Agenda items are subject to change as priorities dictate.

Contact Person for More Information: Kathy Cahill, Executive Secretary, Advisory Committee to the Director, CDC, 1600 Clifton Road, NE, M/S D–23, Atlanta, Georgia 30333. Telephone 404/639–7060.

The Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, has been delegated the authority to sign **Federal Register** notices pertaining to announcements of meetings and other committee management activities, for both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

Dated: May 24, 2002.

John Burckhardt,

Acting Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

[FR Doc. 02–13642 Filed 5–30–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4163–18–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Board of Scientific Counselors Meeting, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health: Meeting

In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (P. L. 92–463), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces the following committee meeting:

Name: Board of Scientific Counselors, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (BSC, NIOSH).

Time and Date: 9 a.m.—3 p.m., June 27, 2002.

Place: Washington Court Hotel on Capitol Hill, 525 New Jersey Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20001, telephone 202/628–2100, fax 202/879–7938.

Status: Open to the public, limited only by the space available. The meeting room accommodates approximately 50 people.

Purpose: The Secretary, the Assistant Secretary for Health, and by delegation the Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, are authorized under Sections 301 and 308 of the Public Health Service Act to conduct directly or by grants or contracts, research, experiments, and demonstrations relating to occupational safety and health and to mine health. The Board of Scientific Counselors shall provide guidance to the Director, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health on research and preventions programs. Specifically, the Board shall provide guidance on the Institute's research activities related to developing and evaluating hypotheses, systematically documenting findings and disseminating results. The Board shall evaluate the degree to which the activities of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health: (1) Conform to appropriate scientific standards, (2) address current, relevant needs, and (3) produce intended results.

Matters to be Discussed: Agenda items include a report from the Acting Director of NIOSH; Report from the BSC Beryllium Subcommittee; Approaches to Occupational Health and Safety for Under-Served Populations; Update on Extramural Grant Programs; Dermal Exposure Research.

Agenda items are subject to change as priorities dictate.

Contact Person for More Information: Roger Rosa, Executive Secretary, BSC, NIOSH, CDC, 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 715H, Washington, DC 20201, telephone (202)205–7856, fax (202)260–4464.

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Dated: May 24, 2002.

John C. Burckhardt,

Acting Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

[FR Doc. 02–13633 Filed 5–30–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4163–19–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Notice of Meeting

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces the following meeting.

Name: National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Standards Development Efforts for Full Facepiece Air-Purifying Respirators (APR) Used to Protect Emergency Response Workers Against Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Agents.

Times and Dates: 1 p.m.–5 p.m., June 18, 2002. 9 a.m.–5 p.m., June 19, 2002.

Place: Sheraton Station Square, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Status: The meeting will be open to the public, limited only by the space available. The meeting room accommodates approximately 200 people.

Requests to make presentations at the public meeting should be mailed to the NIOSH Docket Officer, Robert A. Taft Laboratories, M/S C34, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, Ohio 45226, telephone (513) 533–8303, fax (513) 533–8285, or e-mailed to *NIOCINDOCKET@CDC.GOV*. All requests to present should contain the name, address, and telephone number, relevant business affiliations of the presenter, a brief summary of the presentation, and the approximate time requested for the presentation. Oral presentations should be limited to 15 minutes. After reviewing the requests for presentations, NIOSH will notify each presenter of the approximate time that their presentation is scheduled to begin. If a participant is not present when their presentation is scheduled to begin, the remaining participants will be heard in order. At the conclusion of the meeting, an attempt will be made to allow presentations by any scheduled participants who missed their assigned times. Attendees who wish to speak but did not submit a request for the opportunity to make a presentation may be given this opportunity at the conclusion of the meeting, at the discretion of the presiding officer.

The US. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command (SBCCOM) and National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) plan to hold a related meeting on June 20, 2002 at the same location to discuss the development of chemical and biological personal protection equipment standards and guidelines (other than respirators). They are the lead agencies associated with the development of standards for personal protective equipment, other than respirators, against CBRN agents. For information concerning this June 20, 2002 meeting, please contact: Ms. Elaine Stewart-Craig, Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, SBCCOM, 5183 Blackhawk Road, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010–5424, ATTN: AMSSB–REN–HD–T, telephone 410–436–2102, fax 410–436–2998, and/or e-mail *Elaine.stewartcraig@sbccom.apgea.army.mil.*

Comments on the topics presented in this notice and at the meeting should be mailed to the NIOSH Docket Office, Robert A. Taft Laboratories, M/S C34, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, Ohio 45226, telephone 513–533–8303, fax 513/533–8285. Comments may also be submitted by e-mail to: *NIOCINDOCKET@CDC.GOV*. E-mail attachments should be formatted as WordPerfect 6/7/8/9, or Microsoft Word. Comments should be submitted to NIOSH no later than July 15, 2002, and should reference docket number, NIOSH–002, in the subject heading.

