

what changes were made and what effect did they have?

27. Has the issuance and enforcement of the Eyeglass Rule caused or prompted private entities (e.g., trade associations) to change their rules or policies relating to prescription eyeglasses? If so, what changes were made and what effect did they have?

28. Please provide any other information regarding the impact on competition of the Eyeglass Rule.

Other Issues Related to Competition in the Sale of Prescription Contact Lenses

29. Do state licensing requirements affect out-of-state sellers' abilities to compete with in-state sellers or prescribers for the sale of prescription contact lenses?

30. What role do state licensing requirements applicable to sellers of contact lenses play in protecting consumers?

31. Please provide any other information regarding issues that affect competition in the sale of prescription contact lenses.

All persons are hereby given notice of the opportunity to submit written data, views, facts, and arguments addressing the issues raised by this Notice. Written comments must be submitted on or before June 24, 2004. Comments should refer to "Contact Lens Study, Project No. V040010," to facilitate the organization of comments. A comment filed in paper form should include this reference both in the text and on the envelope, and should be mailed or delivered to the following address: Federal Trade Commission/Office of the Secretary, Room H-159 (Annex L), 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20580. If the comment contains any material for which confidential treatment is requested, it must be filed in paper (rather than electronic) form, and the first page of the document must be clearly labeled "Confidential."⁷ The FTC is requesting that any comment filed in paper form be sent by courier or overnight service, if possible, because U.S. postal mail in the Washington area and at the Commission is subject to delay due to heightened security precautions. Comments filed in electronic form should be sent to the

following e-mail box:
contactlensstudy@ftc.gov.

The FTC Act and other laws the Commission administers permit the collection of public comments to consider and use in this proceeding as appropriate. All timely and responsive public comments, whether filed in paper or electronic form, will be considered by the Commission, and will be available to the public on the FTC Web site, to the extent practicable, at www.ftc.gov. As a matter of discretion, the FTC makes every effort to remove home contact information for individuals from the public comments it receives before placing those comments on the FTC Web site. More information, including routine uses permitted by the Privacy Act, may be found in the FTC's privacy policy, at <http://www.ftc.gov/ftc/privacy.htm>.

By direction of the Commission.

Donald S. Clark,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Medicare Program; Technical Review Panel on the Medicare Trustees Reports; Extension of Deadline for Nominations for Members

AGENCY: Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice extends the deadline for nominations for members of the panel. The original deadline was April 9, 2004. The Medicare Board of Trustees has requested the Secretary of Health and Human Services (who is one of the Trustees) to establish a panel of technical experts to review the assumptions and methods underlying the Hospital Insurance (HI) and Supplementary Medical Insurance (SMI) Trust Fund annual reports.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Nominations for members will be considered if we receive them at the appropriate address, as provided below, before 5 p.m. on April 30, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Mail or deliver written nominations to the following address: Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 443-F.8, 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20201. Documents may be e-mailed to andrew.cosgrove@hhs.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew Cosgrove, (202) 205-8681.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Board of Trustees of the Medicare Trust Funds (the Hospital Insurance (HI) and Supplementary Medical Insurance (SMI) Trust Funds) report annually on the financial condition of the trust funds' current and projected financial condition, within the next 10 years (the "short term") and indefinitely into the future (the "long term"). The Medicare Board of Trustees has requested the Secretary of Health and Human Services (who is one of the Trustees) to establish a panel of technical experts to review the assumptions and methods underlying the HI and SMI annual reports. The panel will consist of up to 7 members, selected by the Secretary or a designee, and a Chair, who is appointed by the Secretary or a designee.

The panel will meet periodically throughout its existence, until it has completed its work. The work of the panel is technical in nature and will concentrate on the long term financing of the Medicare program. We will prepare the agenda for the panel's activities, which will set the items for discussion.

We are requesting nominations for members to serve on the panel. Panel members serve with compensation, and travel, meals, lodging, and related expenses will be reimbursed in accordance with standard government travel regulations. We have a special interest in ensuring that women, minorities, and the physically challenged are adequately represented on the panel and encourage nominations of qualified candidates from those groups.

II. Provisions of This Notice

A. Criteria for Nominees

Nominees should possess knowledge, experience, and expertise in areas such as the Medicare program, health economics, and actuarial science, or any other relevant expertise.

It is not necessary that any nominee possess expertise in all of the areas listed, but each should have significant, relevant experience in at least one area. Members of the panel will serve for the entire duration of the panel.

Any interested person may nominate one or more qualified individuals. Self-nominations will also be accepted. Each nomination must include a letter of nomination, a curriculum vita of the nominee, and a statement from the nominee that the nominee is willing to serve on the panel.

⁷ Commission Rule 4.2(d), 16 CFR 4.2(d). The comment must be accompanied by an explicit request for confidential treatment, including the factual and legal basis for the request, and must identify the specific portions of the comment to be withheld from the public record. The request will be granted or denied by the Commission's General Counsel, consistent with applicable law and the public interest. See Commission Rule 4.9(c), 16 CFR 4.9(c).

B. Signing of the Charter

The charter for the Technical Review Panel on the Medicare Trustees Reports was signed by the Secretary on March 11, 2004. The charter will terminate on March 11, 2006, unless renewed by the Secretary.

