

staff and resource limitations, we cannot accept comments by facsimile (FAX) transmission.

You may submit comments in one of three ways (no duplicates, please):

1. *Electronically.* You may submit electronic comments on specific issues in this regulation to <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/regulations/ecomments>. (Attachments should be in Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, or Excel; however, we prefer Microsoft Word.)

2. *By mail.* You may mail written comments (one original and two copies) to the following address only: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, Attention: CMS-3835-P, P.O. Box 8013, Baltimore, MD 21244-8013.

Please allow sufficient time for mailed comments to be received before the close of the comment period.

3. *By hand or courier.* If you prefer, you may deliver (by hand or courier) your written comments (one original and two copies) before the close of the comment period to one of the following addresses. If you intend to deliver your comments to the Baltimore address, please call telephone number (410) 786-9994 in advance to schedule your arrival with one of our staff members.

Room 445-G, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20201; or 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21244-1850.

(Because access to the interior of the HHH Building is not readily available to persons without Federal Government identification, commenters are encouraged to leave their comments in the CMS drop slots located in the main lobby of the building. A stamp-in clock is available for persons wishing to retain a proof of filing by stamping in and retaining an extra copy of the comments being filed.)

Comments mailed to the addresses indicated as appropriate for hand or courier delivery may be delayed and received after the comment period.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Eva Fung, (410) 786-7539.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On February 4, 2005 (70 FR 6140), we published a proposed rule in the *Federal Register* that set forth the requirements that heart, heart-lung, intestine, kidney, liver, lung, and pancreas transplant centers would be required to meet to participate as Medicare-approved transplant centers.

The proposed rule set forth the first comprehensive hospital conditions of participation (CoPs) for transplant centers that perform organ transplants. The proposed rule contains multiple

new technical, structural, and performance requirements, including new procedures for approval and re-approval of transplant centers and new outcome performance measures. Due to the large number of proposed new requirements and the technical nature of the proposed outcome performance measures, we are extending the comment period to ensure sufficient time for the public to review and comment on the proposed requirements. Therefore, we are extending the public comment period for an additional 60 days, until June 6, 2005. We believe the revised date will allow sufficient time for the public to provide comments.

Authority: Sections 1102 and 1871 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1302, 1395hh).

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.778, Medical Assistance Program; No. 93.773, Medicare—Hospital Insurance Program; and No. 93.774, Medicare—Supplementary Medical Insurance Program)

Dated: March 14, 2005.

Mark B. McClellan,

Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

Approved: March 18, 2005.

Michael O. Leavitt,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 05-5918 Filed 3-24-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4120-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

42 CFR Parts 413, 441, 486 and 498

[CMS-3064-N]

RIN 0938-AK81

Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Conditions for Coverage for Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs); Extension of Comment Period

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

ACTION: Notice of extension of comment period for proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This notice extends the comment period for a proposed rule published in the *Federal Register* on February 4, 2005, (70 FR 6086). In that rule, we proposed to establish new conditions for coverage for organ procurement organizations (OPOs), including multiple new outcome and process performance measures based on donor potential and other related factors in each service area of qualified OPOs. We are proposing new standards with

the goal of improving OPO performance and increasing organ donation. The comment period is extended for 60 days.

DATES: *Effective Date:* The comment period is extended to 5 p.m. on June 6, 2005.

ADDRESSES: In commenting, please refer to file code CMS-3064-P. Because of staff and resource limitations, we cannot accept comments by facsimile (FAX) transmission.

You may submit comments in one of three ways (no duplicates, please):

1. *Electronically.* You may submit electronic comments on specific issues in this regulation to <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/regulations/ecomments>. (Attachments should be in Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, or Excel; however, we prefer Microsoft Word.)

2. *By mail.* You may mail written comments (one original and two copies) to the following address ONLY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, Attention: CMS-3064-P, P.O. Box 8015, Baltimore, MD 21244-8015.

Please allow sufficient time for mailed comments to be received before the close of the comment period.

3. *By hand or courier.* If you prefer, you may deliver (by hand or courier) your written comments (one original and two copies) before the close of the comment period to one of the following addresses. If you intend to deliver your comments to the Baltimore address, please call telephone number (410) 786-9994 in advance to schedule your arrival with one of our staff members. Room 445-G, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20201; or 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21244-1850.

