

References

The following references are on display in the Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852, and may be seen by interested persons between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

1. *Washington Legal Foundation v. Henney*, No. 99-5304, 2000 WL 122099, slip op. (D.C. Cir. February 11, 2000).

2. *Washington Legal Foundation v. Henney*, No. 99-5304, transcript of oral argument, January 10, 2000.

Dated: March 9, 2000.

Jane E. Henney,

Commissioner of Food and Drugs.

[FR Doc. 00-6422 Filed 3-10-00; 4:15 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care Financing Administration

[Document Identifier: HCFA-3427]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Health Care Financing Administration, HHS. In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 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.

Type of Information Collection Request: Extension of a currently approved collection; **Title of Information Collection:** End Stage Renal Disease Application and Survey and Certification Report and Supporting Regulations in 42 CFR 405.2100-405.2184; **Form No.:** HCFA-3427 (OMB# 0938-0360); **Use:** Part I of this form is a facility identification and screening measurement used to initiate

the certification and recertification of ESRD facilities, Part II is completed by the Medicare/Medicaid State survey agency to determine facility compliance with ESRD conditions for coverage; **Frequency:** Annually; **Affected Public:** State, local or tribal government; **Number of Respondents:** 3740; **Total Annual Responses:** 675; **Total Annual Hours:** 1626.25.

To obtain copies of the supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed paperwork collections referenced above, access HCFA's Web Site address at <http://www.hcfa.gov/regs/prdact95.htm>, or E-mail your request, including your address, phone number, OMB number, and HCFA document identifier, to Paperwork@hcfa.gov, or call the Reports Clearance Office on (410) 786-1326. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collections must be mailed within 60 days of this notice directly to the HCFA Paperwork Clearance Officer designated at the following address: HCFA, Office of Information Services, Security and Standards Group, Division of HCFA Enterprise Standards, Attention: Julie Brown, Room N2-14-26, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

Dated: February 28, 2000.

John P. Burke III,

Reports Clearance Officer, HCFA Office of Information Services Security and Standards Group, Division of HCFA Enterprise Standards.

[FR Doc. 00-6523 Filed 3-15-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Resources and Services Administration

Study Regarding Shortages of Licensed Pharmacists

AGENCY: Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The "Healthcare Research and Quality Act of 1999", enacted on December 6, 1999, requires the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to "conduct a study to determine whether and to what extent there is a shortage of licensed pharmacists." The Department will include in this study a summary of comments from interested public and private entities. The Department invites all interested public and private entities to submit comments on specific issues,

including data and studies supporting their comments.

DATES: Comments must be submitted by May 1, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Address all comments concerning this notice to Vincent C. Rogers, D.D.S., M.P.H., Associate Administrator, Bureau of Health Professions, Health Resources and Services Administration, Room 8-05, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 6, 1999, Congress enacted the Healthcare Research and Quality Act of 1999, Pub. L. 106-129, to amend title IX of the Public Health Service Act by revising and extending the Agency for Healthcare Policy and Research (now referred to as the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality). Section 5 of Pub. L. 106-129 requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the appropriate agencies of the Public Health Service, to conduct a study "to determine whether and to what extent there is a shortage of licensed pharmacists" and to report back to Congress in one year after the date of enactment of the Act on its findings.

A number of associations, such as the National Association of Chain Drug Stores, have been voicing concerns that a shortage of pharmacists in some areas of the country might create a major health crisis. HHS invites comments from public and private sources on the following topics related to pharmacy shortages. Please address your comments by number as indicated below. You need not address all topics.

1. Shortage of pharmacists; for example, vacancy rates for pharmacists' jobs over time, existing documentation of delayed store openings or reduction in store hours, existing documentation of signing bonuses and other hiring incentives, and increases in wages;

2. Difficulties that communities may be experiencing in accessing pharmacy services. HHS is particularly interested in difficulties confronting those in rural or underserved areas, services for the elderly, and other evidence of unmet needs due to a shortage of pharmacists;

3. How pharmacies and employers are addressing a shortage of pharmacists;

4. The use of technicians, and State laws governing ratios of pharmacists to technicians, and limitations on the functions technicians are permitted to perform, and any requirements for technician certification;

5. The impact of the growth of managed care and third-party coverage of prescriptions on pharmacy practice;