

Paperwork Relief Act of 2002, Public Law 107–198, see 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(4), the FCC seeks specific comment on how it might “further reduce the information collection burden for small business concerns with fewer than 25 employees.”

OMB Control Number: 3060–1286.

Title: Emergency Connectivity Fund Program.

Form Number: FCC Forms 471, 472, 474, and 500.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit, state, local or tribal government institutions, and other not-for-profit institutions.

Number of Respondents and Responses: 23,000 respondents; 132,100 responses.

Estimated Time per Response: 4.5 hours for FCC Form 471 (4 hours for response; 0.5 hours for recordkeeping); 1.5 hours for FCC Forms 472/474 (1 hour for response; 0.5 hours for recordkeeping); 1.5 hours for Emergency Connectivity Fund Post-Commitment Change Request (streamlines collection based on the FCC Form 500 and FCC Form 471 for use in the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program) (1 hour for response; 0.5 hours for recordkeeping)).

Frequency of Response: On occasion and annual reporting requirements; recordkeeping requirement.

Obligation to Respond: Required to obtain or retain benefits. Statutory authority for this information collection is contained in in sections 1, 4(i), 4(j), 201–205, 214, 254, and 403 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 151–154, 201–205, 218–220, 254, 303(r), 403 and 405 and section 7402 of the American Rescue Plan Act, Public Law 117–2, 135 Stat. 4.

Total Annual Burden: 315,450 hours.

Total Annual Cost: No Cost.

Needs and Uses: The requirements contained herein are necessary to implement and administer the Congressional mandate for the Emergency Connectivity Fund. The information collected herein provides the Commission and USAC with the necessary information to administer the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program, determine the amount of support entities seeking funding are eligible to receive, determine if entities are complying with the Commission’s rules, and to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse. The information will also allow the Commission to evaluate the extent to which the Emergency Connectivity Fund is meeting the statutory objectives specified in section 7402 of the American Rescue Plan Act, the Commission’s performance goals set

forth in the *Emergency Connectivity Fund Report and Order*, and to evaluate the need for and feasibility of any future revisions to program rules. The name, address, DUNS number and business type will be disclosed in accordance with the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act/ Digital Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA/DATA Act) reporting requirements. Emergency Connectivity Fund Program application, commitment, and disbursement data will also be publicly available.

Federal Communications Commission.

Marlene Dortch,

Secretary, Office of the Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2021–20800 Filed 9–23–21; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Formations of, Acquisitions by, and Mergers of Bank Holding Companies

The companies listed in this notice have applied to the Board for approval, pursuant to the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841 *et seq.*) (BHC Act), Regulation Y (12 CFR part 225), and all other applicable statutes and regulations to become a bank holding company and/or to acquire the assets or the ownership of, control of, or the power to vote shares of a bank or bank holding company and all of the banks and nonbanking companies owned by the bank holding company, including the companies listed below.

The public portions of the applications listed below, as well as other related filings required by the Board, if any, are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank(s) indicated below and at the offices of the Board of Governors. This information may also be obtained on an expedited basis, upon request, by contacting the appropriate Federal Reserve Bank and from the Board’s Freedom of Information Office at <https://www.federalreserve.gov/foia/request.htm>. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the standards enumerated in the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1842(c)).

Comments regarding each of these applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors, Ann E. Misback, Secretary of the Board, 20th Street and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20551–0001, not later than October 25, 2021.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond (Adam M. Drimer, Assistant Vice President) 701 East Byrd Street,

Richmond, Virginia 23219. Comments can also be sent electronically to or Comments.applications@rich.frb.org.

1. *Southern Bancshares (N.C.), Inc., Mount Olive, North Carolina;* to acquire up to 19.9 percent of the voting shares of Old Point Financial Corporation, and thereby indirectly acquire voting shares of The Old Point National Bank of Phoebus, both of Hampton, Virginia.

B. Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis (Chris P. Wangen, Assistant Vice President), 90 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55480–0291.

1. *MidCountry Acquisition Corp., Minneapolis, Minnesota;* to acquire The Tysan Corporation, Minneapolis, Minnesota, and thereby indirectly acquire Pine County Bank, Little Falls, Minnesota, and Lake Community Bank, Long Lake, Minnesota.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, September 21, 2021.

