

standardized, regulatory approach to healthcare is necessary.

Response: The Medicare CoPs are the minimum health and safety requirements that all hospitals must meet to participate in the Medicare program and serves as a single, standardized federal regulatory approach. Accreditation by an accreditation organization is voluntary and is not required for Medicare participation. A hospital may opt for routine surveys by a State survey agency to determine whether it meets the Medicare requirements.

Comment: One commenter stated that it is CMS' responsibility to review DNVHC's application thoroughly to ensure DNVHC will meet the intent of the regulations. This commenter also expressed concerns related to a potential conflict of interest issue as DNVHC currently provides Joint Commission readiness consulting services to prepare hospitals for a Joint Commission accreditation survey.

Response: All deeming applications are reviewed in accordance with the requirements at § 488.4 and § 488.8 to ensure that the applicant's accreditation program meets or exceeds Medicare's requirements. In terms of the conflict of interest issue raised by the commenter, DNVHC has provided a written statement as part of its application that this consultative service will be discontinued when DNVHC is approved as a nationally recognized accreditation organization for hospitals.

IV. Provisions of the Final Notice

A. Differences Between DNVHC's Standards and Requirements for Accreditation and Medicare's Conditions and Survey Requirements

We compared DNVHC's hospital accreditation requirements and survey process with the Medicare hospital CoPs and survey process as outlined in the State Operations Manual (SOM). Our review and evaluation of DNVHC's deeming application, which were conducted as described in section III of this final notice, yielded the following:

- DNVHC modified its policies related to the effective date of participation in Medicare for new providers in accordance with requirements at § 489.13;
- DNVHC modified its policies regarding time frames for sending and receiving a required plan of correction, and the required elements of an approved plan of correction in accordance with section 2728 of the SOM;
- DNVHC developed and conducted training for its surveyors to ensure that

all deficiencies cited contain a regulatory reference, a clear and detailed description of the deficient practice and relevant finding;

- In accordance with § 488.3(a) and Appendix A of the SOM, DNVHC modified its policies to ensure that all off-campus provider based locations, satellite locations and services provided at remote locations that are under the hospital's CCN number will be surveyed at least once every three years;

- To meet the Medicare requirements at § 488.20(a) and § 488.28(a), DNVHC developed a policy regarding our requirements for submission of a plan of correction by the hospital and the completion of an onsite follow-up survey to determine compliance with Medicare CoPs after citing condition level noncompliance during a recertification survey;

- DNVHC developed a policy regarding condition level noncompliance identified during an initial certification survey for participation in Medicare in accordance with section 2005A2 of the SOM;

- DNVHC modified its policies regarding complaint investigation activities with appropriate licensing bodies and ombudsmen programs in accordance with the requirements at § 488.4(a)(6);

- DNVHC amended its interpretive guidance and surveyor tool to include the survey methods its surveyors would use to determine compliance with the requirements at § 482.12(f)(2), § 482.23(a), and § 482.23(c)(1);

- DNVHC amended its interpretive guidance and surveyor tools to meet the requirements at § 482.13(c)(3), § 488.22(c)(3), § 482.23(c)(3), § 482.24(c)(1)(iii), § 482.25(b)(2)(i), § 482.25(b)(6), § 482.25(b)(7), § 482.30(b)(3)(i), § 482.43(e), § 482.45(a)(1), § 482.51(a), § 482.52, § 482.53(b), § 482.54, § 482.54(a), and § 482.56;

- DNVHC added language to its standards, and interpretive guidance to address the requirements at § 482.13(e)(9), § 482.30, and § 482.30(b)(1)(ii)(A)–(B);

- DNVHC amended its policies by eliminating recommendations referred to as "opportunities for improvement" from the written survey findings to meet the requirements at § 488.28(a) and Section 2726 of the SOM.

B. Term of Approval

Based on the review and observations described in section III of this final notice, we have determined that DNVHC's requirements for hospitals meet or exceed our requirements. Therefore, we approve DNVHC as a

national accreditation organization for hospitals that request participation in the Medicare program, effective September 26, 2008 through September 26, 2012.

