

of a change of address request at an hourly rate of \$52.<sup>18</sup>

Based on the above estimates and assumptions, the total annual labor costs for all categories of covered entities under the Red Flags and Card Issuers Rules for section 114 is \$19,756,412 (379,931 hours × \$52).

#### Section 315—Address Discrepancy Rule

FTC staff assumes that the policies and procedures for compliance with the Address Discrepancy Rule will be set up by administrative support personnel at an hourly rate of \$20.<sup>19</sup> Based on the above estimates and assumptions, the total annual labor cost for the two categories of burden under section 315 is \$347,340 [(17,367 hours × \$20)].

#### Request for Comments

Pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA, the FTC invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency'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 maintaining records and providing disclosures to consumers. All comments must be received on or before December 14, 2021.

You can file a comment online or on paper. For the FTC to consider your comment, we must receive it on or before December 14, 2021. Write "Red Flags, Card Issuers, and Address Discrepancy Rules; PRA Comment: FTC File No. P072108" on your comment. Your comment—including your name and your state—will be placed on the public record of this proceeding, including the <https://www.regulations.gov> website.

Due to the public health emergency in response to the COVID-19 outbreak and

the agency's heightened security screening, postal mail addressed to the Commission will be subject to delay. We encourage you to submit your comments online through the <https://www.regulations.gov> website.

If you prefer to file your comment on paper, write "Red Flags, Card Issuers, and Address Discrepancy Rules; PRA Comment: FTC File No. P072108" on your comment and on the envelope, and mail your comment to the following address: Federal Trade Commission, Office of the Secretary, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite CC-5610 (Annex J), Washington, DC 20580; or deliver your comment to the following address: Federal Trade Commission, Office of the Secretary, Constitution Center, 400 7th Street SW, 5th Floor, Suite 5610 (Annex J), Washington, DC 20024. If possible, submit your paper comment to the Commission by courier or overnight service.

Because your comment will become publicly available at <https://www.regulations.gov>, you are solely responsible for making sure that your comment does not include any sensitive or confidential information. In particular, your comment should not include any sensitive personal information, such as your or anyone else's Social Security number; date of birth; driver's license number or other state identification number, or foreign country equivalent; passport number; financial account number; or credit or debit card number. You are also solely responsible for making sure that your comment does not include any sensitive health information, such as medical records or other individually identifiable health information. In addition, your comment should not include any "trade secret or any commercial or financial information which . . . is privileged or confidential"—as provided by Section 6(f) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (FTC Act), 15 U.S.C. 46(f), and FTC Rule 4.10(a)(2), 16 CFR 4.10(a)(2)—including in particular competitively sensitive information such as costs, sales statistics, inventories, formulas, patterns, devices, manufacturing processes, or customer names.

Comments containing material for which confidential treatment is requested must be filed in paper form, must be clearly labeled "Confidential," and must comply with FTC Rule 4.9(c). In particular, the written request for confidential treatment that accompanies the comment must include the factual and legal basis for the request, and must identify the specific portions of the comment to be withheld from the public

record. See FTC Rule 4.9(c). Your comment will be kept confidential only if the General Counsel grants your request in accordance with the law and the public interest. Once your comment has been posted publicly at [www.regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov), we cannot redact or remove your comment unless you submit a confidentiality request that meets the requirements for such treatment under FTC Rule 4.9(c), and the General Counsel grants that request.

The FTC Act and other laws that the Commission administers permit the collection of public comments to consider and use in this proceeding, as appropriate. The Commission will consider all timely and responsive public comments that it receives on or before December 14, 2021. For information on the Commission's privacy policy, including routine uses permitted by the Privacy Act, see <https://www.ftc.gov/site-information/privacy-policy>.

Josephine Liu,

Assistant General Counsel for Legal Counsel.

[FR Doc. 2021-22478 Filed 10-14-21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6750-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS-3416-PN]

#### Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Application From the American Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgery Facilities for Continued Approval of Its Rural Health Clinic (RHC) Accreditation Program

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

**ACTION:** Proposed notice.

**SUMMARY:** This proposed notice acknowledges the receipt of an application from the American Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgery Facilities (AAAASF) for continued recognition as a national accrediting organization for rural health clinics (RHCs) that wish to participate in the Medicare or Medicaid programs. The statute requires that within 60 days of receipt of an organization's complete application, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) publish a notice that identifies the national accrediting body making the request, describes the nature of the request, and provides at least a 30-day public comment period.