Michele Taylor Fennell,

Deputy Associate Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 2021–20757 Filed 9–23–21; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS–1759–N]

Medicare Program; Town Hall Meeting on the FY 2023 Applications for New Medical Services and Technologies Add-On Payments

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

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a Town Hall Meeting in accordance with the Social Security Act (the Act) to discuss fiscal year (FY) 2023 applications for add-on payments for new medical services and technologies under the hospital inpatient prospective payment system (IPPS). The United States is responding to an outbreak of respiratory disease caused by the virus “SARS–CoV–2” and the disease it causes “coronavirus disease 2019” (abbreviated “COVID–19”). Due to the COVID–19 pandemic, the Town Hall Meeting will be held virtually rather than as an in-person meeting. Interested parties are invited to this meeting to present their comments, recommendations, and data regarding whether the FY 2023 new medical services and technologies applications meet the substantial clinical improvement criterion.

DATES:

Meeting dates: The Town Hall Meeting announced in this notice will be held virtually on Tuesday, December 14, 2021 and Wednesday, December 15, 2021 (the number of new technology applications submitted will determine if a second day for the meeting is necessary; see the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for details regarding the second day of the meeting and the posting of the preliminary meeting agenda). The Town Hall Meeting will begin each day at 9 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (e.s.t.) and check-in via online platform will begin at 8:30 a.m. e.s.t.

Deadline for requesting special accommodations: The deadline to submit requests for special accommodations is 5 p.m., e.s.t. on Monday, November 22, 2021.

Deadline for registration of presenters at the Town Hall Meeting: The deadline to register to present at the Town Hall Meeting is 5 p.m., e.s.t. on Monday, November 22, 2021.

Deadline for submission of agenda item(s) or written comments for the Town Hall Meeting: Written comments and agenda items (public comments to be delivered at the Town Hall Meeting) for discussion at the Town Hall Meeting, including agenda items by presenters (presentation slide decks), must be received by 5 p.m. e.s.t. on Monday, November 29, 2021.

Deadline for submission of written comments after the Town Hall Meeting for consideration in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System/Long Term Care PPS (IPPS/LTCH PPS) proposed rule: Individuals may submit written comments after the Town Hall Meeting, as specified in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice, on whether the service or technology represents a substantial clinical improvement. These comments must be received by 5 p.m. e.s.t. on Monday, December 27, 2021, for consideration in the FY 2023 IPPS/LTCH PPS proposed rule.

ADDRESSES:

Meeting location: The Town Hall Meeting will be held virtually via live stream technology or webinar and listen-only via toll-free teleconference. Live stream or webinar and teleconference dial-in information will be provided through an upcoming listserv notice and will appear on the final meeting agenda, which will be posted on the New Technology website when available at: <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/AcuteInpatientPPS/newtech.html>. Continue to check the website for updates.

Registration and special accommodations: Individuals wishing to present at the meeting must follow the instructions located in section III. of this notice. Individuals who need special accommodations should send an email to newtech@cms.hhs.gov.

Submission of agenda item(s) or written comments for the Town Hall Meeting: Each presenter must submit an agenda item(s) regarding whether a FY 2023 application meets the substantial clinical improvement criterion. Agenda items, written comments, questions or other statements must not exceed three single-spaced typed pages and may be sent via email to newtech@cms.hhs.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michelle Joshua, (410) 786-6050, michelle.joshua@cms.hhs.gov or newtech@cms.hhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Background on the Add-On Payments for New Medical Services and Technologies Under the IPPS**

Sections 1886(d)(5)(K) and (L) of the Social Security Act (the Act) require the Secretary to establish a process of identifying and ensuring adequate payments to acute care hospitals for new medical services and technologies under Medicare. Effective for discharges beginning on or after October 1, 2001, section 1886(d)(5)(K)(i) of the Act requires the Secretary to establish (after notice and opportunity for public comment) a mechanism to recognize the costs of new services and technologies under the hospital inpatient prospective payment system (IPPS). In addition, section 1886(d)(5)(K)(vi) of the Act specifies that a medical service or technology will be considered “new” if it meets criteria established by the Secretary (after notice and opportunity for public comment). (See the fiscal year (FY) 2002 IPPS proposed rule (66 FR 22693, May 4, 2001) and final rule (66 FR 46912, September 7, 2001) for a more detailed discussion.)

As finalized in the FY 2020 IPPS/LTCH PPS final rule, technologies which are eligible for the alternative new technology pathway for transformative new devices or the alternative new technology pathway for Qualified Infectious Disease Products (QIDPs) do not need to meet the requirement under 42 CFR 412.87(b)(1) that the technology represent an advance that substantially improves, relative to technologies previously available, the diagnosis or treatment of Medicare beneficiaries. These medical devices or products will also be considered new and not substantially

similar to an existing technology for purposes of new technology add-on payment under the IPPS. (See the FY 2020 IPPS/LTCH PPS final rule (84 FR 42292 through 42297) for additional information.)

