

information contained in this system. The routine uses will then be prioritized and reordered according to their proposed usage. We will also take the opportunity to update any sections of the system that were affected by the recent reorganization and to update language in the administrative sections to correspond with language used in other CMS SORs.

The primary purpose of the SOR is to provide general information to beneficiaries and future beneficiaries so that they can make informed Medicare decisions, maintain information on Medicare enrollment for the administration of the Medicare program, including the following functions: Ensuring proper Medicare enrollment, claims payment, Medicare premium billing and collection, coordination of benefits by validating and verifying the enrollment status of beneficiaries, and validating and studying the characteristics of persons enrolled in the Medicare program including their requirements for information. Information retrieved from this SOR will also be disclosed to: (1) Support regulatory, reimbursement, and policy functions performed within the Agency or by a contractor or consultant; (2) another Federal or state agency, agency of a state government, an agency established by state law, or its fiscal agent; (3) providers and suppliers of services for administration of Title XVIII of the Act; (4) third parties where the contact is expected to have information relating to the individual's capacity to manage his or her own affairs; (5) other insurers for processing individual insurance claims; (6) support constituent requests made to a congressional representative; (7) support litigation involving the Agency; and (8) combat fraud and abuse in certain health benefits programs. We have provided background information about the modified system in the

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section below. Although the Privacy Act requires only that CMS provide an opportunity for interested persons to comment on the proposed routine uses, CMS invites comments on all portions of this notice. See **EFFECTIVE DATES** section for comment period.

EFFECTIVE DATES: CMS filed a modified system report with the Chair of the House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, the Chair of the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs, and the Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on March 13, 2003. To ensure that all parties have adequate time in

which to comment, the new SOR, including routine uses, will become effective 40 days from the publication of the notice, or from the date it was submitted to OMB and the Congress, whichever is later, unless CMS receives comments that require alterations to this notice.

ADDRESSES: The public should address comments to: Director, Division of Privacy Compliance Data Development, OIS, CMS, Room N2-04-27, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850. Comments received will be available for review at this location, by appointment, during regular business hours, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., eastern daylight time.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kenneth Taylor, Health Insurance Specialist, Division of Call Center Operations, Customer Teleservice Operations Group, Center for Beneficiary Choices, CMS, 7500 Security Boulevard, C2-26-20, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850. The telephone number is 410-786-6736.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Description of the Modified System

A. Background

The "1-800-Medicare + Choices Helpline, System No. 09-70-0535, was established as a new system to broadly disseminate information to Medicare beneficiaries and prospective Medicare beneficiaries on the coverage options provided under the Medicare + Choice program in order to promote an active, informed selection among such options. The information campaign included, general information, information comparing plan options, information on Medi-gap and Medicare Select. This information is to be provided through toll-free telephone service, Internet site, print, and local education and outreach. Notice of this system was published at 66 **Federal Register** 16679 (Mar 20, 2001).

B. Statutory and Regulatory Basis for System

Authority for maintenance of the system is given under Title 41 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) Chapter 101-20.302, Conduct on Federal Property, and OMB Circular A-123, Internal Control Systems, and Title 42 United States Code (U.S.C.) section 1395w-21 (d) (Pub. L. 105-3, the Balanced Budget Act of 1997).

II. Collection and Maintenance of Data in the System

A. Scope of the Data Collected

The collected information will contain name, address, telephone number, health insurance claim (HIC) number, geographic location, race/ethnicity, sex, date of birth, as well as, background information relating to Medicare or Medicaid issues. The HELPLINE will also maintain a caller history for purposes of re-contacts by customer service representatives or CMS, contain information related to Medicare enrollment and entitlement, group health plan enrollment data, as well as, background information relating to Medicare or Medicaid issues.

Information is collected on individuals age 65 or over who have been, or currently are, entitled to health insurance (Medicare) benefits under Title XVIII of the Act or under provisions of the Railroad Retirement Act, individuals under age 65 who have been, or currently are, entitled to such benefits on the basis of having been entitled for not less than 24 months to disability benefits under Title II of the Act or under the Railroad Retirement Act, individuals who have been, or currently are, entitled to such benefits because they have ESRD, individuals age 64 and 8 months or over who are likely to become entitled to health insurance (Medicare) benefits upon attaining age 65, and individuals under age 65 who have at least 21 months of disability benefits who are likely to become entitled to Medicare upon the 25th month of their being disabled.

B. Agency Policies, Procedures, and Restrictions on the Routine Use

The Privacy Act permits us to disclose information without an individual's consent if the information is to be used for a purpose that is compatible with the purpose(s) for which the information was collected. Any such disclosure of data is known as a "routine use." The government will only release HELPLINE information that can be associated with an individual as provided for under "Section III. Proposed Routine Use Disclosures of Data in the System." Both identifiable and non-identifiable data may be disclosed under a routine use.

We will only collect the minimum personal data necessary to achieve the purpose of HELPLINE. CMS has the following policies and procedures concerning disclosures of information that will be maintained in the system. Disclosure of information from the SOR will be approved only to the extent necessary to accomplish the purpose of the disclosure and only after CMS: