

will respond to these exceptions immediately rather than after the fact as it is under the Federal Reserve's current method. Although BHCs will still have to provide explanations to support data that trigger quality edit exceptions, this change should reduce subsequent questions from the Federal Reserve about these edits. The Federal Reserve will continue to treat BHCs explanatory comments that address any quality exceptions as confidential. Overall the proposed requirements are expected to improve the timeliness and quality of BHC data, enhance market discipline through faster access by the public, and utilize technological advances in an efficient manner.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, December 9, 2003.

Jennifer J. Johnson,

Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. E3-00561 Filed 12-12-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-S

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Granting of Request for Early Termination of the Waiting Period Under the Premerger Notification Rules

Section 7A of the Clayton Act, 15 U.S.C. 18a, as added by title II of the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976, requires persons contemplating certain mergers or acquisitions to give the Federal Trade

Commission and the Assistant Attorney General advance notice and to wait designated periods before consummation of such plans. Section 7A(b)(2) of the Act permits the agencies, in individual cases, to terminate this waiting period prior to its expiration and requires that notice of this action be published in the **Federal Register**.

The following transactions were granted early termination of the waiting period provided by law and the premerger notification rules. The grants were made by the Federal Trade Commission and the Assistant Attorney General for the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice. Neither agency intends to take any action with respect to these proposed acquisitions during the applicable waiting period.

Trans #	Acquiring	Acquired	Entities
Transactions Granted Early Termination—11/03/2003			
20040009	Barry Diller	Hotwire, Inc	Barry Diller. Hotwire, Inc.
Transactions Granted Early Termination—11/04/2003			
20040050	Triad Hospitals, Inc	Tenet Healthcare Corporation	Central Arkansas Hospital, Inc. Central Care, Inc. Dedicated Health PHO, Inc. Garland Managed Care Organization, Inc. Jonesboro Health Services, L.L.C. National Park Medical Center, Inc. NPMC Healthcenter—Physician Services, Inc. StarCare of Jonesboro, Inc. St. Mary's Medical Group, Inc. St. Mary's Regional Medical Center, Inc. Tenet Healthcare Corporation. Tenet HealthSystem medical, Inc. Triad Hospitals, Inc. Advanced Technology and Equipment, Inc.
20040054	American Industrial Partners Capital Fund III, L.P.	Alcoa, Inc	Alcoa, Inc. American Industrial Partners Capital Fund III, L.P. Stolle Machiner, Inc.
20040055	Littlejohn Fund III, LP	General Electric Company	General Electric Canada, Inc. General Electric Company. General Electric Plastics France (SNC). General Electric South Africa (Proprietary) Ltd. GEP Italia SRL. GE Plastics Hong Kong Ltd. GE Plastics Ltd. GE Polymerland Korea Ltd. GEP South America LTDA. GE Superabrasives Europe GmbH. GE Superabrasives, Inc. GE Surperabrasives US, Inc. Littlejohn Fund II, LP. Good Guys, Inc.
20040060	U.S. Commercial Corp., S.A. de C.V.	Good Guys, Inc	Good Guys, Inc.
20040064	Peter M. Brant	Enron Corp. (Debtor-in-Possession).	U.S. Commercial Corp., S.A. de C.V. Enron Corp. (Debtor-in-Possession).
20040066	Gryphon Partners II, L.P	The Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company, Inc.	Papiers Stadacona Ltee. Peter M. Brant. St. Aurelie Timberlands, Co., Ltd. Gryphon Partners II, L.P.
20040069	CCG Investments (BVI), L.P	Concertro Software, Inc.	The Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company, Inc. CCG Investments (BVI), L.P.

