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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Announces the Following Meeting

Name: Continue Conceptual Discussions for Escape Respirator Standards Development Efforts Used for Respiratory Protection Against Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Agents, and Provide an Update on the Quality Assurance/Administrative Module.

Date and Time: June 25, 2003; 9 a.m.—5 p.m.

Place: Hilton Garden Inn Pittsburgh/Southpointe, 1000 Corporate Drive, Canonsburg, Pennsylvania.

Status: This meeting is hosted by NIOSH and will be open to the public, limited only by the space available. The meeting room will accommodate approximately 175 people. Interested parties should make hotel reservations directly with the Hilton Garden Inn Pittsburgh/Southpointe (724/743-5000/1-800-HILTON) before the cut-off date of June 10, 2003. A group rate of $55 per night has been negotiated for meeting guests. The NIOSH/NPPTL Public Meeting must be referenced to receive this special rate. Interested parties should confirm their attendance to this meeting by completing a registration form and forwarding it by e-mail (conference@mail.doe.gov) or fax (304-287-4459) to the Event Management Office. A registration form may be obtained from the NIOSH Homepage (www.cdc.gov/niOSH) by selecting Conferences and then the event.

An opportunity to make presentations regarding the conceptual discussions of standards and testing processes for escape respirator standards suitable for respiratory protection against CBRN Agents will be given. Requests to make such presentations at the public meeting should be mailed to the NIOSH Docket Officer, Robert A. Taft Laboratories, M/S C34, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, Ohio 45226, Telephone 513-533-8303, Fax 513-533-8285, E-mail niocindocket@cdc.gov. All requests to present on the CBRN topics should contain the name, address, telephone number, relevant business affiliations of the presenter, a brief summary of the presentation, and the approximate time requested for the presentation. Oral presentations should be limited to 15 minutes. Participants will be given the opportunity to comment on the Quality Assurance/Administrative module.

After reviewing the requests for presentations, NIOSH will notify each presenter of the approximate time that their presentation is scheduled to begin. If a participant is not present when their presentation is scheduled to begin, the remaining participants will be heard in order. At the conclusion of the meeting, an attempt will be made to allow presentations by any scheduled participants who missed their assigned times. Attendees who wish to speak but did not submit a request for the opportunity to make a presentation may be given this opportunity at the conclusion of the meeting, at the discretion of the presiding officer.

Comments on the topics presented in this notice and at the meeting should be mailed to the NIOSH Docket Office, Robert A. Taft Laboratories, M/S C34, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, Ohio 45226, Telephone 513-533-8303, Fax 513-533-8285. Comments may also be submitted by e-mail to niocindocket@cdc.gov. E-mail attachments should be formatted as WordPerfect 6/7/8/9 or Microsoft Word. Comments should be submitted to NIOSH no later than July 25, 2003, and should reference docket number, NIOSH-002, in the subject heading if they pertain to the CBRN topics, or reference docket number, NIOSH-001, in the subject heading if they pertain to the Quality Assurance/Administrative Module.

Purpose: NIOSH will continue conceptual discussions of standards and testing processes for escape respirator standards suitable for respiratory protection against CBRN Agents. In addition, an update on the development of the Quality Assurance/Administrative module will be presented.

NIOSH, along with the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command (SBCCOM) and the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST), will present information to attendees concerning the concept development for the Escaper Respiritor CBRN standard. Participants will be given an opportunity to ask questions on these topics and to present individual comments for consideration. Interested participants may obtain the latest copy of the Escape Respirator CBRN concept paper, as well as earlier versions of the concept papers used during the standard development effort, from the NIOSH contact identified below, or from the NIOSH National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory Web site, address: http://www.cdc.gov/niOSH/npptl. The June 15, 2003, concept paper will be used as the basis for discussion at the public meeting, as well as forming the basis for the new Escape Respirator CBRN statement of standard.

Recent acts of terrorism have created an urgent awareness of domestic security and preparedness issues. Municipal, states, and federal responder groups, particularly those in locations considering potential targets, have been developing and modifying response and consequence management plans. Since the World Trade Center and anthrax incidents, most emergency response agencies have operated with a heightened appreciation of the potential scope and sustained resources requirements for coping with such events. The federal Interagency Board for Equipment Standardization and Interoperability (IAB) has worked to identify personal protective equipment that is already available on the market for responders' use. The IAB has identified the development of standards or guidelines for respiratory protection equipment as a top priority. NIOSH, NIST, National Fire Protection Association, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration have
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS–5003–N]
RIN 0938–Z439

Medicare Program; Demonstration: End-Stage Renal Disease—Disease Management

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice informs interested parties of an opportunity to apply for a waiver allowing them to participate in the End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Disease Management Demonstration. We are planning a demonstration that will increase the opportunity for Medicare beneficiaries with ESRD to receive integrated disease management services and to test the effectiveness of paying for services received by these beneficiaries in a new way. The demonstration aims to test the effectiveness of disease management models to increase quality of care for ESRD patients while ensuring that this care is provided more effectively and efficiently. The demonstration features two distinct payment options: (1) Capitation, and (2) a fee-for-service bundled payment option. Organizations participating under the capitation payment option will be responsible for providing all Medicare covered services for beneficiaries who choose to participate in the demonstration. We plan to use risk-adjusted ESRD capitation rates being developed for use in the demonstration. A similar system of payment rates for ESRD is planned for the M+C program in 2005.

Organizations participating under the fee-for-service bundled payment model will provide disease management services and dialysis services. They will receive payment for an expanded set of dialysis services, which includes items additional to those included under the current composite rate for outpatient dialysis services. Organizations under this option will be required through disease management to coordinate non-ESRD services, but will not have to provide or contract for these services directly.

Organizations under both capitation and fee-for-service bundled payment models will be subject to a reconciliation around the risk-adjusted ESRD payment rate. Organizations under the capitation model will be able to propose risk-sharing arrangements, which would allow them to share any losses or gains with us. Applicants under the fee-for-service bundled payment model will share 50 percent/50 percent on gains and losses (or a similar arrangement to assure budget neutrality). The maximum amount of the incurred gain or loss for the applicant under the fee-for-service bundled payment model will be the amount of the additional payment for the expanded set of dialysis services.

A competitive application process will be used to select organizations to participate in this demonstration. The demonstration is planned for 4 years.

DATES: Applications will be considered timely if we receive them on or before September 2, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Mail applications to: Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Office of Research, Development, and Information, Division of Demonstration Programs, Attn: Sid Mazumdar, Mail Stop: C4–17–27, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21244. Applications must be typed for clarity and should not exceed 40 double-spaced pages, exclusive of the executive summary, resumes, forms, and documentation supporting the cost proposal. Because of staffing and resource limitations, we cannot accept applications by facsimile (FAX) transmission. Applications postmarked after the closing date, or postmarked on or before the closing date but not received in time for panel review, will be considered late applications.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sid Mazumdar, CMS Project Officer, at (410) 786–6673, or smazumdar@cms.hhs.gov.

Eligible Organizations

Potentially qualified applicants are companies experienced with providing services to ESRD patients. The demonstration will be especially appropriate for dialysis providers and disease management organizations. It will also be open to Medicare+Choice organizations and integrated health care systems.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

A. Problem

Many Medicare+Choice organizations and private insurers have realized the importance of the effective coordination of care for persons with chronic conditions. The quality and cost of the care generally can be improved through better integration of the delivery system. The Medicare program is evaluating payment methods to create incentives to improve the quality of care, encourage