

CFR chapter IV part 413 as set forth below:

PART 413—PRINCIPLE OF REASONABLE COST REIMBURSEMENT; PAYMENT FOR END-STAGE RENAL DISEASE SERVICES; PROSPECTIVELY DETERMINED PAYMENT RATES FOR SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES

Subpart F—Specific Categories of Cost

1. The authority citation for part 413 continues to read as follows:

Authority: Sections 1102, 1812(d), 1814(b), 1815, 1833(a), (i), and (n), 1871, 1881, 1883, and 1886 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1302, 1395d(d), 1395f(b), 1395g, 1395l(a), (i), and (n), 1395hh, 1395rr, 1395tt, and 1395ww).

2. In § 413.80, paragraphs (h) and (i) are revised to read as follows:

§ 413.80 Bad debts, charity, and courtesy allowances.

* * * * *

(h)(1) *Limitations on bad debts for hospitals.* The amount of bad debts otherwise treated as allowable costs (as defined in paragraph (e) of this section) is reduced as follows for cost reporting periods beginning during:

- (i) Fiscal year 1998, by 25 percent.
- (ii) Fiscal year 1999, by 40 percent.
- (iii) Fiscal year 2000, by 45 percent.
- (iv) All subsequent fiscal years, by 30 percent.

(2) *Limitations on bad debts for other entities.* Except as provided in § 417.536 of this title, the amount of bad debts otherwise treated as allowable costs (as defined in paragraph (e) of this section) is reduced as follows for cost reporting periods beginning on or after:

- (i) October 1, 2003, by 10 percent.
- (ii) October 1, 2004, by 20 percent.
- (iii) October 1, 2005 and all subsequent years, by 30 percent.

(i) *Exception.* Bad debts arising from services paid under a reasonable charge-based methodology or a fee schedule are not reimbursable under the program.

Subpart H—Payment for End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Services and Organ Procurement Costs

3. In § 413.178, paragraph (a) is revised to read as follows:

§ 413.178 Bad debts.

(a) CMS will reimburse each facility its allowable Medicare bad debts, as defined in § 413.80(b)(1), as determined under Medicare principles, in a single lump sum payment at the end of the facility's cost reporting period. The amount of allowable bad debt is reduced in accordance with § 413.80(h)(2).

* * * * *

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.774, Medicare—Supplementary Medical Insurance Program)

Dated: September 3, 2002.

Thomas A. Scully,
Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

Approved: January 2, 2003.

Tommy G. Thompson,
Secretary.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 90

[WT Docket No. 02–55; DA 03–19]

Supplemental Comments of the Consensus Parties Filed in the 800 MHz Public Safety Interference Proceeding; Request for Comments

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: This document seeks comment on “Supplemental Comments of the Consensus Parties” filed in the 800 MHz Public Safety Interference Proceeding—WT Docket No. 02–55. The Bureau, by this action, affords interested parties an opportunity to submit comments and reply comments that will improve public safety operations in the 800 MHz band. Improving public safety operations in the 800 MHz band will reduce interference experienced by 800 MHz public safety operators.

DATES: Comments are due on or before February 3, 2003 and Reply Comments are due on or before February 18, 2003.¹

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission 445, 12th Street, SW., TW–A325, Washington, DC 20554. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for filing instructions.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Franklin, Esq. or Michael J. Wilhelm, Esq., Policy and Rules Branch, Public Safety and Private Wireless Division at (202) 418–0680.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a summary of the Commission's Public Notice, DA 03–19, released on January 3, 2003. The full text of this document is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Center, 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554. The complete text may be purchased from

the Commission's copy contractor, Qualex International, 445 12th Street, SW., Room CY–B402, Washington, DC. 20554. The full text may also be downloaded at: www.fcc.gov.

Alternative formats are available to persons with disabilities by contacting Brian Millin at (202) 418–7426 or TTY (202) 418–7365 or at bmillin@fcc.gov.

On December 24, 2002, a group of sixteen parties filed “Supplemental Comments of the Consensus Parties” in WT Docket 02–55, Improving Public Safety Communications in the 800 MHz Band—Consolidating the 900 MHz Industrial/Land Transportation and Business Pool Channels (67 FR 16351, April 5 2002).² In these comments, the parties provide additional details concerning the “Consensus Plan” for addressing interference issues in the 800 MHz band. In order to develop a full and complete record, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau issues this public notice seeking comment on the Supplemental Comments of the Consensus Parties (Supplemental Comments). The Commission will accept comments on the Supplemental Comments on or before February 3, 2003; and reply comments on or before February 18, 2003.

The Supplemental Comments primarily address four issues: (1) Funding for the Consensus Plan; (2) procedures and processes for relocating 800 MHz incumbents; (3) post-realignment interference protection standards; and (4) border area realignment plans.

Interested parties may view the “Supplemental Comments of the Consensus Parties” on the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) using the following steps: (1) Access ECFS at <http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>. (2) In the introductory screen, click on “Search for Filed Comments.” (3) In the “Proceeding” box, enter “02–55.” (4) In the “Filed on Behalf of” box, enter “Consensus Parties.” (5) In the “Date Submitted” box, enter “12/24/2002.” In addition, the Supplemental Comments of the Consensus Parties will be available for inspection and duplication during regular business hours in the FCC Reference Information Center (RIC) of the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Federal

² Subsequent to issuance of the public notice, the comment and reply comment dates were extended to February 10, 2003 and February 25, 2003, respectively (published elsewhere in this issue). See Improving Public Safety Communications in the 800 MHz Band and Consolidating the 900 MHz Industrial Land Transportation and Business Pool Channels, *Order Extending Time for Filing of Comments*, WT Docket 02–55, DA 03–163 (January 16, 2003)

¹ This document was received at the Office of the Federal Register on February 5, 2003.