to meet or exceed the Medicare requirements for which it seeks authority to deem.

### III. Evaluation of Deeming Request

On June 27, 2001, NCQA submitted all the necessary information to permit us to make a determination concerning its request for approval as a deeming authority for M+C organizations that are licensed as an HMO. Under § 422.158(a) of the regulations, our review and evaluation of a national accreditation organization will consider, but not necessarily be limited to, the following information and criteria:

- The equivalency of NCQA's requirements for HMOs to CMS's comparable M+C organization requirements.
- NCQA's survey process, to determine the following:
  - The frequency of surveys.
  - The types of forms, guidelines and instructions used by surveyors.
  - Descriptions of the accreditation decision making process, deficiency notification and monitoring process, and compliance enforcement process.
- Detailed information about individuals who perform accreditation surveys including—
  - Size and composition of the survey team;
  - Education and experience requirements for the surveyors;
  - In-service training required for surveyor personnel;
  - Surveyor performance evaluation systems; and
  - Conflict of interest policies relating to individuals in the survey and accreditation decision process.
- Descriptions of the organization's—
- Data management and analysis system;
- Policies and procedures for investigating and responding to complaints against accredited organizations;
- Types and categories of accreditation offered and M+C organizations currently accredited within those types and categories.

In accordance with § 422.158(b), the applicant must provide documentation relating to—

- Its ability to provide data in a CMS-compatible format;

—The adequacy of personnel and other resources necessary to perform the required surveys and other activities; and

—Assurances that it will comply with ongoing responsibility requirements specified in § 422.157(c).

Additionally, the accrediting organization must provide CMS the opportunity to observe its accreditation process on site at a managed care organization and must provide any other information that is required by CMS to prepare for an onsite visit to the AO's offices. These site visits will help to verify that the information presented in the application is correct and to make a determination on the application.

### IV. Response to Comments and Notice Upon Completion of Evaluation

Because of the large number of items of correspondence we normally receive on **Federal Register** documents published for comment, we are not able to acknowledge or respond to them individually. We will consider all comments we receive by the date and time specified in the **DATES** section of this preamble, and, if we proceed with a subsequent document, we will respond to the major comments in the preamble to that document.

Upon completion of our evaluation, including evaluation of comments received as a result of this notice, we will publish a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the result of our evaluation.

In accordance with the provisions of E.O. 12866, this proposed notice was not reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget.

Section 1853(a)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-23(a)(1)(B))

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.773, Medicare-Hospital Insurance; and Program No. 93.774, Medicare—Supplementary Medical Insurance Program)

Dated: July 26, 2001.

**Thomas A. Scully,**

*Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.*

[FR Doc. 01-19190 Filed 7-31-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4120-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Health Resources and Services Administration

#### Advisory Council; Notice of Meeting

In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act

(Public Law 92-463), announcement is made of the following National Advisory body scheduled to meet during the month of September 2001:

*Name:* Council on Graduate Medical Education (COGME).

*Date and Time:* September 6, 2001, 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m. September 7, 2001, 8:30 a.m.—12 p.m.

*Place:* Holiday Inn, Versailles I Meeting Room, 8120 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814.

The meeting is open to the public.

*Agenda:* The agenda for the first day, September 6, will include: Welcome and opening comments from the Acting Administrator, Health Resources and Services Administration; the Associate Administrator for Health Professions; and the Acting Executive Secretary of COGME. The Council will discuss the preparation and development of the COGME Final Report.

The agenda for the second day, September 7, will include a presentation given by the Center for California Health Workforce Studies, University of California, San Francisco, CA, on its report, "Strategies for Improving the Racial and Ethnic Diversity of the Health Professions: Findings and Recommendations." There will be a discussion of future projects and the structure of the COGME work groups.

Anyone requiring information regarding the meeting should contact Crystal L. Clark, M.D., M.P.H., Acting Executive Secretary, Council on Graduate Medical Education, Division of Medicine and Dentistry, Bureau of Health Professions, Room 9A-27, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857, Telephone (301) 443-6326.

Agenda items are subject to change as priorities dictate.

Dated: July 25, 2001.

**Jane M. Harrison,**

*Director, Division of Policy Review and Coordination.*

[FR Doc. 01-19149 Filed 7-31-01; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Institutes of Health

#### National Cancer Institute; Notice of Meeting

Pursuant to section 10(a) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is hereby given of a meeting of the National Cancer Institute Director's Consumer Liaison Group.

The meeting will be open to the public, with attendance limited to space available. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should notify the Contact Person listed below in advance of the meeting.