

In order to enter into a provider agreement, a provider must first be surveyed by a Medicare State survey agency for compliance with the health and safety requirements contained in the Medicare statute and regulations. The State survey agency certifies the results of its survey to HCFA. On the basis of the State survey agency's recommendation, HCFA determines if a provider is eligible to participate, and if so, issues a provider agreement. (For further information on certification procedures and provider agreements refer to Subpart S of 42 CFR Part 405, and 42 CFR Part 489.)

In section 122 of the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982 (Pub. L. 97-248, enacted on September 3, 1982), Congress authorized hospice care as a new Medicare benefit and established hospices as providers. The hospice benefit will become effective November 1, 1983. In order to participate in the Medicare program, a hospice must first be surveyed by a State survey agency and receive a Medicare provider agreement from HCFA.

Medicare State survey agencies are beginning to survey hospices for Medicare approval. Although we have not yet published final regulations, a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) was published August 22, 1983 (48 FR 38146) that contained proposed requirements. Because we anticipate that the final requirements will be similar to those published in the NPRM, HCFA has instructed the Medicare State survey agencies to survey based on the requirements in the NPRM. If final regulations are published by November 1, 1983, hospices will have to meet the requirements in the final regulations. Based on survey data, HCFA will determine whether or not the hospice complies with requirements specified in the final regulations. If final regulations have not been published by November 1, 1983, hospices will be evaluated for compliance with a subset of the requirements in the NPRM that restate and apply the relevant statutory requirements. Hospices must meet the requirements of the final regulations, once they go into effect.

We note that provider agreements for hospices may not be made effective prior to the date of the survey if all requirements are met. If a provider does not meet all requirements on the date of the survey, the effective date of the provider agreement is the date when the provider satisfies those requirements. However, in all instances the earliest possible effective date is November 1, 1983 (the date the hospice benefit becomes effective).

Any hospice organization that wishes to be approved for participation in the Medicare program should contact the appropriate Medicare State survey agency now. The State survey agency will explain further procedures to follow. The appropriate agency in virtually all States and territories is the State or Territorial Health Department. For additional information on how to contact the appropriate State survey agency, refer to the Section "FOR FURTHER INFORMATION", above.

(Secs. 1102, 1861(dd), 1864(a), and 1871 of the Social Security Act; 42 U.S.C. 1302, 1395x(dd), 1395x(dd), 1395aa(a), and 1395ii)

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 13.773, Medicare Hospital Insurance)

Dated: September 23, 1983.

Carolyn K. Davis,

Administrator, Health Care Financing Administration.

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#### Public Health Service

##### National Toxicology Program Board of Scientific Counselors; Meeting

Pursuant to Pub. L. 92-463, notice is hereby given of the meeting of the National Toxicology Program (NTP) Board of Scientific Counselors, U.S. Public Health Service, in the Conference Center, Building 101, South Campus, National Institute of Environmental Health Science, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, on October 28, 1983.

The meeting will be open to the public from 9:00 a.m. until adjournment. The primary agenda item is the completion of peer review on draft technical reports of long term toxicology and carcinogenesis studies from the National Toxicology Program. Reviews will be conducted by the Technical Reports Review Subcommittee of the Board in conjunction with an *ad hoc* panel of experts.

Draft technical reports on the following chemicals (listed alphabetically with Chemical Abstracts Service registry numbers and routes of administration) will be peer reviewed October 28. Also listed are the NTP chemical managers for each study.

Chemical (CAS Registry No.)	Route	Chemical manager (telephone No.)
Benzene (71-43-2)	Gavage	Dr. J. E. Huff (919-541-3780)
1,3-Butadiene (106-99-0)	Inhalation	Dr. M. B. Powers (301-496-9213)
Tris(2-Ethylhexyl)Phosphate (78-42-2)	Gavage	Dr. H. B. Matthews (919-541-3252)

The Executive Secretary, Dr. Larry G. Hart, Office of the Director, National Toxicology Program, P. O. Box 12233, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27709, Telephone (919-541-3971), FTS (629-3971), will furnish rosters of subcommittee and panel members and other program information prior to the meeting, and summary minutes subsequent to the meeting.

Dated: September 28, 1983.

David P. Rall,

Director, National Toxicology Program.

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#### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

##### Office of the Secretary

##### Privacy Act of 1974, Revision of Notices of Systems of Records

Pursuant to the provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (5 U.S.C. 552a), notice is hereby given that the Department of the Interior proposes to revise seven notices describing systems of records maintained by the Bureau of Mines. Except as noted below, all changes being published are editorial in nature, and reflect organization changes and other minor administrative revisions which have occurred since the publication of the material in the *Federal Register* on December 22, 1980 (45 FR 84161) and January 26, 1981 (46 FR 8128). The seven revised notices are published in their entirety below.

Four systems of records notices (EBM-1, EBM-2, EBM-3, and EBM-4) are being revised to provide for compatible disclosures to other Federal agencies for the purpose of collecting debts owed the Federal government through administrative or salary offset. The same four notices are being revised to provide for disclosures to consumer reporting agencies to facilitate the collection of debts pursuant to the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552a(b)(12) and the Debt Collection Act of 1982 (31 U.S.C. 3711(f)).

5 U.S.C. 552a(e)(11) requires that the public be provided a 30-day period in which to comment. Therefore written comments on these proposed changes can be addressed to the Department Privacy Act Officer, Office of the Secretary (PIR), U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. Comments received within 30 days of publication in the *Federal Register* will be considered. The notices shall be effective as proposed without further notice at the end of the comment period.