

will respond to these exceptions immediately rather than after the fact as it is under the Federal Reserve's current method. Although BHCs will still have to provide explanations to support data that trigger quality edit exceptions, this change should reduce subsequent questions from the Federal Reserve about these edits. The Federal Reserve will continue to treat BHCs explanatory comments that address any quality exceptions as confidential. Overall the proposed requirements are expected to improve the timeliness and quality of BHC data, enhance market discipline through faster access by the public, and utilize technological advances in an efficient manner.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, December 9, 2003.

**Jennifer J. Johnson,**

*Secretary of the Board.*

[FR Doc. E3-00561 Filed 12-12-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6210-01-S**

**FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION**

**Granting of Request for Early Termination of the Waiting Period Under the Premerger Notification Rules**

Section 7A of the Clayton Act, 15 U.S.C. 18a, as added by title II of the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976, requires persons contemplating certain mergers or acquisitions to give the Federal Trade

Commission and the Assistant Attorney General advance notice and to wait designated periods before consummation of such plans. Section 7A(b)(2) of the Act permits the agencies, in individual cases, to terminate this waiting period prior to its expiration and requires that notice of this action be published in the **Federal Register**.

The following transactions were granted early termination of the waiting period provided by law and the premerger notification rules. The grants were made by the Federal Trade Commission and the Assistant Attorney General for the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice. Neither agency intends to take any action with respect to these proposed acquisitions during the applicable waiting period.

Trans #	Acquiring	Acquired	Entities
<b>Transactions Granted Early Termination—11/03/2003</b>			
20040009 .....	Barry Diller .....	Hotwire, Inc .....	Barry Diller. Hotwire, Inc.
<b>Transactions Granted Early Termination—11/04/2003</b>			
20040050 .....	Triad Hospitals, Inc .....	Tenet Healthcare Corporation .....	Central Arkansas Hospital, Inc. Central Care, Inc. Dedicated Health PHO, Inc. Garland Managed Care Organization, Inc. Jonesboro Health Services, L.L.C. National Park Medical Center, Inc. NPMC Healthcenter—Physician Services, Inc. StarCare of Jonesboro, Inc. St. Mary's Medical Group, Inc. St. Mary's Regional Medical Center, Inc. Tenet Healthcare Corporation. Tenet HealthSystem medical, Inc. Triad Hospitals, Inc.
20040054 .....	American Industrial Partners Capital Fund III, L.P.	Alcoa, Inc .....	Advanced Technology and Equipment, Inc.
20040055 .....	Littlejohn Fund III, LP .....	General Electric Company .....	Alcoa, Inc. American Industrial Partners Capital Fund III, L.P. Stolle Machiner, Inc. General Electric Canada, Inc. General Electric Company. General Electric Plastics France (SNC). General Electric South Africa (Proprietary) Ltd. GEP Italia SRL. GE Plastics Hong Kong Ltd. GE Plastics Ltd. GE Polymerland Korea Ltd. GEP South America LTDA. GE Superabrasives Europe GmbH. GE Superabrasives, Inc. GE Surperabrasives US, Inc. Littlejohn Fund II, LP.
20040060 .....	U.S. Commercial Corp., S.A. de C.V.	Good Guys, Inc .....	Good Guys, Inc.
20040064 .....	Peter M. Brant .....	Enron Corp. (Debtor-in-Possession).	U.S. Commercial Corp., S.A. de C.V. Enron Corp. (Debtor-in-Possession).
20040066 .....	Gryphon Partners II, L.P .....	The Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company, Inc.	Papiers Stadacona Ltee. Peter M. Brant. St. Aurelie Timberlands, Co., Ltd. Gryphon Partners II, L.P.
20040069 .....	CCG Investments (BVI), L.P .....	Concertro Software, Inc. ....	The Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company, Inc. CCG Investments (BVI), L.P.

Trans #	Acquiring	Acquired	Entities
			Concertro Software, Inc.

