

Registration: Fax registration information (including name, title, firm name, address, telephone, and fax number) by January 8, 1999, to the contact person listed in Table 1 of this document for the meeting location you wish to attend. There is no charge for attending these meeting. However, space is limited, so you should register early.

If you need special accommodations due to a disability, please contact the appropriate contact person at least 7 days in advance.

Dated: December 7, 1998.

William K. Hubbard,

Associate Commissioner for Policy Coordination.

[FR Doc. 98-33051 Filed 12-11-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care Financing Administration [HCFA-3432-N2]

Medicare Program; Establishment of the Medicare Coverage Advisory Committee and Request for Nominations for Members

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the establishment of the Medicare Coverage Advisory Committee that will advise the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration, as requested by the Secretary, whether medical items and services are reasonable and necessary under title XVIII of the Social Security Act. This notice requests nominations for members for the Committee.

This notice also announces the signing by the Secretary on November 24, 1998 of the charter establishing the Committee. This charter ends at close of business on November 23, 2000 unless renewed by the Secretary.

DATES: Nominations for members will be considered if we receive them at the appropriate address, as provided below, no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 29, 1999.

ADDRESSES: You may mail or deliver nominations for membership to the following address: Health Care Financing Administration, Attention: Richard Coyne, 7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop South Building 03-02-01, Baltimore, MD 21244.

A request for a copy of the Secretary's Charter for the Medicare Coverage

Advisory Committee (MCAC) should be submitted to Maria Ellis, Office of Clinical Standards and Quality, Health Care Financing Administration, 7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop South Building 3-02-01, Baltimore, MD 21244, (410) 786-0309, or by e-mail to mellis@hcfa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard Coyne, (410) 786-4458.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Medicare Coverage Advisory Committee (MCAC) is governed by provisions of Public Law 92-463 as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), which sets forth standards for the formulation and use of advisory committees.

The MCAC will consist of 120 appointed members from among authorities in clinical and administrative medicine, biologic and physical sciences, public health administration, health care data and information management and analysis, the economics of health care, medical ethics, and other related professions.

The MCAC, functioning on a panel basis, will review and evaluate medical literature, review technical assessments, and examine data and information on the effectiveness and appropriateness of medical items and services that are covered or eligible for coverage under Medicare. The panels will work from an agenda provided by the MCAC that lists specific issues. The panels will develop technical advice to be reviewed and ratified by the MCAC to assist us in determining reasonable and necessary applications of medical services and technology.

We are requesting nominations for voting members to serve on panels of the MCAC. We have a special interest in ensuring that women, minority groups, and physically challenged individuals are adequately represented on the advisory committee and, therefore, encourage nominations of qualified candidates from these groups.

All nominations and curricula vitae for the MCAC should be sent to Richard Coyne at the address above.

Criteria for Members:

Persons nominated for membership should have expertise in one or more of the following fields: clinical and administrative medicine, biologic and physical sciences, public health administration, health care data and information management and analysis, the economics of health care, medical ethics, and other related professions.

We are also seeking nominations from consumer organizations.

Representatives of a consumer organization must possess appropriate qualifications to understand and contribute to the MCAC's work.

Nominations must state that the nominee is willing to serve as a member of the MCAC and appears to have no conflict of interest that would preclude membership. Potential candidates will be asked to provide detailed information concerning such matters as financial holdings, consultancies, and research grants or contracts to permit evaluation of possible sources of conflict of interest.

Members shall be invited to serve for overlapping 4-year terms; terms of more than 2 years are contingent upon the renewal of the MCAC by appropriate action before its termination. A member may serve after the expiration of the member's term until a successor has taken office.

Any interested person may nominate one or more qualified persons. Self-nominations will also be accepted.

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

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

Dated: December 7, 1998

Nancy-Ann Min DeParle,

Administrator, Health Care Financing Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Library of Medicine; Notice of Meetings

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is hereby given of meetings of the Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine.

The meetings will be open to the public as indicated below, 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.

The meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C.,