

Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractors (MAC), Certificates of Medical Necessity; *Use:* The certificate of medical necessity (CMN) collects information required to help determine the medical necessity of certain items. CMS requires CMNs where there may be a vulnerability to the Medicare program. Each initial claim for these items must have an associated CMN for the beneficiary. Suppliers (those who bill for the items) complete the administrative information (e.g., patient's name and address, items ordered, etc.) on each CMN. The 1994 Amendments to the Social Security Act require that the supplier also provide a narrative description of the items ordered and all related accessories, their charge for each of these items, and the Medicare fee schedule allowance (where applicable). The supplier then sends the CMN to the treating physician or other clinicians (e.g., physician assistant, LPN, etc.) who completes questions pertaining to the beneficiary's medical condition and signs the CMN. The physician or other clinician returns the CMN to the supplier who has the option to maintain a copy and then submits the CMN (paper or electronic) to CMS, along with a claim for reimbursement. *Form Number:* CMS-846-849, 854, 10125, 10126, 10269 (OMB# 0938-0679); *Frequency:* Occasionally; *Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit and Not-for-profit institutions; *Number of Respondents:* 59,200; *Total Annual Responses:* 6,480,000; *Total Annual Hours:* 1,296,000.

To obtain copies of the supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed paperwork collections referenced above, access CMS' Web Site at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PaperworkReductionActof1995>, or e-mail your request, including your address, phone number, OMB number, and CMS document identifier, to Paperwork@cms.hhs.gov, or call the Reports Clearance Office on (410) 786-1326.

In commenting on the proposed information collections please reference the document identifier or OMB control number. To be assured consideration, comments and recommendations must be submitted in one of the following ways by *September 23, 2008*:

1. *Electronically.* You may submit your comments electronically to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for "Comment or Submission" or "More Search Options" to find the information collection document(s) accepting comments.
2. *By regular mail.* You may mail written comments to the following address: CMS, Office of Strategic

Operations and Regulatory Affairs, Division of Regulations Development, Attention: Document Identifier/OMB Control Number _____, Room C4-26-05, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

Dated: July 18, 2008.

Michelle Shortt,

Director, Regulations Development Group, Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs.

[FR Doc. E8-17117 Filed 7-24-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS-1396-N]

Medicare Program; Announcement of Three New Members to the Advisory Panel on Ambulatory Payment Classification (APC) Groups

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces three new members selected to serve on the Advisory Panel on Ambulatory Payment Classification (APC) Groups (the Panel). The purpose of the Panel is to review the APC groups and their associated weights and to advise the Secretary, DHHS (the Secretary), and the Administrator, CMS (the Administrator), concerning the clinical integrity of the APC groups and their associated weights. We will consider the Panel's advice as we prepare the annual updates of the hospital outpatient prospective payment system (OPPS).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For inquiries about the Panel, please contact the Designated Federal Official (DFO): Shirl Ackerman-Ross, DFO, CMS, CMM, HAPG, DOC, 7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop C4-05-17, Baltimore, MD 21244-1850. Phone (410) 786-4474.

APC Panel E-Mail Address: The E-mail address for the Panel is as follows: CMSAPCPanel@cms.hhs.gov.

Note: There is NO underscore in this e-mail address; there is a SPACE between CMS and APCPanel.

News Media Contact: News media representatives must contact our Public Affairs Office at (202) 690-6145.

CMS Advisory Committees Hotlines: The CMS Federal Advisory Committee Hotline is 1-877-449-5659 (toll free) and (410) 786-9379 (local) for additional Panel information.

Web Sites: For additional information regarding the APC Panel membership, meetings, agendas, and updates to the Panel's activities, please search our Web site at the following Uniform Resource Locator (URL): http://www.cms.hhs.gov/FACA/05_AdvisoryPanelonAmbulatoryPaymentClassificationGroups.asp#TopOfPage.

Note: There is an underscore after FACA/05 (like this _); there is no space.

The public may also access the following URL for the Federal Advisory Committee Act Web site to obtain APC Panel information: <https://www.fido.gov/facadatabase/logon.asp>. A copy of the Panel's Charter and other pertinent information are on both Web sites mentioned above. You may also e-mail the Panel DFO at the above e-mail address for a copy of the Charter.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Secretary is required by section 1833(t)(9)(A) of the Social Security Act (the Act), as amended and redesignated by sections 201(h) and 202(a)(2) of the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Balanced Budget Refinement Act of 1999 (BBRA) (Pub. L. 106-113), to consult with an expert outside advisory Panel regarding the clinical integrity of the APC groups and relative payment weights that are components of the Medicare hospital OPPS.

The APC Panel meets up to three times annually. The Charter requires that the Panel must be fairly balanced in its membership in terms of the points of view represented and the functions to be performed. The Panel consists of up to 15 members, who are representatives of providers, and a Chair. Each Panel member must be employed full-time by a hospital, hospital system, or other Medicare provider subject to payment under the OPPS. The Secretary or Administrator selects the Panel membership based upon either self-nominations or nominations submitted by Medicare providers and other interested organizations. All members must have technical expertise to enable them to participate fully in the work of the Panel. This expertise encompasses hospital payment systems; hospital medical-care delivery systems; provider billing systems; APC groups, Current Procedural Terminology codes, and alpha-numeric Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System codes; and the use and payment of drugs and medical devices in the outpatient setting, as well as other forms of relevant expertise.

