

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS-1316-N]

**Medicare Program; Meeting of the Practicing Physicians
Advisory Council, December 5, 2005**

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS),
HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a quarterly meeting of the Practicing Physicians Advisory Council (the Council). The Council will meet to discuss certain proposed changes in regulations and carrier manual instructions related to physicians' services, as identified by the Secretary of Health and Human Services (the Secretary). This meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 5, 2005, from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. e.s.t.

ADDRESS: The meeting will be held in Room 705A 7th floor, in the Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20201.

MEETING REGISTRATION: Persons wishing to attend this meeting must register by contacting Kelly Buchanan, the Designated Federal Official (DFO) by email at PPAC@cms.hhs.gov or by telephone at (410) 786-6132, at

least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. This meeting will be held in a Federal Government Building, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, and persons attending the meeting will be required to show a photographic identification, preferably a valid driver's license, and will be listed on an approved security list before persons are permitted entrance. Persons not registered in advance will not be permitted into the Hubert H. Humphrey Building and will not be permitted to attend the Council meeting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kelly Buchanan, (410)786-6132, or e-mail PPAC@cms.hhs.gov. News media representatives must contact the CMS Press Office, (202) 690-6145. Please refer to the CMS Advisory Committees' Information Line (1-877-449-5659 toll free), (410)786-9379 local) or the Internet at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/faca/ppac/default.asp> for additional information and updates on committee activities.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

In accordance with section 10(a) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, this notice announces the quarterly meeting of the Practicing Physicians Advisory Council (the Council). The Secretary is mandated by section 1868(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (the Act) to appoint a Practicing Physicians Advisory Council based on nominations

submitted by medical organizations representing physicians. The Council meets quarterly to discuss certain proposed changes in regulations and carrier manual instructions related to physicians' services, as identified by the Secretary. To the extent feasible and consistent with statutory deadlines, the Council's consultation must occur before **Federal Register** publication of the proposed changes. The Council submits an annual report on its recommendations to the Secretary and the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) not later than December 31 of each year.

The Council consists of 15 physicians, including the Chair. Members of the Council include both participating and nonparticipating physicians, and physicians practicing in rural and underserved urban areas. At least 11 members of the Council must be physicians as described in section 1861(r)(1) of the Act; that is, State-licensed doctors of medicine or osteopathy. The remaining 4 members may include dentists, podiatrists, optometrists and chiropractors. Members serve for overlapping 4-year terms; terms of more than 2 years are contingent upon the renewal of the Council by appropriate action prior to its termination.

Section 1868(a)(2) of the Act provides that the Council meet quarterly to discuss certain proposed changes in regulations and manual issuances that relate to physicians' services, identified by the Secretary. Council members are expected to participate in all meetings. Section 1868(a)(3) of the Act provides for payment of expenses and a per diem allowance for Council members at a rate equal to payment provided members of other advisory committees. In addition to making these payments, the Department of Health and Human Services and CMS provide management and support services to the Council. The Secretary will appoint new members to the Council from among those candidates determined to have the expertise required to meet specific agency needs in a manner to ensure appropriate balance of the Council's membership.

The Council held its first meeting on May 11, 1992. The current members are: Ronald Castellanos, M.D., Chairperson; Jose Azocar, M.D.; M. Leroy Sprang, M.D.; Rebecca Gaughan, M.D.; Peter Grimm, D.O.; Carlos R. Hamilton, M.D.; Dennis K. Iglar, M.D.; Joe Johnson, D.C.; Christopher Leggett, M.D.; Barbara McAneny, M.D.; Geraldine O'Shea, D.O.; Laura B. Powers, M.D.; Gregory J. Przybylski, M.D.; Anthony Senagore, M.D.; and Robert L. Urata, M.D.

The meeting will commence with the Council's Executive Director providing a status report and the CMS responses to the recommendations made by the Council at the August 22, 2005 meeting as well as prior meeting recommendations. Additionally, an update will be provided on the Physician Regulatory Issues Team. In accordance with the Council charter, we are requesting assistance with the following agenda topics:

- Pay for Performance Quality Measures
- Physician Fee Schedule and Outpatient Fee Schedule Final Rule
- Medicare Contractor Provider Satisfaction Survey (MCPSS): The 2006 Administration and its Application to Contractor Oversight and Performance Evaluation

For additional information and clarification on these topics, contact the DFO as provided in the "For Further Information Contact" section of this notice. Individual physicians or medical organizations that represent physicians wishing to make a 5-minute oral presentation on agenda issues must contact the DFO by 12 noon, e.s.t., November 18, 2005, to be scheduled. Testimony is limited to agenda topics only. The number of oral presentations may be limited by the time available. A written copy of

the presenter's oral remarks must be submitted to Kelly Buchanan, DFO, no later than 12 noon, e.s.t., November 18, 2005, for distribution to Council members for review prior to the meeting. Physicians and medical organizations not scheduled to speak may also submit written comments to the DFO for distribution no later than noon, e.s.t., November 18, 2005. The meeting is open to the public, but attendance is limited to the space available.

Special Accommodations: Individuals requiring sign language interpretation or other special accommodation must contact the DFO by email at PPAC@cms.hhs.gov or by telephone at (410) 786-6132 at least 10 days before the meeting.

Authority: (Section 1868 of the Social Security Act
(42 U.S.C. 1395ee) and section 10(a) of Pub. L. 92-463
(5 U.S.C. App. 2, section 10(a).))

Dated: _____

Mark McClellan
Administrator,
Centers for Medicare &
Medicaid Services.

BILLING CODE: 4120-01-P