

For Further Information Contact:  
Sandra M. Peay, Contact Representative,  
or Renee Hallman, Legal Technician.  
Federal Trade Commission, Premerger  
Notification Office, Bureau of  
Competition, Room H-303, Washington,  
DC 20580. (202) 326-3100.

By direction of the Commission.

**Donald S. Clark,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 03-30861 Filed 12-12-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6750-01-M**

## GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

### Office of Governmentwide Policy

#### Cancellation of an Optional Form by the Department of State

**AGENCY:** Office of Governmentwide  
Policy, GSA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of State  
cancelled the following Optional Form:  
OF 137, Designation of Beneficiary (12/  
77).

This form is now a State Department  
form. You can request copies from:  
Department of State, A/RPS/DIR, SA-  
22, 18th and G Streets, NW.; Suite 2400,  
Washington, DC 20520-2201, 202-312-  
9605.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr.  
Charles Cunningham, Department of  
State, 202-312-9605.

**DATES:** Effective December 15, 2003.

Dated: December 5, 2003.

**Barbara M. Williams,**

*Deputy Standard and Optional Forms  
Management Officer, General Services  
Administration.*

[FR Doc. 03-30891 Filed 12-12-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6820-34-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS-1370-N]

#### Medicare Program; The Practicing Physicians Advisory Council's Request for Nominations

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice invites all  
organizations representing physicians to  
submit nominees for membership on the  
Council. There will be several vacancies  
on the Council as of February 28, 2004.

**DATES:** Nominations will be considered  
if received at the appropriate address,  
no later than 5 p.m. (EST) December 26,  
2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Mail or deliver nominations  
to the following address: Centers for  
Medicare & Medicaid Services, Center  
for Medicare Management, Division of  
Provider Relations and Evaluations,  
Attention: Cheryl L. Slay, Designated  
Federal Official, Practicing Physicians  
Advisory Council, 7500 Security  
Boulevard, Mail Stop C4-11-27,  
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kenneth Simon, M.D., Executive  
Director, Practicing Physicians Advisory  
Council, 7500 Security Boulevard, Mail  
Stop C4-10-07, Baltimore, MD 21244-  
1850, (410) 786-3377. 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](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/faca/ppac/default.asp) for additional information  
and updates on committee activities.  
News media representatives must  
contact the CMS Press Office, (202) 690-  
6145.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The  
Secretary of the Department of Health  
and Human Services (the Secretary) is  
mandated by section 1868 of the Social  
Security Act (the Act) to appoint a  
Practicing Physicians Advisory Council  
(the 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  
consultation must occur before  
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 not later  
than December 31 of each year.

The Council consists of 15 physicians,  
each of whom has submitted at least 250  
claims for physicians' services under  
Medicare in the previous year. 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 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 before its  
termination. Section 1868(a) of the Act  
provides that nominations to the  
Secretary for Council membership must  
be made by medical organizations  
representing physicians.

The Council held its first meeting on  
May 11, 1992. The current members are:  
James Bergeron, M.D.; Ronald  
Castallanos, M.D.; Rebecca Gaughan,  
M.D.; Carlos R. Hamilton, M.D.; Joseph  
Heyman, M.D.; Dennis K. Iglar, M.D.;  
Christopher Leggett, M.D.; Joe Johnson,  
D.O.; Barbara McAneny, M.D.; Angelyn  
L. Moultrie-Lizana, D.O.; Laura B.  
Powers, M.D.; Michael T. Rapp, M.D.;  
Amilu Rothhammer, M.D.; Robert L.  
Urata, M.D.; and Douglas L. Wood, M.D.

This notice serves as an invitation to  
all organizations representing  
physicians to submit nominees for  
membership on the Council. Each  
nomination must state that the nominee  
has expressed a willingness to serve as  
a Council member and must be  
accompanied by a short résumé or  
description of the nominee's experience.  
To permit an evaluation of possible  
sources of conflicts of interest, potential  
candidates will be asked to provide  
detailed information concerning  
financial holdings, consultant positions,  
research grants, and contracts. Section  
1868(b) of the Act provides that the  
Council meet quarterly to discuss  
certain proposed changes in regulations  
and manual issuances that relate to  
physicians' services, as identified by the  
Secretary. Council members are  
expected to participate in all meetings.  
Section 1868(c) 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/Centers for Medicare &  
Medicaid Services provides  
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 and in a manner to ensure  
appropriate balance of the Council's  
membership.

**Authority:** (Section 1868 of the Social  
Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ee) and section  
10(a) of Public Law 92-463 (5 U.S.C. App. 2,  
sections 10(a) and 14)

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