As finalized in the FY 2021 IPPS/LTCH final rule, we expanded our alternative new technology add-on payment pathway to include products approved through FDA’s Limited Population Pathway for Antibacterial and Antifungal Drugs (LPAD pathway). Under this policy, for applications received for consideration of new technology add-on payments for FY 2022 and subsequent fiscal years, if an antimicrobial product is approved through FDA’s LPAD pathway, it will be considered new and not substantially similar to an existing technology for purposes of the new technology add-on payment under the IPPS, and will not need to meet the requirement that it represent an advance that substantially improves, relative to technologies previously available, the diagnosis or treatment of Medicare beneficiaries. Under current policy, a new technology must receive FDA marketing authorization by July 1 to be considered in the IPPS final rule in order to allow complete review and consideration of all the information to determine if the technology meets the new technology add-on payment criteria at the beginning of the fiscal year (that is, October 1st).

Under the previously described policy, cases involving eligible antimicrobial products could begin receiving the new technology add-on payment sooner, effective for discharges the quarter after the date of FDA marketing authorization provided that the technology receives FDA marketing authorization by July 1 of the particular fiscal year for which the applicant applied for new technology add-on payments. (See the FY 2021 IPPS/LTCH PPS final rule (85 FR 58737 through 58739) for additional information.)

In the FY 2020 IPPS/LTCH PPS final rule (84 FR 42289 through 42292), we codified in our regulations at § 412.87 the following aspects of how we evaluate substantial clinical improvement for purposes of new technology add-on payments under the IPPS in order to determine if a new technology meets the substantial clinical improvement requirement:

- The totality of the circumstances is considered when making a determination that a new medical service or technology represents an advance that substantially improves, relative to services or technologies

previously available, the diagnosis or treatment of Medicare beneficiaries.

- A determination that a new medical service or technology represents an advance that substantially improves, relative to services or technologies previously available, the diagnosis or treatment of Medicare beneficiaries means—

- ++ The new medical service or technology offers a treatment option for a patient population unresponsive to, or ineligible for, currently available treatments;

- ++ The new medical service or technology offers the ability to diagnose a medical condition in a patient population where that medical condition is currently undetectable or offers the ability to diagnose a medical condition earlier in a patient population than allowed by currently available methods, and there must also be evidence that use of the new medical service or technology to make a diagnosis affects the management of the patient; or

- ++ The use of the new medical service or technology significantly improves clinical outcomes relative to services or technologies previously available as demonstrated by one or more of the following:

- A reduction in at least one clinically significant adverse event, including a reduction in mortality or a clinically significant complication.

- A decreased rate of at least one subsequent diagnostic or therapeutic intervention (for example, due to reduced rate of recurrence of the disease process).

- A decreased number of future hospitalizations or physician visits.

- A more rapid beneficial resolution of the disease process treatment including, but not limited to, a reduced length of stay or recovery time; an improvement in one or more activities of daily living; an improved quality of life; or, a demonstrated greater medication adherence or compliance.

- ++ The totality of the circumstances otherwise demonstrates that the new medical service or technology substantially improves, relative to technologies previously available, the diagnosis or treatment of Medicare beneficiaries.

- Evidence from the following published or unpublished information sources from within the United States or elsewhere may be sufficient to establish that a new medical service or technology represents an advance that substantially improves, relative to services or technologies previously

available, the diagnosis or treatment of Medicare beneficiaries: Clinical trials, peer reviewed journal articles; study results; meta-analyses; consensus statements; white papers; patient surveys; case studies; reports; systematic literature reviews; letters from major healthcare associations; editorials and letters to the editor; and public comments. Other appropriate information sources may be considered.

- The medical condition diagnosed or treated by the new medical service or technology may have a low prevalence among Medicare beneficiaries.

- The new medical service or technology may represent an advance that substantially improves, relative to services or technologies previously available, the diagnosis or treatment of a subpopulation of patients with the medical condition diagnosed or treated by the new medical service or technology.

Section 1886(d)(5)(K)(viii) of the Act requires that as part of the process for evaluating new medical services and technology applications, the Secretary shall do the following:

- Provide for public input regarding whether a new service or technology represents an advance in medical technology that substantially improves the diagnosis or treatment of Medicare beneficiaries before publication of a proposed rule.

- Make public and periodically update a list of all the services and technologies for which an application is pending.

- Accept comments, recommendations, and data from the public regarding whether the service or technology represents a substantial improvement.