V. Collection of Information Requirements

This document does not impose information collection and record keeping requirements. Consequently, it need not be reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget under the authority of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 35).

Authority: Section 1865 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395bb). (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.778, Medical Assistance Program; No. 93.773, Medicare—Hospital Insurance Program; and No. 93.774, Medicare—Supplemental Medical Insurance Program)

Dated: August 21, 2008.

Kerry Weems,

Acting Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

[FR Doc. E8–22585 Filed 9–25–08; 11:15 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and Families

Proposed Information Collection Activity; Comment Request

Proposed Projects

Title: Child Care and Development Fund Plan for States/Territories for FFY 2010–2011 (ACF–118).

OMB No.: 0970–0114.

Description: The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Plan (the Plan) for States and Territories is required from each CCDF Lead agency in accordance with Section 658E of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, as amended (Pub. L. 101–508, Pub. L. 104–193, and 42 U.S.C. 9858). The implementing regulations for the statutorily required Plan are set forth at 45 CFR 98.10 through 98.18. The Plan, submitted on the ACF–118, is required biennially, and remains in effect for two years. The Plan provides ACF and the public with a description of, and assurance about, the States or the Territories child care program. The ACF–118 is currently approved through June 30, 2009, making it available to States and Territories needing to submit Plan Amendments through the end of the FY 2009 Plan Period. However, in July 2009, States and Territories will be required to submit their FY 2010–2011

Plans. Consistent with the statute and regulations, ACF requests extension of the ACF-118 with minor corrections

and modifications. The Tribal Plan (ACF-118a) is not affected by this notice.

Respondents: State and Territorial CCDF Lead Agencies.

ANNUAL BURDEN ESTIMATES

Instrument	Number of respondents	Number of responses per respondent	Average burden hours per response	Total burden hours
ACF-118	56	0.50	162.57	4,551.96

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 4,551.96

In compliance with the requirements of Section 506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Administration for Children and Families is soliciting public comment on the specific aspects of the information collection described above. Copies of the proposed collection of information can be obtained and comments may be forwarded by writing to the Administration for Children and Families, Office of Administration, Office of Information Services, 370 L'Enfant Promenade, SW., Washington, DC 20447, Attn: ACF Reports Clearance Officer. E-mail address: infocollection@acf.hhs.gov. All requests should be identified by the title of the information collection.

The Department specifically requests comments on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) the quality, utility, and clarity of the

information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted within 60 days of this publication.

Dated: September 23, 2008.

Janean Chambers,
Reports Clearance Officer.
 [FR Doc. E8-22722 Filed 9-26-08; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4184-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and Families

Proposed Information Collection Activity; Comment Request

Proposed Projects

Title: Methodology for Determining Whether an Increase in a State's Child Poverty Rate Is the Result of the TANF Program—NPRM.

OMB No.: 0970-0186.

Description: In accordance with Section 413(i) of the Social Security Act and 45 CFR part 284, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) intends to reinstate the following information collection requirements. For instances when Census Bureau data show that a States child poverty rate increased by 5 percent or more from one year to the next, a State may submit independent estimates of its child poverty rate. If HHS determines that the States independent estimates are not more reliable than the Census Bureau estimates, HHS will require the State to submit an assessment of the impact of the TANF program(s) in the State on the child poverty rate. If HHS determines from the assessment and other information that the child poverty rate in the State increased as a result of the TANF program(s) in the State, HHS will then require the State to submit a corrective action plan.

Respondents: The respondents are the 50 States and District of Columbia; when reliable Census Bureau data become available for the Territories, additional respondents might include Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

ANNUAL BURDEN ESTIMATES

Instrument	Number of respondents	Number of responses per respondent	Average burden hours per response	Total burden hours
Optional Submission of Data on Child Poverty from an Independent Source	54	1	8	432
Assessment of the Impact of TANF on the Increase in Child Poverty	54	1	120	6,480
Corrective Action Plan	54	1	160	8,640

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 15,552.

In compliance with the requirements of Section 506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Administration for Children and Families is soliciting public comment on the specific aspects of the information collection described above. Copies of the proposed collection of information can be obtained and comments may be forwarded by writing to the Administration for Children and

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