**Transactions Granted Early Termination—11/07/2003**

20040023	Schlumberger Limited	Atos Origin SA	Atos Origin SA. Schlumberger Limited.
20040041	Allergan, Inc	Oculex Pharmaceuticals, Inc	Allergan, Inc. Oculex Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
20040059	The BISYS Group, Inc	Richard P. Love, Jr	Richard P. Love, Jr. The BISYS Group, Inc. USA Insuracne Group, Inc.
20040067	ValueClick, Inc	Commission Junction, Inc	Commission Junction, Inc. Value Click, Inc.
20040079	The TJX Companies, Inc	Bob's Stores, Inc	Bob's H.C., Inc Bob's Inc. Bob's Non-Connecticut Operating Co. Bob's Stores Center, Inc. Bob's Stores, Inc. The TJX Companies, Inc.
20040082	Apollo Investment Fund V, L.P	ConAgra Foods, Inc	2326396 Canada, Inc. Apollo Investment Fund V. ConAgra Foods, Inc. United Agri Products Canada Inc. United Agri Products, Inc.
20040084	Apollo Investment Fund V, L.P	UAP Holding Corp	Apollo Investment Fund V, L.P. UAP Holding Corp.
20040085	Macromedia, Inc	eHelp Corporation	eHelp Corporation. Macromedia, Inc.
20040090	Lions Gate Entertainment Corp	Audax Entertainment, L.P	Audax Entertainment, L.P. Film Holdings Co. Lions Gate Entertainment Corp.

**Transactions Granted Early Termination—11/10/2003**

20040068	Sabre Holdings Corporation	My Travel Group plc	My Travel Group plc. Sabre Holdings Corporation. Travel Services International, Inc. TTC Holdings, Inc. World Choice Travel, Inc.
20040071	The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc	Cogentrix Energy, Inc	Cogentrix Energy, Inc. The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.
20040091	Avaya Inc	NorthWestern Corporation	Avaya Inc. Expanets, Inc. NorthWestern Corporation.

**Transactions Granted Early Termination—11/13/2003**

20040058	Merit Partners, L.P	Royal Dutch Petroleum Company	Merit Partners, L.P. Midstream Capital Corp. Royal Dutch Petroleum Company. Shell Michigan Pipeline Company. Shell Onshore Ventures Inc. SWEPI LP.
20040061	National Leisure Group, Inc	MyTravel Group plc	Blue Sea Partners, Inc. MyTravel Group plc. National Leisure Group, Inc.
20040074	Digital Insight Corporation	Magnet Communications, Inc	Digital Insight Corporation. Magnet Communications, Inc.
20040075	Manulife Financial Corporation	John Hancock Financial Services, Inc.	John Hancock Financial Services, Inc.
20040089	Clipper Group Trust	Lasco Shipping Co	Manulife Financial Corporation. Clipper Group Trust. Lasco Shipping Co.
20040095	Jeld-Wen Holdings, Inc	Windowmaster Products	Jeld-Wen Holdings, Inc. Windowmaster Products.

**Transactions Granted Early Termination—11/17/2003**

20040015	Vestar Capital Partners IV, L.P	Terrance Johnson	Mayer-Johnson, Inc. Terrance Johnson. Vestar Capital Partners IV, L.P.
20040053	dj Orthopedics, Inc	OrthoLogic Corp	dj Orthopedics, Inc. OrthoLogic Corp.
20040062	aaiPharma Inc	Elan Corporation plc	aaiPharma Inc.

Trans #	Acquiring	Acquired	Entities
20040100 .....	O. Bruton Smith .....	Michele F. Salta .....	Elan Corporation plc. Elan Pharmaceuticals, Inc. CL Motors, LLC. CTM, LLC. Michele F. Salta O. Bruton Smith.
20040102 .....	MetLife, Inc .....	Allianz Aktiengesellschaft .....	Allianz Aktiengesellschaft. Allianz Life Insurance company of North America. MetLife, Inc.
20040106 .....	Veeco Instruments Inc .....	Lauren D. Lackey and Barbara Lackey.	Advanced Imaging, Inc.  Lauren D. Lackey and Barbara Lackey. Veeco Instruments Inc.