The Charter requires that all members have a minimum of 5 years experience

in their area(s) of expertise, but it is not necessary that any member be an expert in all of the areas listed above. For purposes of this Panel, consultants, independent contractors, and individuals in private practice are not considered as being full-time employees of hospitals, hospital systems, or other Medicare providers that are paid under the Medicare hospital OPPS. Panel members serve up to 4-year terms. A member may serve after the expiration of his or her term until a successor has been sworn in. All terms are contingent upon the renewal of the Panel's Charter by appropriate action before its termination. The Secretary re-chartered the APC Panel effective November 21, 2006.

II. Announcement of New Members

The Panel may consist of a Chair and up to 15 Panel members who serve without compensation, according to an advance written agreement. Travel, meals, lodging, and related expenses for the meeting are reimbursed in accordance with standard Government

travel regulations. We have a special interest in ensuring that women, minorities, representatives from various geographical locations, and the physically challenged are adequately represented on the Panel.

The Secretary, or his designee, appoints new members to the Panel from among those candidates determined to have the required expertise. New appointments are made in a manner that ensures a balanced membership.

The Panel presently consists of the following 15 members and a Chair: (The asterisk [*] indicates a Panel member whose term expires on 06/30/2008, and the double asterisk [**] indicates Panel members whose terms expire on 09/30/2008.)

- Edith Hambrick, M.D., J.D., Chair
- Gloryanne Bryant, B.S., R.H.I.A., R.H.I.T., C.C.S.
- Patrick Grusenmeyer, Sc.D., M.P.A., F.A.C.H.
- Hazel Kimmel, R.N., C.C.S., C.P.C.*
- Michael D. Mills, Ph.D., M.S.P.H.
- Thomas M. Munger, M.D., F.A.C.C.
- Agatha L. Nolen, D.Ph., M.S.

- Beverly Khnie Philip, M.D.
- Louis Potters, M.D., F.A.C.R.**
- Russ Ranallo, M.S.
- James V. Rawson, M.D.
- Michael A. Ross, M.D., F.A.C.E.P.
- Judie S. Snipes, R.N., M.B.A., F.A.C.H.E.**
- Patricia Spencer-Cisek, M.S., A.P.R.N.-BC, A.O.C.N.®
- Kim Allan Williams, M.D., F.A.C.C., F.A.B.C.
- Robert Matthew Zwolak, M.D., Ph.D., F.A.C.S.

On February 22, 2008, we published the notice titled "Request for Nominations to the Advisory Panel on Ambulatory Payment Classification Groups" (CMS-1395-N) in the **Federal Register** (FR) requesting nominations to the Panel replacing Panel members whose terms would expire prior to or on September 30, 2008. As a result of that FR notice, we are announcing three new members to the Panel. One new 4-year appointment commences on August 1, 2008, and two new 4-year appointments commence on October 1, 2008, as indicated below:

New panel members	Terms
• Kathleen M. Graham, RN, MSHA, CPHQ	08/01/2008–07/31/2012
• Randall A. Oyer, MD	10/01/2008–09/30/2012
• Judith T. Kelly, BSHA, RHIT, RHIA, CCS	10/01/2008–09/30/2012

Note: Ms. Graham replaces Ms. Kimmel whose term expires 06/30/2008 when she retires. Dr. Oyer will replace Dr. Potters, and Ms. Kelly will replace Ms. Snipes. Ms. Snipes' and Dr. Potters' terms expire on 09/30/2008.

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

Dated: July 9, 2008.

Kerry Weems,

Acting Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

[FR Doc. E8-17169 Filed 7-24-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS-1558-N]

Medicare Program; Request for Nominations and Meeting of the Practicing Physicians Advisory Council, August 18, 2008

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice invites all organizations representing physicians to submit nominations for consideration to fill two seats on the Practicing Physicians Advisory Council (the Council) that will be vacated by current Council members in 2009. This notice also announces a quarterly meeting of the Council. The Council will meet to discuss certain proposed changes in regulations and 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: *Meeting Date:* Monday, August 18, 2008, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. e.d.t.

Deadline for Registration Without Oral Presentation: Thursday, August 14, 2008, 12 noon, e.d.t.

Deadline for Registration of Oral Presentations: Friday, August 1, 2008, 12 noon, e.d.t.

Deadline for Submission of Oral Remarks and Written Comments: Wednesday, August 6, 2008, 12 noon, e.d.t.

Deadline for Requesting Special Accommodations: Monday, August 11, 2008, 12 noon, e.d.t.

Deadline for Submitting Nominations: Friday, September 12, 2008, 5 p.m. e.d.t.

ADDRESSES: *Meeting Location:* The meeting will be held in the Multi-purpose Room, 1st floor, at the CMS Central Office, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21244.

Submission of Testimony: Testimonies should be mailed to Kelly Buchanan, Designated Federal Official (DFO), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 7500 Security Boulevard, Mail stop C4-13-07, Baltimore, MD 21244-1850, or contact the DFO via e-mail at PPAC_hhs@cms.hhs.gov.

Submission of Nominations: Mail or deliver nominations to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Center for Medicare Management, Division of Provider Relations and Evaluations, Attention: Kelly Buchanan, Designated Federal Official, Practicing Physicians Advisory Council, 7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop C4-13-07, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kelly Buchanan, DFO, (410) 786-6132, or e-mail PPAC_hhs@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-