<sup>18</sup> This estimate is based on mean wages (hourly) found at <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/ocwage.pdf> ("Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wages—May 2020," March 31, 2021, Table 1, "National employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics survey by occupation, May 2020") for the various managerial and technical staff support exemplified above (administrative service managers, computer & information systems managers, training & development managers, computer systems analysts, network & computer systems analysts, computer support specialists) (hereinafter "BLS Table 1").

<sup>19</sup> This estimate—is based on mean wages (hourly) for office and administrative support occupations found within BLS Table 1 (see *supra* note 17).

**DATES:** To be assured consideration, comments must be received at one of the addresses provided below, no later than 5 p.m. on November 15, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** In commenting, please refer to file code CMS-3416-PN. Because of staff and resource limitations, we cannot accept comments by facsimile (FAX) transmission.

You may submit comments in one of three ways (please choose only one of the ways listed):

1. *Electronically.* You may submit electronic comments on this regulation to <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Follow the "Submit a comment" instructions.

2. *By regular mail.* You may mail written comments to the following address ONLY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, Attention: CMS-3416-PN, P.O. Box 8016, Baltimore, MD 21244-8016.

Please allow sufficient time for mailed comments to be received before the close of the comment period.

3. *By express or overnight mail.* You may send written comments to the following address ONLY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, Attention: CMS-3416-PN, Mail Stop C4-26-05, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21244-1850.

For information on viewing public comments, see the beginning of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Shonte Carter, (410) 786-3532.

Lillian Williams, (410) 786-8636.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Inspection of Public Comments:* All comments received before the close of the comment period are available for viewing by the public, including any personally identifiable or confidential business information that is included in a comment. We post all comments received before the close of the comment period on the following website as soon as possible after they have been received: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the search instructions on that website to view public comments. CMS will not post on *Regulations.gov* public comments that make threats to individuals or institutions or suggest that the individual will take actions to harm the individual. CMS continues to encourage individuals not to submit duplicative comments. We will post acceptable comments from multiple unique commenters even if the content is identical or nearly identical to other comments.

**I. Background**

Under the Medicare program, eligible beneficiaries may receive covered services from a rural health clinic (RHC), provided certain requirements are met. Sections 1861(aa) of the Social Security Act (the Act) establish distinct criteria for an entity seeking designation as an RHC. Regulations concerning provider agreements are at 42 CFR part 489 and those pertaining to activities relating to the survey and certification of facilities and other entities are at 42 CFR part 488. The regulations at 42 CFR part 491, subpart A, specify the minimum conditions that an RHC must meet to participate in the Medicare program.

Generally, to enter into a provider agreement with the Medicare program, an RHC must first be certified by a state survey agency as complying with the conditions or requirements set forth in 42 CFR part 491, subpart A of our Medicare regulations. Thereafter, the RHC is subject to regular surveys by a State survey agency to determine whether it continues to meet these requirements.

However, there is an alternative to surveys by state agencies. Section 1865(a)(1) of the Act provides that, if a provider entity demonstrates through accreditation by an approved national accrediting organization that all applicable Medicare conditions are met or exceeded, we will deem those provider entities as having met the requirements. Accreditation by an accrediting organization is voluntary and is not required for Medicare participation.

If an accrediting organization is recognized by the Secretary of Health and Human Services as having standards for accreditation that meet or exceed Medicare requirements, any provider entity accredited by the national accrediting body's approved program would be deemed to meet the Medicare conditions. A national accrediting organization applying for CMS approval of their accreditation program under 42 CFR part 488, subpart A must provide CMS with reasonable assurance that the accrediting organization requires the accredited provider entities to meet requirements that are at least as stringent as the Medicare conditions. Our regulations concerning the approval of accrediting organizations are set forth at § 488.5. The regulations at § 488.5(e)(2)(i) require accrediting organizations to reapply for continued approval of their accreditation program every 6 years or sooner as determined by CMS.

The American Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgery Facilities (AAAASF's) term of approval for their RHC accreditation program expires March 23, 2022.

**II. Approval of Deeming Organizations**

Section 1865(a)(2) of the Act and our regulations at § 488.5 require that our findings concerning review and approval of a national accrediting organization's requirements consider, among other factors, the applying accrediting organization's requirements for accreditation; survey procedures; resources for conducting required surveys; capacity to furnish information for use in enforcement activities; monitoring procedures for provider entities found not in compliance with the conditions or requirements; and ability to provide us with the necessary data for validation.

Section 1865(a)(3)(A) of the Act further requires that we publish, within 60 days of receipt of an organization's complete application, a notice identifying the national accrediting body making the request, describing the nature of the request, and providing at least a 30-day public comment period. We have 210 days from the receipt of a complete application to publish notice of approval or denial of the application.