- Provide for a meeting at which organizations representing hospitals, physicians, manufacturers and any other interested party may present comments, recommendations, and data to the clinical staff of CMS as to whether the service or technology represents a substantial improvement before publication of a proposed rule.

The opinions and presentations provided during this meeting will assist us as we evaluate the new medical services and technology applications for FY 2023. In addition, they will help us to evaluate our policy on the IPPS new technology add-on payment process before the publication of the FY 2023 IPPS proposed rule.

II. Town Hall Meeting Format and Conference Call/Live Streaming Information

A. Format of the Town Hall Meeting

As noted in section I. of this notice, we are required to provide for a meeting at which organizations representing hospitals, physicians, manufacturers and any other interested party may present comments, recommendations, and data to the clinical staff of CMS concerning whether the service or technology represents a substantial clinical improvement. This meeting will allow for a discussion of the substantial clinical improvement criterion for the FY 2023 new medical services and technology add-on payment applications. Information regarding the applications can be found on our website at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/AcuteInpatientPPS/newtech.html>.

The majority of the meeting will be reserved for presentations of comments, recommendations, and data from registered presenters. The time for each presenter's comments will be approximately 10 to 15 minutes and will be based on the number of registered presenters. Individuals who would like to present must register and submit their agenda item(s) via email to newtech@cms.hhs.gov by the date specified in the **DATES** section of this notice.

Depending on the number of applications received, we will determine if a second meeting day is necessary. A preliminary agenda will be posted on the CMS website at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/AcuteInpatientPPS/newtech.html> by November 22, 2021, to inform the public of the number of days of the meeting.

In addition, written comments will also be accepted and presented at the meeting if they are received via email to newtech@cms.hhs.gov by the date specified in the **DATES** section of this notice. Written comments may also be submitted after the meeting for our consideration. If the comments are to be considered before the publication of the FY 2023 IPPS proposed rule, the comments must be received via email to newtech@cms.hhs.gov by the date specified in the **DATES** section of this notice.

B. Conference Call, Live Streaming, and Webinar Information

As noted previously, the Town Hall Meeting will be held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There will be an option to participate in the Town Hall

Meeting via live streaming technology or webinar and a toll-free teleconference phone line. Information on the option to participate via live streaming technology or webinar and a teleconference dial-in will be provided through an upcoming listserv notice and will appear on the final meeting agenda, which will be posted on the New Technology website at: <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/AcuteInpatientPPS/newtech.html>. Continue to check the website for updates.

C. Disclaimer

We cannot guarantee reliability for live streaming technology or a webinar.

III. Registration Instructions

The Division of New Technology in CMS is coordinating the meeting registration for the Town Hall Meeting on substantial clinical improvement. While there is no registration fee, individuals planning to present at the Town Hall Meeting must register to present.

Registration for presenters may be completed by sending an email to newtech@cms.hhs.gov. Please include your name, address, telephone number, email address and fax number.

Registration for attendees not presenting at the meeting is not required.

IV. Collection of Information

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 of Management and Budget under the authority of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

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: September 21, 2021.

Lynette Wilson,

Federal Register Liaison, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

[FR Doc. 2021-20811 Filed 9-23-21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4120-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[Document Identifier: CMS-10531 and CMS-10501]

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 October 25, 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. 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:* Revision of a currently approved collection; *Title of Information Collection:* Transcatheter Valve Therapy (TVT) Registry; *Use:* The data collection is required by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) National Coverage Determination (NCD) entitled, "Transcatheter Edge-to-Edge Repair (TEER) for Mitral Valve Regurgitation" and was previously entitled "Transcatheter Mitral Valve Repair (TMVR)". Effective January 19, 2021, CMS updated this NCD to expand coverage to functional mitral regurgitation (MR). Previously, coverage was limited to degenerative MR. To more precisely define the treatment addressed in this NCD, we replaced the term TMVR with TEER. The TEER device is only covered when specific conditions are met including that the heart team and hospital are submitting data in a prospective, national, audited registry. The data includes patient, practitioner and facility level variables that predict outcomes such as all-cause mortality and quality of life. In order to remove the data collection requirement under this coverage with evidence development (CED) NCD or make any other changes to the existing policy, we must formally reopen and reconsider the policy. We are continuing to review and analyze the data collected since the original NCD was effective in 2014 and following the update in 2021.

The data collected and analyzed in the TVT Registry will be used by CMS to determine if TEER is reasonable and necessary (e.g., improves health outcomes) for Medicare beneficiaries