Trans #	Acquiring	Acquired	Entities
			Concertro Software, Inc.
Transactions Granted Early Termination—11/07/2003			
20040023	Schlumberger Limited	Atos Origin SA	Atos Origin SA. Schlumberger Limited.
20040041	Allergan, Inc	Oculex Pharmaceuticals, Inc	Allergan, Inc. Oculex Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
20040059	The BISYS Group, Inc	Richard P. Love, Jr	Richard P. Love, Jr. The BISYS Group, Inc. USA Insurance Group, Inc.
20040067	ValueClick, Inc	Commission Junction, Inc	Commission Junction, Inc. Value Click, Inc.
20040079	The TJX Companies, Inc	Bob's Stores, Inc	Bob's H.C., Inc Bob's Inc. Bob's Non-Connecticut Operating Co. Bob's Stores Center, Inc. Bob's Stores, Inc. The TJX Companies, Inc.
20040082	Apollo Investment Fund V, L.P	ConAgra Foods, Inc	2326396 Canada, Inc. Apollo Investment Fund V. ConAgra Foods, Inc. United Agri Products Canada Inc. United Agri Products, Inc.
20040084	Apollo Investment Fund V, L.P	UAP Holding Corp	Apollo Investment Fund V, L.P. UAP Holding Corp.
20040085	Macromedia, Inc	eHelp Corporation	eHelp Corporation. Macromedia, Inc.
20040090	Lions Gate Entertainment Corp	Audax Entertainment, L.P	Audax Entertainment, L.P. Film Holdings Co. Lions Gate Entertainment Corp.
Transactions Granted Early Termination—11/10/2003			
20040068	Sabre Holdings Corporation	My Travel Group plc	My Travel Group plc. Sabre Holdings Corporation. Travel Services International, Inc. TTC Holdings, Inc. World Choice Travel, Inc.
20040071	The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc	Cogentrix Energy, Inc	Cogentrix Energy, Inc. The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.
20040091	Avaya Inc	NorthWestern Corporation	Avaya Inc. Expanets, Inc. NorthWestern Corporation.
Transactions Granted Early Termination—11/13/2003			
20040058	Merit Partners, L.P	Royal Dutch Petroleum Company	Merit Partners, L.P. Midstream Capital Corp. Royal Dutch Petroleum Company. Shell Michigan Pipeline Company. Shell Onshore Ventures Inc. SWEPI LP.
20040061	National Leisure Group, Inc	MyTravel Group plc	Blue Sea Partners, Inc. MyTravel Group plc. National Leisure Group, Inc.
20040074	Digital Insight Corporation	Magnet Communications, Inc	Digital Insight Corporation. Magnet Communications, Inc.
20040075	Manulife Financial Corporation	John Hancock Financial Services, Inc.	John Hancock Financial Services, Inc.
20040089	Clipper Group Trust	Lasco Shipping Co	Manulife Financial Corporation. Clipper Group Trust. Lasco Shipping Co.
20040095	Jeld-Wen Holdings, Inc	Windowmaster Products	Jeld-Wen Holdings, Inc. Windowmaster Products.
Transactions Granted Early Termination—11/17/2003			
20040015	Vestar Capital Partners IV, L.P	Terrance Johnson	Mayer-Johnson, Inc. Terrance Johnson. Vestar Capital Partners IV, L.P.
20040053	dj Orthopedics, Inc	OrthoLogic Corp	dj Orthopedics, Inc. OrthoLogic Corp.
20040062	aaiPharma Inc	Elan Corporation plc	aaiPharma Inc.

Trans #	Acquiring	Acquired	Entities
20040100	O. Bruton Smith	Michele F. Salta	Elan Corporation plc. Elan Pharmaceuticals, Inc. CL Motors, LLC. CTM, LLC. Michele F. Salta O. Bruton Smith.
20040102	MetLife, Inc	Allianz Aktiengesellschaft	Allianz Aktiengesellschaft. Allianz Life Insurance company of North America. MetLife, Inc.
20040106	Veeco Instruments Inc	Lauren D. Lackey and Barbara Lackey.	Advanced Imaging, Inc. Lauren D. Lackey and Barbara Lackey. Veeco Instruments Inc.

Transactions Granted Early Termination—11/18/2003

20040110	Scottish Re Group Limited	General Electric Company	ERC Life Reinsurance Corporation. General Electric Company. Scottish Re Group Limited.
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Transactions Granted Early Termination—11/20/2003

20040087	Apollo Investment Fund V, L.P.	Royal Numico, N.V.	Apollo Investment Fund V, L.P. General Nutrition Companies, Inc. GNC Franchising Canada, Ltd. GNC Franchising Nutrition Companies, Inc. Royal Numico, N.V.
20040108	Estate of Burk Zanft, c/o Deutsche Bank.	Heritage Fund I, L.P.	Estate of Burk Zanft, c/o Deutsche Bank. Heritage Fund I, L.P.
20040109	Wellspring Capital Partners III, L.P	Walter Industries, Inc	New England Pottery Co., Inc. JW Aluminum Company. Walter Industries, Inc.
20040115	Quovadx, Inc	Rogue Wave Software, Inc	Wellspring Capital Partners III, L.P. Quovadx, Inc. Rogue Wave Software, Inc.
20040118	Dycom Industries, Inc	William T. Stover	Dycom Industries, Inc. First South Utility Construction, Inc. William T. Stover.

Transactions Granted Early Termination—11/24/2003

200440072	Marquette Financial Companies	KBK Capital Corporation	KBK Capital Corporation. Marquette Financial Companies.
20040093	Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc	Hunter Fan Holdings, Inc	Hunter Fan Holdings, Inc. Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc.
20040135	Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation ...	Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation ...	Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation. Mitsubishi Pharma Corporation.