The purpose of this proposed notice is to inform the public of AAAASF's request for continued approval for its RHC accreditation program. This notice also solicits public comment on whether AAAASF's requirements meet or exceed the Medicare conditions of participation (CoPs) for RHCs.

**III. Evaluation of Deeming Authority Request**

AAAASF submitted all the necessary materials to enable us to make a determination concerning its request for continued approval of its RHC accreditation program. This application was determined to be complete on August 25, 2021. Under section 1865(a)(2) of the Act and our regulations at § 488.5 (Application and re-application procedures for national accrediting organizations), our review and evaluation of AAAASF will be conducted in accordance with, but not necessarily limited to, the following factors:

- The equivalency of AAAASF's standards for RHCs as compared with CMS' RHC CoPs.

- AAAASF's survey process to determine the following:

- ++ The composition of the survey team, surveyor qualifications, and the ability of the organization to provide continuing surveyor training.

++ The comparability of AAAASF's processes to those of state agencies, including survey frequency, and the ability to investigate and respond appropriately to complaints against accredited RHCs.

++ AAAASF's processes and procedures for monitoring RHCs found out of compliance with AAAASF's program requirements. These monitoring procedures are used only when AAAASF identifies noncompliance. If noncompliance is identified through validation reviews or complaint surveys, the state survey agency monitors corrections as specified at § 488.9(c).

++ AAAASF's capacity to report deficiencies to the surveyed RHCs and respond to the RHC's plan of correction in a timely manner.

++ AAAASF's capacity to provide us with electronic data and reports necessary for effective validation and assessment of the organization's survey process.

++ The adequacy of AAAASF's staff and other resources, and its financial viability.

++ AAAASF's capacity to adequately fund required surveys.

++ AAAASF's policies with respect to whether surveys are announced or unannounced, to assure that surveys are unannounced.

++ AAAASF's policies and procedures to avoid conflicts of interest, including the appearance of conflicts of interest, involving individuals who conduct surveys or participate in accreditation decisions.

++ AAAASF's agreement to provide us with a copy of the most current accreditation survey together with any other information related to the survey as we may require (including corrective action plans).

#### IV. Collection of Information Requirements

This document does not impose information collection requirements, that is reporting, recordkeeping or third-party disclosure requirements. Consequently, there is no need for review by the Office Management and Budget under the authority of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

#### V. Response to Comments

Because of the large number of public comments, we normally receive on **Federal Register** documents, we are not able to acknowledge or respond to them individually. We will consider all comments we receive by the date and time specified in the **DATES** section of this notice. Upon completion of our

evaluation, including evaluation of comments received as a result of this notice, we will publish a final notice in the **Federal Register** summarizing our response to comments and announcing the result of our evaluation.

The Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, having reviewed and approved this document, authorizes Lynette Wilson, who is the Federal Register Liaison, to electronically sign this document for purposes of publication in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: October 12, 2021.

**Lynette Wilson,**

*Federal Register Liaison, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.*

[FR Doc. 2021-22506 Filed 10-14-21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4120-01-P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

##### Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[Document Identifier CMS-10781 and CMS-216-94]

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Health and Human Services (HHS).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is announcing an opportunity for the public to comment on CMS' intention to collect information from the public. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension or reinstatement of an existing collection of information, and to allow a second opportunity for public comment on the notice. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including the necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions, the accuracy of the estimated burden, ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected, and the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

**DATES:** Comments on the collection(s) of information must be received by the OMB desk officer by November 15, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function.

To obtain copies of a supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed collection(s) summarized in this notice, you may make your request using one of following:

1. Access CMS' website address at: <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/PaperworkReductionActof1995/PRA-Listing.html>.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

William Parham at (410) 786-4669.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (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. The term "collection of information" is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3(c) and includes agency requests 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 publish a 30-day notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension or reinstatement of an existing collection of information, before submitting the collection to OMB for approval. To comply with this requirement, CMS is publishing this notice that summarizes the following proposed collection(s) of information for public comment:

1. *Type of Information Collection Request:* New collection (Request for a new OMB control); *Title of Information Collection:* FOIA/Privacy Act Requests for Medicare Claims Data via CMS FOIA Public Portal; *Use:* This collection of information is dedicated to Medicare beneficiaries and third-party requesters (law firms or others) acting on behalf of beneficiaries that are making requests for CMS to produce Medicare beneficiary records through 5 U.S.C. 552(b) (See also 42 CFR 401.136). Currently the requests are mailed/faxed/ emailed to CMS. The new online portal will allow for ease and efficiency to upload the request and required