III. Copies of the Charter

You may obtain a copy of the Secretary's charter for the Technical Review Panel on Medicare Trustees Reports by submitting a request to Andrew Cosgrove, 200 Independence Ave., SW., Washington DC, 20201, (202) 205-8681 or contact Andrew Cosgrove via e-mail at andrew.cosgrove@hhs.gov.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 217a; section 222 of the Public Health Services Act, as amended.

Michael J. O'Grady,

Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.

[FR Doc. 04-9176 Filed 4-21-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[Program Announcement 04107]

Research Study To Assess the Risk of Blood Borne Transmission of Classic or Variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease; Notice of Intent To Fund Single Eligibility Award

A. Purpose

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces the intent to fund fiscal year (FY) 2004 funds for a cooperative agreement program to continue an active, nationwide study begun in 1995 of recipients of blood products from primarily classic or possibly variant CJD. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number for this program is 93.283.

B. Eligible Applicant

Assistance will be provided only to the American Red Cross (ARC). The ARC, because of its earlier participation in the CJD Investigational Lookback Study, has unique possession of the personal identifiers of at least 95 living recipients of blood components from reported donors who subsequently developed CJD. The ARC is the only organization that has the complete relevant information on 237 such recipients who are now deceased.

In addition, the ARC has the personal identifiers on at least 25 donor cases of CJD for which recipient reports have been collected. It is this existing data

that are critical to the strength of the statistical power and success of this project.

Further, the ARC is the only organization that has the professional affiliations already in place that will permit reasonable generalizations of the findings of this study to the entire nation.

C. Funding

Approximately \$80,000 is available in FY 2004 to fund this award. It is expected that the award will begin on or before May 30, 2004, and will be made for a 12-month budget period within a project period of up to five years. Funding estimates may change.

D. Where To Obtain Additional Information

For general comments or questions about this announcement, contact: Technical Information Management, CDC Procurement and Grants Office, 2920 Brandywine Road, Atlanta, GA 30341-4146, Telephone: 770-488-2700.

For technical questions about this program, contact: Mary Lerchen, Extramural Program Official, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Infectious Diseases, 1600 Clifton Road, NE., Mailstop C-19, Atlanta, GA 30333.

Dated: April 15, 2004.

William P. Nichols,

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

[FR Doc. 04-9107 Filed 4-21-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

A Public Health Action Plan To Combat Antimicrobial Resistance (Part I: Domestic Issues): Meeting for Public Comment on the Antimicrobial Resistance Interagency Task Force Annual Report

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and National Institutes of Health (NIH) announce an open meeting concerning antimicrobial resistance.

Name: A Public Health Action Plan to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance (Part I: Domestic Issues): Meeting for Public Comment on the Antimicrobial Resistance Interagency Task Force Annual Report.

Time and Date: 1:30 p.m.-5 p.m., June 30, 2004.

Place: Hyatt Regency Bethesda, Waterford/Lalique Suite, One Bethesda Metro Center, 7400 Wisconsin Avenue at Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, Maryland, 20814; telephone: 1-301-657-1234; Fax: 1-301-657-6453.

Status: Open to the public, limited only by the space available.

Purpose: To present the third annual report of progress by Federal agencies in accomplishing activities outlined in A Public Health Action Plan to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance (Part I: Domestic Issues), and solicit comments from the public regarding the annual report. The Action Plan serves as a blueprint for activities of Federal agencies to address antimicrobial resistance. The focus of the plan is on domestic issues.

Matters to be Discussed: The agenda will consist of welcome, introductory comments, followed by discussion of four focus areas in sequential plenary sessions lasting up to 45 minutes each. The four focus areas are: Surveillance, Prevention and Control, Research, and Product Development. Session leaders will give a 10 to 15 minute overview at the beginning of each session, then open the meeting for general discussion.

Comments and suggestions from the public for Federal agencies related to each of the focus areas will be taken under advisement by the Antimicrobial Resistance Interagency Task Force. The agenda does not include development of consensus positions, guidelines, or discussions or endorsements of specific commercial products.

The Action Plan, Annual Report, and meeting agenda will be available at <http://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance>. The public meeting is sponsored by the CDC, FDA, and NIH, in collaboration with seven other Federal agencies and departments involved in developing and writing A Public Health Action Plan to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance (Part I: Domestic Issues).

Agenda items are subject to change as priorities dictate.

Limited time will be available for oral questions, comments, and suggestions from the public. Depending on the number wishing to comment, a time limit of three minutes may be imposed. In the interest of time, visual aids will not be permitted, although written material may be submitted to the Task Force. Written comments and suggestions from the public are encouraged and can be submitted at the meeting or should be received by the contact person by regular mail or email listed below no later than July 31, 2004.

Persons anticipating attending the meeting are requested to send written notification to the contact person below by June 18, 2004, including name, organization (if applicable), address, phone, fax, and e-mail address.

For Further Information Contact: Ms. Vickie Garrett, Antimicrobial Resistance, Office of the Director, NCID, CDC, mail stop C-12, 1600 Clifton Road, NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30333; telephone 404-639-2603; fax 404-639-4197; or e-mail aractionplan@cdc.gov.

The Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, has been delegated the authority to sign **Federal Register** notices pertaining to announcements of meetings and other committee management activities for