

notice are effective for services furnished on or after October 1, 1999. These provisions will increase payment rates to ASCs by 0.8 percent (before applying the wage index), in accordance with section 1833(i)(2)(C) of the Act, as amended by the BBA. As a practical matter, if we allowed a 30-day delay in the effective date of this notice, ASCs would be unable to take timely advantage of the increase in payment rates contained in this notice. Moreover, we believe a delay is impracticable and unnecessary because as explained earlier, the statute provides that ASC payment rates be increased by the percentage increase in the CPI-U if the Secretary has not updated rates during a fiscal year, beginning with FY 1996. Therefore, we find good cause to waive the delay in the effective date.

In accordance with the provisions of Executive Order 12866, this notice was reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget.

(Sections 1832(a)(2)(F) and 1833(i) (1) and (2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395k(a)(2)(F) and 1395l(i) (1) and (2)); 42 CFR 416.120, 416.125, and 416.130)

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Programs No. 93.774, Medicare—Supplementary Medical Insurance Program)

Dated: October 6, 1999.

Michael M. Hash,

Deputy Administrator, Health Care Financing Administration.

Dated: October 25, 1999.

Donna E. Shalala,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-2959 Filed 2-8-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Resources and Services Administration

Notice Regarding HRSA Grant Requirement—Participation in the 340B Drug Pricing Program

AGENCY: Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is announcing its decision to withdraw the proposal to impose a grant award requirement that would have required HRSA grantees listed in section 340B of the Public Health Service Act and Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) Look-Alikes to participate in the 340B Drug Pricing Program or provide good cause for non-participation. Instead of the proposed grant

requirement, HRSA will add a statement to the Notice of Grant Award (NGA) concerning the need for grantees to determine the appropriateness of their drug purchasing practices under applicable cost principles.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Captain Robert Staley, the Office of Drug Pricing, Bureau of Primary Health Care, Health Resources and Services Administration, 10th Floor, East West Towers, 4350 East-West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814; Phone (800) 628-6297; Fax (301) 594-4982.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed grant requirement for eligible HRSA grantee and FQHC Look-Alike participation in the 340B Drug Pricing Program was announced in the **Federal Register** at 63 FR 56656 on October 22, 1998. A period of 60 days was established to allow interested parties to submit comments. HRSA received 21 comments. In light of the concerns expressed about the potential adverse impact of the proposed grant requirement, HRSA has decided not to institute the requirement at this time. Instead, HRSA will implement another administrative option to increase participation in the 340B Drug Pricing Program: a statement in the HRSA Notice of Grant Award (NGA) encouraging those grantees not participating in the 340B Program to determine whether their drug purchasing practices meet Federal requirements regarding reasonable and cost effective purchasing. (See 42 CFR part 50, subpart E, and OMB Circulars A-122 and A-87 regarding cost principles). If grantees can obtain drugs through the Drug Pricing Program at lower cost, it would be reasonable to take advantage of such cost savings. This policy will be implemented during the fiscal year (FY) 2000 grant award cycle.

Dated: January 3, 2000.

Claude Earl Fox,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 00-2862 Filed 2-8-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Center for Scientific Review; Notice of Closed 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 the following meetings.

The meetings 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., as amended. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel.

Date: February 10, 2000.

Time: 4:30 PM to 7 PM.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: Holiday Inn Chevy Chase, 5520 Wisconsin Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

Contact Person: Anita Miller Sostek, PHD, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 3176, MSC 7848, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1260.

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the meeting due to the timing limitations imposed by the review and funding cycle.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel.

Date: February 16, 2000.

Time: 1 PM to 4 PM.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: Governor's House Hotel, Washington, DC 20036.

Contact Person: John Bishop, PHD, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 5180, MSC 7844, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1250.

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the meeting due to the timing limitations imposed by the review and funding cycle.

Name of Committee: Musculoskeletal and Dental Sciences Initial Review Group, Oral Biology and Medicine Subcommittee 1.

Date: February 21-22, 2000.

Time: 8 AM to 5 PM.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: Holiday Inn Old Town Alexandria, 480 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Contact Person: Priscilla B. Chen, PHD, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 4104, MSC 7814, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1787.

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the meeting due to the timing limitations imposed by the review and funding cycle.

Name of Committee: Infectious Diseases and Microbiology Initial Review Group, Bacteriology and Mycology Subcommittee 1.

Date: February 21-22, 2000.

Time: 8:30 AM to 6 PM.