DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Privacy Act of 1974; Matching Program

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services.

ACTION: Notice of a new matching program.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is providing notice of a new matching program between CMS and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Veterans Health Administration (VHA), “Verification of Eligibility for Minimum Essential Coverage Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act Through a Veterans Health Administration Plan.”

DATES: The deadline for comments on this notice is April 26, 2021. The re-established matching program will commence not sooner than 30 days after publication of this notice, provided no comments are received that warrant a change to this notice. The matching program will be conducted for an initial term of 18 months (from approximately May 2021 to November 2022) and within 3 months of expiration may be renewed for one additional year if the parties make no change to the matching program and certify that the program has been conducted in compliance with the matching agreement.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties may submit written comments as follows:
1. Electronically. You may send your comments electronically to http://www.regulations.gov. Follow the instructions for “Comment or Submission” or “More Search Options” to find the information collection document(s) that are accepting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions about the matching program, you may contact Anne Pest, Senior Advisor, Marketplace Eligibility and Enrollment Group, Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, at 410–786–3492, by email at anne.pesto@cms.hhs.gov, or by mail at 7500 Security Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21244.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (5 U.S.C. 552a) provides certain protections for individuals applying for and receiving federal benefits. The law governs the use of computer matching by federal agencies when records in a system of records (meaning, federal agency records about individuals retrieved by name or other personal identifier) are matched with records of other federal or non-federal agencies. The Privacy Act requires agencies involved in a matching program to:
1. Enter into a written agreement, which must be negotiated in accordance with the Privacy Act, approved by the Data Integrity Board of each source and recipient federal agency, provided to Congress and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and made available to the public, as required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(o), (u)(3)(A), and (u)(4).
2. Notify the individuals whose information will be used in the matching program that the information they provide is subject to verification through matching, as required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(o)(1)(D).
3. Verify match findings before suspending, terminating, reducing, or making a final denial of an individual’s benefits or payments or taking other adverse action against the individual, as required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(p).
4. Report the matching program to Congress and the OMB, in advance and annually, as required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(o)(2)(A)(i), (r), and (u)(3)(D).
5. Publish advance notice of the matching program in the Federal Register as required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(e)(12).

This matching program meets these requirements.

Barbara Demopolus,
Privacy Advisor, Division of Security, Privacy Policy and Governance, Office of Information Technology, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

Participating Agencies

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is the recipient agency, and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is the source agency.

Authority for Conducting the Matching Program

The statutory authority for the matching program is 42 U.S.C. 18001 et seq.

Purpose(s)

The purpose of the matching program is to assist CMS in determining individuals’ eligibility for financial assistance in paying for private health insurance coverage. In this matching program, VHA provides CMS with data when a state administering entity (AE) requests it and VHA is authorized to release it, verifying whether an individual who is applying for or is enrolled in private health insurance coverage under a qualified health plan through a federally-facilitated health insurance exchange is eligible for coverage under a VHA health plan. CMS makes the data provided by VHA available to the requesting AE through a data services hub to use in determining the applicant’s or enrollee’s eligibility for financial assistance (including an advance tax credit and cost-sharing reduction, which are types of insurance affordability programs) in paying for private health insurance coverage. VHA health plans provide minimum essential coverage, and eligibility for such plans precludes eligibility for financial assistance in paying for private coverage. The data provided by VHA under this matching program will be used by CMS and AEs to authenticate identity, determine eligibility for financial assistance, and determine the amount of the financial assistance.

Categories of Individuals

The categories of individuals whose information is involved in the matching program are:
- Veterans whose records at VHA match identifying data provided to VHA by CMS (submitted by AEsa) about individuals who are applying for or are enrolled in private insurance coverage under a qualified health plan through a federally-facilitated health insurance exchange or state-based exchange.

**Categories of Records**

The categories of records used in this matching program are identity records and minimum essential coverage period records, consisting of the following data elements:

- Data provided by CMS to VHA
  a. first name (required).
  b. middle name/initial (if provided by applicant).
  c. surname (applicant’s last name) (required).
  d. date of birth (required).
  e. gender (required).
  f. social security number (SSN) (required).
  g. requested qualified health plan (QHP) coverage effective date (required).
  h. requested QHP coverage end date (required).
  i. State identification (required).
  j. transaction ID (required).
- Data provided by VHA to CMS
  a. SSN (required).
  b. start/end date(s) of enrollment period(s) (when match occurs).
  c. a blank date response when a non-match occurs.
  d. a blank date when a match is made but VA’s record contains a date of death.
  e. enrollment period(s) is/are defined as the timeframe during which the individual was enrolled in a VHA healthcare program.

**System(s) of Records**

The records used in this matching program will be disclosed from the following systems of records, as authorized by routine uses published in the system of records notices (SORNs) cited below:

A. System of Records Maintained by CMS


B. Systems of Records Maintained by VHA

54VA110N3 Veterans and Beneficiaries Purchased Care Community Health Care Claims, Correspondence, Eligibility, Inquiry and Payment Files—VA, published at 80 FR 11527 (Mar. 3, 2015). Routine use 25 authorizes VHA’s disclosures to CMS.

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services**

[Document Identifier CMS–10147]

**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 April 26, 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:


**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** William Parham at (410) 766–4669.

**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:** Reinstatement without change of a previously approved collection;

**Title of Information Collection:** Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage and Your Rights; **Use:** Section 423.562a(3) and an associated regulatory provision at § 423.128(b)(7)(iii) require that Part D plan sponsors’ network pharmacies provide Part D enrollees with a printed copy of our standardized pharmacy notice “Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage and Your Rights” (hereafter, “notice”) if an enrollee’s prescription cannot be filled.

The purpose of this notice is to provide enrollees with information about how to contact their Part D plans to request a coverage determination, including a request for an exception to the Part D plan’s formulary. The notice reminds enrollees about certain rights and protections related to their Medicare prescription drug benefits, including the right to receive a written explanation from the drug plan about why a prescription drug is not covered. Through delivery of this standardized notice, a Part D plan sponsor’s network pharmacies are in the best position to inform enrollees at point of sale about how to contact their Part D plan if the prescription cannot be filled. Form