

**SUMMARY:** The Administration on Aging (AoA), Department of Health and Human Services, provides an opportunity for comment on the following proposal for the collection of information in compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA; Pub. L. 96-511): Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of an existing collection of information, and to allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on the information collection requirements relating to Second National Outcome Measures Surveys of Older Americans Act (OAA) Clients, and Coordinated Survey of State and Area Agencies on Aging.

**DATES:** Submit written or electronic comments on the collection of information by February 3, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit electronic comments on the collection of information to: *David.Bunoski@aoa.gov*.

Submit written comments on the collection of information to: Office of Planning and Evaluation, Administration on Aging, Washington, DC 20201.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

David Bunoski, Administration on Aging, Washington, DC 20201  
telephone: (202) 357-3514.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. "Collection of information" is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3(c) and includes agency request or requirements that members of the public submit reports, keep records, or provide information to a third party. Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)) requires Federal agencies to provide a 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of an existing collection of information, before submitting the collection to OMB for approval. To comply with this requirement, AoA is publishing notice of the proposed collection of information set forth in this document. With respect to the following collection of information, AoA invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of AoA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of AoA's estimate of the burden of the

proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques when appropriate, and other forms of information technology.

*Type of Request:* New information collection.

*Use:* Consumer assessment data will be collected in this second set of surveys to initiate national program outcome assessment consistent with the requirements of the Government Performance and Results Act and the Older Americans Act.

*Frequency:* One-time.

*Respondents:* Elderly individuals who have received selected services under Title III of the Older Americans Act and state and area agencies on aging.

*Estimated Number of Responses:* 5,000 for consumer surveys; 700 for agency surveys.

*Total Estimated Burden Hours:* 4,000 for consumer surveys; 2,100 for agency surveys.

*Additional Information or Comments:* The Administration on Aging plans to submit to the Office of Management and Budget for approval the Second National Outcome Measures Surveys of Older Americans Act (OAA) Clients, pursuant to requirements set forth by congressional statute. Through a contract with Westat, Inc., AoA will draw samples of individuals served through Area Agencies on Aging across the country for the purpose of obtaining OAA program service assessments from these individuals. The surveys will utilize information collection instruments and methods developed and tested by experts in the field of gerontology and by State and local entities that administer OAA programs. The surveys will include assessments from among the following service categories: nutrition, transportation, caregiver support, home-care, and information and assistance. AoA is also supporting the efforts of four states to obtain valid statewide data compatible with the national data.

AoA is also proposing for Westat, Inc., to conduct a survey of all state and area agencies on aging to collect information about how those agencies operate the programs for which they are responsible. We will be asking specifically about coordination between social services and health services; organizational and administrative arrangements; coordination of services at the state and local level; and

coordination of, and expenditure levels among, different funding sources administered by the agencies.

Date: November 29, 2002.

**Josefina G. Carbonell,**

*Assistant Secretary for Aging.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

[Document Identifier: CMS-R-209 and CMS-R-245]

### Emergency Clearance: Public Information Collection Requirements Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

**AGENCY:** Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) (formerly known as the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA)), Department of Health and Human Services, is publishing the following summary of proposed collections for public comment. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including any of the following subjects: (1) The necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

We are, however, requesting an emergency review of the information collection referenced below. In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we have submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) the following requirements for emergency review. We are requesting an emergency review because the collection of this information is needed before the expiration of the normal time limits under OMB's regulations at 5 CFR part 1320. This is necessary to ensure compliance with an Administration initiative. We cannot reasonably comply

with the normal clearance procedures because of the potential for public harm.

CMS is requesting OMB review and approval of this collection by December 6, 2002, with a 180-day approval period. Written comments and recommendations will be accepted from the public if received by the individuals designated below by December 5, 2002. During this 180-day period, we will publish a separate **Federal Register** notice announcing the initiation of an extensive 60-day agency review and public comment period on these requirements. We will submit the requirements for OMB review and an extension of this emergency approval.

Reducing regulatory burden is one of the overarching goals of this Administration. Secretary Thompson convened an Advisory Committee on Regulatory Reform earlier this year to help guide HHS' broader efforts to streamline unnecessarily burdensome or inefficient regulations that interfere with the quality of health care. CMS worked with the recommendations from Secretary Thompson's Advisory Committee on Regulatory Reform to draft proposed changes to the OASIS. The Secretary announced these changes earlier and reported the reduced burden OASIS would be in place by December 16, 2002.