Transactions Granted Early Termination—11/25/2003

20031016	Symantec Corporation	PowerQuest Corporation	PowerQuest Corporation. Symantec Corporation.
20040107	drugstore.com, Inc	Ian and Louise Mummery	drugstore.com, Inc. Ian and Louise Mummery. International Vision Direct Corp.
20040121	TA IX L.P	Logistics Health, Inc	Logistics Health, Inc. TA IX L.P.
20040123	Ephesos Vermögensverwaltung GmbH.	Sirona Dental Systems S.a.r.l	Ephesos Vermögensverwaltung GmbH. SIRONA Beteiligungs—und Verwaltungsgesellschaft. Sirona Dental Systems S.a.r.l.
20040125	J.W. Childs Equity Partners III, L.P	John T. Walton	John T. Walton. J.W. Childs Equity Partners III, LP.
20040127	Liz Claiborne, Inc	Cerberus SBI Investor L.P	Xyron, Inc. Cerberus SBI Investor L.P.
20040129	Maple Leaf Foods Inc	Smithfield Foods, Inc	Enyce Holding LLC Liz Claiborne, Inc. Maple Leaf Foods Inc. Smithfield Canada Limited.
20040134	Heritage Propane Partners, L.P	LaGrange Energy, L.P	Smithfield Foods, Inc. ETC Oasis GP, LLC. Five Dawaco, Inc.

Trans #	Acquiring	Acquired	Entities
20040138	Siegwerk GmbH & Co. KG	Color Converting Industries Co	Heritage Propane Partners, L.P. LA GP, LLC. La Grange Acquisition, L.P. La Grange Energy, L.P. LGM, LLC. LG PL, LLC. Color Converting Industries Co. Color Converting, LLC. Siegwerk GmbH & Co. KG.
20040145	Orbitz, Inc	Orbitz, LLC	Orbitz, Inc. Orbitz, LLC.
20040147	Sun Microsystems, Inc	Waveset Technologies, Inc	Sun Microsystems, Inc. Waveset Technologies, Inc.
20040150	Lawrence F. Flick, IV	Fox & Roach/Trident, G.P	Fox & Roach/Trident, G.P. Lawrence F. Flick, IV.
20040154	Littlejohn Fund II, L.P	LTS Holdings, Inc	Littlejohn Fund II, L.P. LTS Holdings, Inc.

Transactions Granted Early Termination—11/28/2003

2004076	L-3 Communications Holdings, Inc	The Veritas Capital Fund L.P	L-3 Communications Holdings, Inc. The Veritas Capital Fund L.P. Vertex Aerospace LLC.
2004081	Computershare Limited	Geogeson Shareholder Coimunications, Inc.	Computershare Limited. Geogeson Shareholder Communications Inc.
20040101	KAT Holdings, L.P	General Electric Company	Atrium Corporation. General Electric Company. KAT Holdings, L.P.
20040119	Reliant Pharmaceuticals, LLC	Abbott Laboratories	Abbott Laboratories. Reliant Pharmaceuticals, LLC.
20040130	The Home Depot, Inc	RMA Home Services, Inc	RMA Home Services, Inc. The Home Depot, Inc.
20040131	Bain Capital Fund VII, L.P	Bombardier Inc	Bain Capital Fund VII, L.P. Bombardier Inc. Bombardier Motor Corporation of America.
20040132	Ralcorp Holdings, Inc	Wind Point Partners III, L.P	Ralcorp Holdings, Inc. Value Added Bakery Holding Company. Wind Point Partners III, L.P.
20040133	Unilin Holding N.V	Fritz Homann	Fritz Homann. Homanit USA, Inc. Unilin Holding N.V.
20040136	Rural Cellular Corporation	AT&T Wireless Services, Inc	ABC Wireless, LLC AirCom PCS, Inc. AMT Cellular, LLC AT&T Wireless PCS, LLC. AT&T Wireless Services, Inc. Comet Wireless, Inc. QuinCom, Inc. Rural Cellular Corporation. Tritel A/B Holding Corp. Tritel C/F Holding Corp.
20040137	AT&T Wireless Services, Inc	Rural Cellular Corporation	AT&T Wireless Services, Inc. RCC Holdings, Inc. RCC Minnesota, Inc. Rural Cellular Corporation.
20040142	BB&T Corporation	McGriff, Seibels & Williams, Inc	BB&T Corporation. McGriff, Seibels & Williams, Inc.
20040151	Aetna Inc	Frederick H. Chicos	Aetna Inc. Chickering Benefit Planning Insurance Agency, Inc. Chickering Claims Administrators, Inc. Frederick H. Chicos.
20040155	Copperweld Acquisition Corpora- tion.	The LTV Corporation (Debtor-in- Possession).	Copperweld Acquisition Corporation. Copperweld Canada, Inc. Copperweld Corporation. LTV Copperweld Bimetallics UK (Holdings) Ltd. The LTV Corporation (Debtor-in-Possession).
20040161	Aetna Inc	Kenneth Chicos	Aetna Inc. Chickering Benefit Planning Insurance Agency, Inc. Kenneth Chicos.

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)