Purpose: The purpose of the meeting is to present concepts for proposed approval standards and testing precesses for full facepiece Air-Purifying Respirators (APR) suitable for use by first responders against CBRN

agents; concepts and priorities for the development and implementation of standards for other classes of respirators; and research work to identify stimulant materials for use as CBRN test surrogates for respirator research and development efforts. NIOSH and its standards development partners, U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command (SBCCOM) and the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST), will present information to attendees concerning the development of the concepts and priorities being considered for the development of standards for the various classes of respirators. Participants will be given an opportunity to ask questions and to present individual comments that they may wish to have considered. Interested participants may obtain a copy of the APR CBRN standard concept paper from the NIOSH contact identified below, or from the NIOSH National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory Web site, address: *http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl.*

Recent acts of terrorism have created an urgent awareness of domestic security and preparedness issues. Municipal, states, and federal responder groups, particularly those in locations considered potential targets, have been developing and modifying response and consequence management plans. Since the World Trade Center and anthrax incidents, most emergency response agencies have operated with a heightened appreciation of the potential scope and sustained resources requirements for coping with such events. The federal Interagency Board for Equipment Standardization and Interoperability (IAB) has worked to identify personal protective equipment that is already available on the market for responders' use. The IAB has identified the development of standards or guidelines for respiratory protection equipment as a top priority. NIOSH, NIST, National Fire Protection Association and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding defining each agency or organization's role in developing, establishing and enforcing standards or guidelines for responders' respiratory protective devices. NIST has initiated Interagency Agreements with NIOSH and SBCCOM to aid in the development of appropriate protection standards or guidelines. NIOSH has the lead in developing standards or guidelines to test, evaluate and approve respirators.

NIOSH, SBCCOM, and NIST hosted a public meeting April 17 and 18, 2001, and presented their progress in assessing respiratory protection needs of responders to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents. The methods or models for developing hazard and exposure estimates, and the status in evaluating test methods and performance standards that may be applicable as future chemical biological, radiological, and nuclear respirator standards or guidelines were discussed at that meeting. On December 28, 2001, NIOSH announced standards for the evaluation and approval of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus to protect emergency responders against chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear agents. NIOSH and SBCCOM are in the process of developing chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear respiratory protection standards and guidelines for full facepiece Air-Purifying Respirators (APR) as well as other classes of respirators. The June 18 and 19, 2002 public meeting will provide an update on those activities.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Jonathan Szalajda, NIOSH, PO Box 18070, 626 Cochrans Mill Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15236, telephone 412/386–6627, fax 412/386–6747 and/or e-mail: *respcert@cdc.gov.*

The Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, has been delegated the authority to sign **Federal Register** Notices pertaining to announcements of meetings and other committee management activities, for both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

Dated: May 24, 2002.

John Burckhardt,

Acting Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

[FR Doc. 02–13639 Filed 5–30–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4163–18–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS–1209–N]

Medicare Program; Notice of Modification of Beneficiary Assessment Requirements for Skilled Nursing Facilities

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: As part of the Secretary's Regulatory Reform Initiative, this notice offers to skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) the option of using a modified, shorter version of the minimum data set (MDS) to satisfy the Medicare SNF payment and quality requirements. The Medicare SNF prospective payment system rates are based on the assignment of beneficiaries to case-mix classification groups. Beneficiaries are assigned to groups based on the information collected by the SNF staff and recorded on the MDS. The quality measures are also derived from the information recorded on the MDS and all of those items are included in this modified, shorter version. This shorter version of the MDS will reduce the burden on SNFs by approximately one-half, which may result in saving a significant amount of time that could be made available to staff for the provision of beneficiary care. We are offering to SNF providers the option of using the shorter version of the MDS to meet the requirements to receive payment for Part A SNF stays.

DATES: This notice is effective July 1, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dana Burley (410) 786–4547.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (the Secretary) has made regulatory reform a priority. To further this goal, the Secretary established an Advisory Committee on Regulatory Reform to provide advice on potential administrative and regulatory changes that could reduce burdens and costs while maintaining or enhancing effectiveness and access to health care. In order to fulfill its mandate, among other activities, the committee has held public hearings, heard testimony from providers and beneficiary groups, and visited a skilled nursing facility (SNF) to examine the regulatory burdens imposed on SNFs.

During the course of its deliberations, the Advisory Committee examined the minimum data set (MDS) and identified almost two dozen MDS areas for review. While affirming the critical contribution of the MDS to quality, the committee has identified some MDS issues that relate to the size of the instrument and the need to focus data collection on payment, outcome, and survey purposes. The modifications announced in this notice address one of the issues identified in the course of the activities undertaken by the Advisory Committee.

In this notice, we are announcing the option of using a shorter MDS developed for use by providers to assess Medicare beneficiaries for purposes of