

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: Revision of a currently approved collection;

Title of Information Collection:

Qualification Application and Supporting Regulations in 42 CFR 417.408 and 417.143;

Form No.: HCFA-901-1 (OMB# 0938-0470);

Use: Prepaid health plans must meet certain regulatory requirements to be federally qualified health maintenance organizations. This application is the collection form used to obtain the information from health plans that allow HCFA staff to determine compliance with the regulations.;

Frequency: Other: One-time;

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit, Not-for-profit institutions, and State, Local, or Tribal Government;

Number of Respondents: 35;

Total Annual Responses: 35;

Total Annual Hours: 3,500.

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: Dawn Willingham, Room N2-14-26, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

Dated: June 16, 2000.

John P. Burke III,

HCFA Reports Clearance Officer, HCFA Office of Information Services, Security and Standards Group, Division of HCFA Enterprise Standards.

[FR Doc. 00-16456 Filed 6-28-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4120-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care Financing Administration [HCFA-1030-N]

Medicare Program; Medicare+Choice Deeming Authority

AGENCY: Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces that 30 days after the publication of the Medicare+Choice (M+C) final rule, we will begin to accept applications from private accrediting organizations who seek M+C deeming authority.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This notice is effective on July 31, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patricia Kurtz, (410) 786-4670.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 4001 of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (BBA) (Pub. L. 105-33), enacted on August 5, 1987, added section 1852(e)(4) to the Social Security Act (the Act), which gives us the authority to determine that a Medicare+Choice Organization (M+CO) is "deemed" to be in compliance with certain Medicare requirements if the M+CO has been accredited (and is periodically reaccredited) by an accrediting organization that we have determined applies and enforces requirements at least as stringent as those the M+CO would be deemed to meet. Section 518 of the Balance Budget Refinement Act of 1999 (BBRA) (Pub. L. 106-113), enacted on November 29, 1999, amended section 1852(e)(4) of the Act to expand the scope of deeming from two to six areas. Accrediting organizations may seek authority for any of the categories. The BBRA specified that we cannot require an accrediting entity to be able to certify plans for all the deeming categories. It also required us to determine, within 210 days from the day the application is determined to be complete, the eligibility of the accrediting organizations to be granted deeming authority. Conditions and procedures for granting deeming authority to accrediting organizations are outlined in § 422.157 and § 422.158 of title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Applications

This notice announces that 30 days after the publication of the M+C final rule, we will begin to accept applications from national private accrediting organizations who seek M+C

deeming authority. To receive an application packet, please contact Patricia Kurtz at (410) 786-4670 or via e-mail at pkurtz@hcfa.gov or mail your inquiries to: Patricia Kurtz, Health Care Financing Administration, Health Plan Administration Group, Room C4-24-04, 7500 Security Blvd., Baltimore, MD. 21244.

Authority: Section 1852(e)(4) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-22(e)(4)) (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.773 Medicare—Hospital Insurance Program; and No. 93.774, Medicare—Supplementary Medical Insurance Program)

Dated: June 19, 2000.

Nancy-Ann Min DeParle,

Administrator, Health Care Financing Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Indian Health Service

Request to Office of Management and Budget for Reinstatement of Agency Information Collection for Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Contracts

AGENCIES: Bureau of Indian Affairs, DOI and Indian Health Service, DHHS.

ACTION: 30-Day Notice of Submission to OMB.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Interior and the Department of Health and Human Services announce submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) of a request for reinstatement of information collection, OMB #1076-0136, "Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act Programs." The information collection will be used to process contracts, grants or cooperative agreements for award by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service as authorized by the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act as amended and set forth

in 25 CFR part 900. The Department of the Interior and the Department of Health and Human Services invite you to submit comments to the OMB on the information collection described below.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before July 31, 2000.