CMS is proposing immediate modifications to the OASIS instrument that will result in reduction of burden for providers that will have the effect of freeing home health nurses and therapists from paperwork so they can focus on patient care. To reduce the burden, we need to make significant adjustments as quickly as possible. Our rollout date is December 9, 2002, to become effective a week later on December 16, 2002. CMS is working closely with the HHA industry to accomplish this initiative. The revisions we are proposing in this Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) package were also published in the **Federal Register** on August 30, 2002 (67 FR 55850). We have responded to the dozen comments from the **Federal Register** notice.

(1) *Type of Information Collection*  
*Request:* Extension of a currently approved collection; *Title of Information Collection:* Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Use and Reporting OASIS Data as Part of the CoPs for HHAs and Supporting Regulations in 42 CFR 484.11 and 484.20; *Form No.:* CMS-R-209 (OMB # 0938-0761); *Use:* HHAs are required to report data from the OASIS as a condition of participation. Specifically, the above named regulations sections provide guidelines for HHAs for the electronic transmission of the OASIS data as well

as responsibilities of the State agency or OASIS contractor in collecting and transmitting this information to HCFA. These requirements are necessary to achieve broad-based, measurable improvement in the quality of care furnished through Federal programs, and to establish a prospective payment system for HHAs; *Frequency:* Reporting monthly; *Affected Public:* Business or other-for-profit, Federal government, State, local or tribal government, not-for-profit institutions; *Number of Respondents:* 6,900; *Total Annual Responses:* 85,200; *Total Annual Hours:* 838,408.

(2) *Type of Information Collection*  
*Request:* Extension of a currently approved collection; *Title of Information Collection:* Medicare and Medicaid Programs Use of the OASIS as Part of the CoPs for HHAs and Supporting Regulations in Part 484 of 42 CFR; *Form No.:* CMS-R-245 (OMB # 0938-0760); *Use:* This regulation requires HHAs to use a standard core assessment data set, the OASIS, to collect information and to evaluate adult non-maternity patients. In addition, data from the OASIS will be used for purposes of case mix adjusting patients under home health PPS and will facilitate the production of necessary case mix information at relevant time points in the patient's home health stay. Modifications have been made to currently approved OASIS forms to allow for the preservation of masking of personally identifiable information for the non-Medicare/non-Medicaid individuals; *Frequency:* Recordkeeping/upon patient assessment; *Affected Public:* Business or other-for-profit, Federal government, State, local or tribal government, not-for-profit institutions; *Number of Respondents:* 7,100; *Total Annual Responses:* 9,510,900; *Total Annual Hours:* 8,013,013.

We have submitted a copy of this notice to OMB for its review of these information collections. A notice will be published in the **Federal Register** when approval is obtained.

To obtain copies of the supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed paperwork collections referenced above, access CMS's Web Site address at <http://cms.hhs.gov/regulations/pr/default.asp>, or E-mail your request, including your address, phone number, OMB number, and CMS document identifier, to [Paperwork@hcfa.gov](mailto:Paperwork@hcfa.gov), or call the Reports Clearance Office on (410) 786-1326. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding the burden or any other aspect of these collections of information requirements. However, as

noted above, comments on these information collection and recordkeeping requirements must be mailed and/or faxed to the designees referenced below, by December 5, 2002: CMS, Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs, Division of Regulations Development and Issuances, Attention: Dawn Willingham, Room N2-14-26, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850, and Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503, Fax Number: (202) 395-6974 or (202) 395-5167, Attn: Brenda Aguilar, CMS Desk Officer.

Dated: November 27, 2002.

**Julie E. Brown,**

*Acting Paperwork Reduction Act Team Leader, CMS Reports Clearance Officer, Office of Strategic Operations and Strategic Affairs, Division of Regulations Development and Issuances.*

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## **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

### **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration**

#### **Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request**

In compliance with Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 concerning opportunity for public comment on proposed collections of information, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration will publish periodic summaries of proposed projects. To request more information on the proposed projects or to obtain a copy of the information collection plans, call the SAMHSA Reports Clearance Officer on (301) 443-7978.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collections of information are necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.