

The notice is amended as follows: On page 70274, column 3, lines 61–65, delete the section entitled “1. Abstract.” The Abstract is already included on page two of the PHS 398 application form in the section called “Description.” On page 70275, column 2, lines 8–15, delete the section entitled “9. Project Budget.”

The project budget information is already included on page 4 of the PHS 398 application form.

Dated: February 23, 2004.

Sandra R. Manning,

*Director, Procurement and Grants Office,
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*

[FR Doc. 04–4350 Filed 2–26–04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[Program Announcement 04054]

Youth Violence Prevention Through Community-Level Change; Notice of Availability of Funds-Amendment

A notice announcing the availability of fiscal year (FY) 2004 funds for a cooperative agreement program to evaluate community-level interventions to reduce youth violence was published in the **Federal Register** on December 2, 2003, volume 68, number 231, pages 67450–67455.

The notice is amended as follows: On page 67452, column 2, the section entitled “1. Abstract” should be deleted. The abstract is already included on page 2 of the PHS 398 application form in the section called “Description.” On page 67452, Column 3, and on page 67453, Column 1, the section entitled “9. Project Budget” should be deleted. The project budget information is already included on page 4 of the PHS 398 application form.

Dated: February 23, 2004.

Sandra R. Manning,

*Director, Procurement and Grants Office,
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*

[FR Doc. 04–4349 Filed 2–26–04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS–4070–N]

Medicare Program; Request for Nominations for the Advisory Panel on Medicare Education

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice requests nominations for individuals to serve on the Advisory Panel on Medicare Education (the Panel). The Panel advises and makes recommendations to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), on opportunities for CMS to optimize the effectiveness of the National Medicare Education Program and other CMS programs that help Medicare beneficiaries understand the Medicare program and the range of Medicare health plan options available under the Medicare+Choice and Medicare Advantage Program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Nominations will be considered if we receive them at the appropriate address, provided below, no later than 5 p.m. on March, 19, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Mail or deliver nominations to the following address: Lynne G. Johnson, Center for Beneficiary Choices, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 7500 Security Boulevard, S2–23–05, Baltimore MD, 21244–1850.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lynne G. Johnson, Health Insurance Specialist, Division of Partnership Development, Center for Beneficiary Choices, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 7500 Security Boulevard, S2–23–05, Baltimore, MD, 21244–1850, (410) 786–0090. Please refer to the CMS Advisory Committees Information Line (1–877–449–5659 toll free) (410–786–9379 local) or the Internet (<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/faca/apme/default.asp>) for additional information and updates on committee activities, or contact Ms. Johnson via e-mail at ljohnson3@cms.hhs.gov. Press inquiries are handled through the CMS Press Office at (202) 690–6145.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 222 of the Public Health Service Act, as amended, grants to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (the Secretary) the authority to establish an advisory panel if the Secretary finds the panel necessary and

in the public interest. The Secretary signed the charter establishing this Panel on January 21, 1999 and the charter renewing the Panel on January 18, 2003. The Advisory Panel on Medicare Education advises the Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services on opportunities to enhance the effectiveness of consumer education materials serving the Medicare program.

The goals of the Panel are to provide advice on the following:

- Developing and implementing a national Medicare education program that describes the options for selecting health plans and prescription drug benefits under Medicare.
- Enhancing the Federal government's effectiveness in informing the Medicare consumer, including the appropriate use of public-private partnerships.
- Expanding outreach to vulnerable and underserved communities, including racial and ethnic minorities, in the context of a national Medicare education program.
- Assembling an information base of best practices for helping consumers evaluate health plan options and building a community infrastructure for information, counseling, and assistance.

The Panel must consist of a maximum of 20 members. The Chair must either be appointed from among the 20 members, or a Federal official will be designated to serve as the Chair. The charter requires that meetings must be held approximately four times per year. Members will be expected to attend all meetings. The members and the Chair must be selected from authorities knowledgeable in the fields of senior citizen advocacy; outreach to minority communities; health communications; disease-related health advocacy; disability policy and access; health economics research; health insurers and plans; providers and clinicians; and matters of labor and retirement; and from representatives of the general public.

This notice is an invitation to interested organizations or individuals to submit their nominations for membership on the Panel. Current members whose terms expire in 2004 will be considered for reappointment, if renominated, subject to committee service guidelines. The Secretary, or his designee, will appoint new members to the Panel from among those candidates determined to have the expertise required to meet specific agency needs, and in a manner to ensure an appropriate balance of membership.

Each nomination must state that the nominee has expressed a willingness to serve as a Panel member and must be accompanied by a short resume or description of the nominee's experience. In order to permit an evaluation of possible sources of conflict of interest, potential candidates will be asked to provide detailed information concerning such matters as financial holdings, consultancies, and research grants or contracts. Self-nominations also will be accepted.