ADDRESSES: If you wish to comment, you may submit your comments to Attn: Desk Officer for Department of the Interior, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Docket Library, Room 10102, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503. Please send copy of comments to James Thomas, Office of Tribal Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW, MS 4660 MIB, Washington, DC 20240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James Thomas, Office of Tribal Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW, MS 4660 MIB, Washington, DC 20240, or (202) 208-5727.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Representatives of the Department of the Interior, the Department of Health and Human Services and the tribes developed a joint rule, 25 CFR part 900, to implement section 107 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, as amended by, Public Law 103-413, the Indian Self-Determination Contract Reform Act of 1994. Section 107(a)(2)(A)(ii) of the Indian Self-Determination Contract Reform Act requires the joint rule to permit contracts and grants be awarded to Indian tribes without the unnecessary burden or confusion associated with two sets of rules and information collection requirements when there is a single program legislation involved. The burden hours for this collection have been reduced as a result of tribes contracting multiple programs under a single contract, as authorized under 25 CFR 900.8, tribes administering 'mature' contracts which require fewer reports and, tribes entering into Self-Governance 'compacts,' under which Self-Governance tribes may combine all programs under a single self-governance compact.

The information requirements for this joint rule represent significant differences from other agencies in several respects. Both the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service let contracts for multiple programs whereas other agencies usually award single grants to tribes. Under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, as amended by the Indian Self-

Determination Contract Reform Act of 1994, tribes are entitled to contract and may renew contracts annually where other agencies provide grants on a discretionary/competitive basis.

The proposal and other supporting documentation identified in this information collection is used by the Department of the Interior and the Department of Health and Human Services to determine applicant eligibility, evaluate applicant capabilities, protect the service population, safeguard Federal funds and other resources, and permit the Federal agencies to administer and evaluate contract programs. Tribal governments or tribal organizations provide the information by submitting Public Law 93-638 contract or grant proposals to the appropriate Federal agency. No third party notification or public disclosure burden is associated with this collection.

Request for Comments: The Department of the Interior and the Department of Health and Human Services request comments on this information collection particularly concerning: (1) The necessity of the information collection for the proper performance of the agencies' functions; (2) whether this information collection duplicates a collection elsewhere by the Federal Government; (3) whether the burden estimate is accurate or could be reduced using technology available to all respondents; (4) if the quality of the information requested ensures its usefulness to the agency(ies); (5) if the instructions are clear and easily understood, leading to the least burden on the respondents. A Federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Please submit any comments to the contact in the **ADDRESSES** section. Please submit a copy of comments on this information collection to the Bureau of Indian Affairs by telefax to (202) 208-5113. You may also hand deliver written comments or view comments at the address found in "**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.**" You may obtain a copy of this information collection document and the OMB submission at no charge by a written request to the same address, by telefaxing a request to the above number, or by calling (202) 208-5727. Please identify the information collection by, OMB #1076-0136. We make the comments and names and addresses of commentators available for public review during regular business hours. If you wish us to withhold your name and address, you

must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. We will honor your request to the extent allowable by law.

Burden Statement: Respondents may be required to respond from 1 to 12 times per year, depending upon the number of programs they contract from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service. In addition, each Subpart concerns different parts of the contracting process. For example, Subpart C relates to provisions of initial contract proposal contents. The burden associated with this would not be used when contracts are renewed. Subpart F describes minimum standards for the management systems used by Indian tribes or tribal organizations under these contracts. Subpart G addresses the negotiability of all reporting and data requirements in the contract.

Total annual burden: 238,992 hours.

Total number of respondents: 550.

Total number of responses: 5,507.

Dated: June 21, 2000.

Kevin Gover,

*Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs,
Department of the Interior.*

Dated: April 26, 2000.

Michael H. Trujillo,

*Assistant Surgeon General, Director, Indian
Health Service, Department of Health and
Human Services.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Information Collection Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for Renewal Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We have submitted the information collection requirements to renew approval of the collection of information for special use permit applications on national wildlife refuges in Alaska to OMB for approval under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Submit comments on or before July 31, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Send comments and suggestions on specific requirements directly to the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Department of the Interior Desk Officer, 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC