

Committee works from an agenda provided by the Designated Federal Official that lists specific issues, and develops technical advice to assist us in determining reasonable and necessary applications of medical services and technology when we make national coverage decisions for Medicare. The Committee also advises CMS as part of Medicare's coverage evidence development activities.

II. Provisions of the Notice

As of May 2009, there will be 20 terms of membership expiring, 2 of which are nonvoting industry representatives and 2 are voting patient advocates.

Accordingly, we are requesting nominations for both voting and nonvoting members to serve on the MEDCAC. Nominees are selected based upon their individual qualifications and not as representatives of professional associations or societies. We have a special interest in ensuring that women, minority groups, and physically challenged individuals are adequately represented on the MEDCAC. Therefore, we encourage nominations of qualified candidates from these groups.

All nominations must be accompanied by curricula vitae. Nomination packages must be sent to the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice. Nominees for voting membership must meet MEDCAC criteria by having expertise and experience in one or more of the following fields:

- Clinical medicine of all specialties.
- Administrative medicine.
- Public health.
- Patient advocacy.
- Biologic and physical sciences.
- Health care data and information management and analysis.
 - The economics of health care.
 - Medical ethics.
 - Other related professions such as epidemiology and biostatistics, and methodology of clinical trial design.

We are looking for experts in a number of fields. Our most critical needs are for experts in Bayesian statistics; clinical epidemiology; clinical trial methodology; knee, hip, and other joint replacement surgery; ophthalmology; psychopharmacology; registries; rheumatology; screening and diagnostic testing analysis; and stroke. We also need experts in biostatistics in clinical settings, cardiovascular epidemiology, cost effectiveness analysis, dementia, endocrinology, geriatrics, gynecology, minority health, observational research design, stroke epidemiology, and women's health.

The nomination letter must include a statement that the nominee is willing to serve as a member of the MEDCAC and appears to have no conflict of interest that would preclude membership. We are requesting that all curricula vitae include the following:

- Date of birth.
- Place of birth.
- Social security number.
- Title and current position.
- Professional affiliation.
- Home and business address.
- Telephone and fax numbers.
- E-mail address.
- List of areas of expertise.

In the nomination letter, we are requesting that the nominee specify whether they are applying for a voting patient advocate position, for another voting position, or as a non-voting industry representative. Potential candidates will be asked to provide detailed information concerning such matters as financial holdings, consultancies, and research grants or contracts in order to permit evaluation of possible sources of conflict of interest.

Members are invited to serve for overlapping 2-year terms. A member may serve after the expiration of the member's term until a successor takes office. Any interested person may nominate one or more qualified persons. Self-nominations are also accepted.

The current Secretary's Charter for the MEDCAC is available on the CMS Web site at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/FACA/Downloads/medcaccharter.pdf>, or you may obtain a copy of the charter by submitting a request to the contact listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this notice.

Authority: 5 U.S.C. App. 2, section 10(a)(1) and (a)(2).

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.773, Medicare—Hospital Insurance; and Program No. 93.774, Medicare—Supplementary Medical Insurance Program)

Dated: March 18, 2009.

Barry M. Straube,

Chief Medical Officer, Director, Office of Clinical Standards and Quality, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS-7013-N]

Medicare Program; Announcement of Rechartering and Meeting of the Advisory Panel on Medicare Education, April 22, 2009

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), HHS.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the renewal of the charter of the Advisory Panel on Medicare Education (the Panel). The Panel advises and makes recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services on opportunities to enhance the effectiveness of consumer education strategies concerning the Medicare program. This notice also announces a meeting of the Panel in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act. This meeting is open to the public.

DATES: *Meeting Date:* April 22, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., eastern daylight time (e.d.t.).

Deadline for Meeting Registration, Presentations and Comments: April 15, 2009, 5 p.m., e.d.t.

Deadline for Requesting Special Accommodations: April 8, 2009, 5 p.m., e.d.t.

ADDRESSES: *Meeting Location:* Hilton Washington Hotel Embassy Row, 2015 Massachusetts Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20036, (202) 265-6800.

Meeting Registration, Presentations, and Written Comments: Lynne Johnson, Designated Federal Official, Division of Forum and Conference Development, Office of External Affairs, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 7500 Security Boulevard, Mailstop S1-05-06, Baltimore, MD 21244-1850 or contact Ms. Johnson via e-mail at Lynne.Johnson@cms.hhs.gov.

Registration: The meeting is open to the public, but attendance is limited to the space available. Persons wishing to attend this meeting must register by contacting Lynne Johnson at the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice or by telephone at (410) 786-0090, by the date listed in the **DATES** section of this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lynne Johnson, (410) 786-0090. Please refer to the CMS Advisory Committees' Information Line (1-877-449-5659 toll free)/(410-786-9379 local) or the

Internet (http://www.cms.hhs.gov/FACA/04_APME.asp) for additional information and updates on committee activities. Press inquiries are handled through the CMS Press Office at (202) 690-6145.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Section 9(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services (the Secretary) to establish an advisory panel if the Secretary determines that the panel is "in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed * * * by law." Such duties are imposed by section 1804 of the Social Security Act (the Act), requiring the Secretary to provide informational materials to Medicare beneficiaries about the Medicare program, and section 1851(d) of the Act, requiring the Secretary to provide for "activities * * * to broadly disseminate information to [M]edicare beneficiaries * * * on the coverage options provided under [Medicare Advantage] in order to promote an active, informed selection among such options."

The Panel is also authorized by section 1114(f) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 1311(f)) and section 222 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 217a). The Secretary signed the charter establishing this Panel on January 21, 1999 (64 FR 7899, February 17, 1999) and approved the renewal of the charter on January 21, 2009. The Panel advises and makes recommendations to the Secretary and the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on opportunities to enhance the effectiveness of consumer education strategies concerning the Medicare program.

The goals of the Panel are as follows:

- To provide recommendations on the development and implementation of a national Medicare education program that describes benefit options under Medicare.

- To enhance the Federal government's effectiveness in informing the Medicare consumer.

- To make recommendations on how to expand outreach to vulnerable and underserved communities, including racial and ethnic minorities, in the context of a national Medicare education program.

- To assemble an information base of best practices for helping consumers evaluate benefit options and build a community infrastructure for information, counseling, and assistance.

The current members of the Panel are: Gwendolyn T. Bronson, SHINE/SHIP Counselor, Massachusetts SHINE Program; Dr. Yanira Cruz, President and

Chief Executive Officer, National Hispanic Council on Aging; Stephen L. Fera, Vice President, Social Mission Programs, Independence Blue Cross; Clayton Fong, President and Chief Executive Officer, National Asian Pacific Center on Aging; Nan Kirsten-Forté, Executive Vice President, Consumer Services, WebMD; Cathy Graeff, R.Ph., M.B.A., National, Senior Vice President, Communications and Industry Relations, National Council for Prescription Drug Programs; Dr. Carmen R. Green, Director, Pain Research Division, Associate Professor, Anesthesiology, University of Michigan Health System; Dr. Jessie C. Gruman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Center for the Advancement of Health; Cindy Hounsell, J.D., President, Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement; Kathy Hughes, Vice Chairwoman, Oneida Nation; Gail Hunt, President and Chief Executive Officer, National Alliance for Caregiving; Dr. Andrew M. Kramer, Professor of Medicine, University of Colorado, Denver; Dr. Frank B. McArdle, Manager, Hewitt Research Office, Hewitt Associates; Sandy Markwood, Chief Executive Officer, National Area Agencies on Aging; Robert L. Mollica, Consumer; David Roberts, M.P.A., Vice President, Government Relations, Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society; Julie Boden Schmidt, Associate Vice President, Training and Technical Assistance Department, National Association of Community Health Centers; Rebecca Snead, Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer, National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations.

The agenda for the April 22, 2009 meeting will include the following:

- Recap of the previous (January 13, 2009) meeting.
- Subgroup Committee Work Summary.
- Medicare Outreach and Education Strategies.
- Public Comment.
- Listening Session with CMS Leadership.
- Next Steps.

Individuals or organizations that wish to make a 5-minute oral presentation on an agenda topic should submit a written copy of the oral presentation to Lynne Johnson at the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice by the date listed in the **DATES** section of this notice. The number of oral presentations may be limited by the time available. Individuals not wishing to make a presentation may submit written comments to Ms. Johnson at the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this

notice by the date listed in the **DATES** section of this notice.

Individuals requiring sign language interpretation or other special accommodations should contact Ms. Johnson at the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice by the date listed in the **DATES** section of this notice.

Authority: Sec. 222 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 217a) and sec. 10(a) of Public Law 92-463 (5 U.S.C. App. 2, sec. 10(a) and 41 CFR 102-3).

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.733, Medicare—Hospital Insurance Program; and Program No. 93.774, Medicare—Supplementary Medical Insurance Program)

Dated: March 18, 2009.

Charlene Frizzera,

Acting Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS-2282-N]

Medicare, Medicaid, and CLIA Programs; Approval of the American Osteopathic Association as a CLIA Accreditation Organization

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces CMS' grant of deeming authority to the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA) program. We have determined that the requirements of the AOA accreditation process are equal to or more stringent than the CLIA condition level requirements, and that the AOA has met the requirements of CMS. Consequently, laboratories that are voluntarily accredited by the AOA and continue to meet the AOA requirements will be deemed to meet the CLIA condition level requirements for laboratories and therefore are not subject to routine inspection by State survey agencies to determine their compliance with Federal requirements. They are, however, subject to Federal validation and complaint investigation surveys conducted by CMS or its designee.

DATES: *Effective Date:* This notice is effective from March 27, 2009 to March 27, 2015.