Authority: (Section 222 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 217(a)) and section 10(a) of Pub. L. 92-463 (5 U.S.C. App. 2, section 10(a) and 41 CFR 102-3) (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.773, Medicare—Hospital Insurance Program; and Program No. 93.774, Medicare—Supplementary Medical Insurance Program)

Dated: February 24, 2004.

Dennis G. Smith,

Acting Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

[FR Doc. 04-4383 Filed 2-26-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS-3112-N]

RIN 0938-ZA49

Medicare Program; Calendar Year 2004 Review of the Appropriateness of Payment Amounts for New Technology Intraocular Lenses (NTIOLs) Furnished by Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASCs)

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice solicits interested parties to submit requests for review of the appropriateness of the payment amount for a particular intraocular lens furnished by an ambulatory surgical center.

DATES: Requests for review must be received at the address provided no later than 5 p.m. E.S.T. on March 29, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Mail requests for review (one original and three copies) to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, Attention: Betty Shaw, Mailstop C1-09-06, 7500 Security Blvd., Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Betty Shaw, (410) 786-6100.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 31, 1994, the Social Security Act Amendments of 1994 (SSAA 1994) (Pub. L. 103-432) were enacted. Section 141(b) of SSAA 1994 requires us to develop and implement a process under which interested parties may request, for a class of new technology intraocular lens (NTIOLs), a review of the appropriateness of the payment amount for intraocular lenses (IOLs) furnished by ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs) under section 1833(i)(2)(A)(iii) of the Social Security Act (the Act).

On June 16, 1999, we published a final rule in the **Federal Register** entitled "Adjustment in Payment Amounts for New Technology Intraocular Lenses Furnished by Ambulatory Surgical Centers" (64 FR 32198), which added subpart F to 42 CFR part 416. The June 16, 1999 final rule established a process for adjusting payment amounts for NTIOLs furnished by ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs); defined the terms relevant to the process; and established a flat rate payment adjustment of \$50 for IOLs that we determine are NTIOLs. The payment adjustment applies for a 5-year period that begins when we recognize a payment adjustment for the first IOL in a new subset of an existing class of IOLs or a new class of technology, as explained below. Any subsequent IOLs with the same characteristics as the first IOL recognized for a payment adjustment will receive the adjustment for the remainder of the 5-year period established by the first recognized IOL. After July 16, 2002, we have the option of changing the \$50 adjustment amount through a notice with a comment period. We have opted not to change that adjustment amount for calendar year 2004 (CY 04).

Review Process for Establishing Classes of New Technology Intraocular Lenses (NTIOLs)

We evaluate requests for the designation of an IOL as an NTIOL by doing the following:

(1) Publishing a public notice in the **Federal Register** that identifies the requirements and announces a deadline for submitting a request for us to review payment for an IOL.

(2) Processing requests to review the appropriateness of the payment amount for an IOL.

(3) Compiling a list of the requests we receive that identify the IOL manufacturer, IOL model number under review, name of the requester, and a summary of the request for review of the appropriateness of the IOL payment amount.

(4) Publishing an annual public notice in the **Federal Register** that lists the requests, and provides the public with 30 days to submit comments on the IOLs for which a review was requested.

(5) Reviewing the information submitted with the applicant's request for review, and requesting confirmation from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) about labeling applications that have been approved on the IOL model under review. We also request FDA's recommendations as to whether or not the IOL model submitted represents a new class of technology that sets it apart from other IOLs.

Using a baseline of the date of the last determination of a new class of IOLs, the FDA states an opinion based on proof of superiority over existing lenses of the same type of material or over lenses that are classified by a predominant characteristic such as reducing the risk of intraoperative or postoperative complications or trauma, or demonstrating accelerated postoperative recovery, reduced induced astigmatism, improved postoperative visual acuity, more stable postoperative vision, or other comparable clinical advantages.

(6) Determining which lenses meet the criteria to qualify for the payment adjustment based on clinical data and evidence submitted for review, the FDA's analysis, public comments on the lenses, and other available information.

(7) Designating a type of material or a predominant characteristic of an NTIOL that sets it apart from other IOLs to establish a new class.

(8) Publishing a notice in the **Federal Register** (within 120 days after we publish the notice identified in paragraph (4) of this section) that announces the IOLs that we have determined are "new technology" IOLs. These NTIOLs qualify for the following payment adjustment:

(a) Determinations made before July 16, 2002—\$50.

(b) Determinations made after July 16, 2002—\$50 or the amount announced through proposed and final rules in connection with ASC services.

(9) Adjusting payments effective 30 days after the publication of the notice announcing our determinations described in paragraph (8) of this section.

Who May Request a Review

Any party who is able to furnish the information required in § 416.195 (A request to review) may request that we review the appropriateness of the payment amount provided under section 1833(i)(2)(A)(iii) of the Act for an IOL that meets the definition of a