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Comments mailed to the addresses indicated as appropriate for hand or courier delivery may be delayed and received after the comment period.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marcia Newton, (410) 786-5265.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On February 4, 2005, we published a proposed rule in the *Federal Register* (70 FR 6086) that would establish new conditions for coverage for organ

procurement organizations (OPOs), including multiple new outcome and process performance measures based on donor potential and other related factors in each service area of qualified OPOs.

The proposed rule includes comprehensive conditions for coverage for OPOs that would replace the OPO existing conditions for coverage. The proposed rule contains multiple new technical, structural, and performance requirements, including new procedures for re-certification of OPOs and new outcome performance measures based on organ donor potential. Due to the large number of proposed new requirements and the technical nature of the proposed outcome performance measures, we are extending the comment period to ensure sufficient time for the public to review and comment on the proposed requirements. Therefore, we are extending the public comment period for an additional 60 days, until June 6, 2005.

Authority: Sections 1102, 1138, and 1871 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1302, 1320b–g, and 1395hh) and section 371 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 273). (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.778, Medical Assistance Program; No. 93.773 Medicare—Hospital Insurance Program; and No. 93.774, Medicare—Supplementary Medical Insurance Program)

Dated: March 14, 2005.

Mark B. McClellan,
Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

Approved: March 18, 2005.

Michael O. Leavitt,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 05–5917 Filed 3–24–05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4120–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

42 CFR Part 482

[CMS–3122–P]

RIN 0938–AM88

Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Hospital Conditions of Participation: Requirements for History and Physical Examinations; Authentication of Verbal Orders; Securing Medications; and Postanesthesia Evaluations

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

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: In this proposed rule, we propose revisions to four of the current hospital conditions of participation (CoPs) for approval or continued participation in the Medicare and Medicaid programs. We are proposing changes to the CoP requirements related to: Completion of a history and physical examination in the medical staff and the medical record services CoPs; authentication of verbal orders in the nursing service and the medical record services CoPs; securing medications in the pharmaceutical services CoP; and completion of the postanesthesia evaluation in the anesthesia services CoP. These proposals respond to concerns within the medical community that the current Medicare hospital CoPs are contrary to current practice and are unduly burdensome. The changes specified in this proposed rule are consistent with current medical practice and will reduce the regulatory burden on hospitals.

DATES: To be assured consideration, comments must be received at one of the addresses provided below, no later than 5 p.m. on May 24, 2005.

ADDRESSES: In commenting, please refer to file code CMS–3122–P. Because of staff and resource limitations, we cannot accept comments by facsimile (FAX) transmission.

You may submit comments in one of three ways (no duplicates, please):

1. *Electronically.* You may submit electronic comments on specific issues in this regulation to <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/regulations/ecomments>. (Attachments should be in Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, or Excel; however, we prefer Microsoft Word.)
2. *By mail.* You may mail written comments (one original and two copies) to the following address ONLY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, Attention: CMS–3122–P, P.O. Box 8010, Baltimore, MD 21244–8010.

Please allow sufficient time for mailed comments to be received before the close of the comment period.

3. *By hand or courier.* If you prefer, you may deliver (by hand or courier) your written comments (one original and two copies) before the close of the comment period to one of the following addresses. If you intend to deliver your comments to the Baltimore address, please call telephone number (410) 786–9994 in advance to schedule your arrival with one of our staff members.

Room 445–G, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20201; or 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21244–1850.

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Submission of comments on paperwork requirements. You may submit comments on this document's paperwork requirements by mailing your comments to the addresses provided at the end of the "Collection of Information Requirements" section in this document.

For information on viewing public comments, see the beginning of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patricia Chmielewski, (410) 786–6899. Jeannie Miller, (410) 786–3164.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Submitting Comments: We welcome comments from the public on all issues set forth in this rule to assist us in fully considering issues and developing policies. You can assist us by referencing the file code CMS–3122–P and the specific "issue identifier" that precedes the section on which you choose to comment.

Inspection of Public Comments: All comments received before the close of the comment period are available for viewing by the public, including any personally identifiable or confidential business information that is included in a comment. After the close of the comment period, CMS posts all electronic comments received before the close of the comment period on its public website. Comments received timely will be available for public inspection as they are received, generally beginning approximately 3 weeks after publication of a document, at the headquarters of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21244, Monday through Friday of each week from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. To schedule an appointment to view public comments, (410) 786–9994.

Copies: To order copies of the **Federal Register** containing this document, send your request to: New Orders, Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250–7954. Specify the date of the issue requested and enclose a check or money order