**Transactions Granted Early Termination—11/18/2003**

20040110 .....	Scottish Re Group Limited .....	General Electric Company .....	ERC Life Reinsurance Corporation. General Electric Company. Scottish Re Group Limited.
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**Transactions Granted Early Termination—11/20/2003**

20040087 .....	Apollo Investment Fund V, L.P .....	Royal Numico, N.V .....	Apollo Investment Fund V, L.P. General Nutrition Companies, Inc. GNC Franchising Canada, Ltd. GNC Franchising Nutrition Companies, Inc. Royal Numico, N.V.
20040108 .....	Estate of Burk Zanft, c/o Deutsche Bank.	Heritage Fund I, L.P .....	Estate of Burk Zanft, c/o Deutsche Bank.  Heritage Fund I, L.P.
20040109 .....	Wellspring Capital Partners III, L.P	Walter Industries, Inc .....	New England Pottery Co., Inc. JW Aluminum Company. Walter Industries, Inc.
20040115 .....	Quovadx, Inc .....	Rogue Wave Software, Inc .....	Wellspring Capital Partners III, L.P. Quovadx, Inc. Rogue Wave Software, Inc.
20040118 .....	Dycom Industries, Inc .....	William T. Stover .....	Dycom Industries, Inc. First South Utility Construction, Inc. William T. Stover.

**Transactions Granted Early Termination—11/24/2003**

200440072 .....	Marquette Financial Companies .....	KBK Capital Corporation .....	KBK Capital Corporation. Marquette Financial Companies.
20040093 .....	Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc .....	Hunter Fan Holdings, Inc .....	Hunter Fan Holdings, Inc. Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc.
20040135 .....	Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation .....	Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation .....	Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation. Mitsubishi Pharma Corporation.

**Transactions Granted Early Termination—11/25/2003**

20031016 .....	Symantec Corporation .....	PowerQuest Corporation .....	PowerQuest Corporation. Symantec Corporation.
20040107 .....	drugstore.com, Inc .....	Ian and Louise Mummery .....	drugstore.com, Inc. Ian and Louise Mummery. International Vision Direct Corp.
20040121 .....	TA IX L.P .....	Logistics Health, Inc .....	Logistics Health, Inc. TA IX L.P.
20040123 .....	Ephesos Vermögensverwaltung GmbH.	Sirona Dental Systems S.a.r.l .....	Ephesos Vermögensverwaltung GmbH.  SIRONA Beteiligungs—und Verwaltungsgesellschaft. Sirona Dental Systems S.a.r.l.
20040125 .....	J.W. Childs Equity Partners III, L.P	John T. Walton .....	John T. Walton. J.W. Childs Equity Partners III, L.P. Xyron, Inc.
20040127 .....	Liz Claiborne, Inc .....	Cerberus SBI Investor L.P .....	Cerberus SBI Investor L.P. Enyce Holding LLC Liz Claiborne, Inc.
20040129 .....	Maple Leaf Foods Inc .....	Smithfield Foods, Inc .....	Maple Leaf Foods Inc. Smithfield Canada Limited. Smithfield Foods, Inc.
20040134 .....	Heritage Propane Partners, L.P .....	LaGrange Energy, L.P .....	ETC Oasis GP, LLC. Five Dawaco, Inc.

Trans #	Acquiring	Acquired	Entities
20040138	Siegwerk GmbH & Co. KG	Color Converting Industries Co	Heritage Propane Partners, L.P. LA GP, LLC. La Grange Acquisition, L.P. La Grange Energy, L.P. LGM, LLC. LG PL, LLC. Color Converting Industries Co. Color Converting, LLC. Siegwerk GmbH & Co. KG.
20040145	Orbitz, Inc	Orbitz, LLC	Orbitz, Inc. Orbitz, LLC.
20040147	Sun Microsystems, Inc	Waveset Technologies, Inc	Sun Microsystems, Inc. Waveset Technologies, Inc.
20040150	Lawrence F. Flick, IV	Fox & Roach/Trident, G.P	Fox & Roach/Trident, G.P. Lawrence F. Flick, IV.
20040154	Littlejohn Fund II, L.P	LTS Holdings, Inc	Littlejohn Fund II, L.P. LTS Holdings, Inc.

**Transactions Granted Early Termination—11/28/2003**

2004076	L-3 Communications Holdings, Inc	The Veritas Capital Fund L.P	L-3 Communications Holdings, Inc. The Veritas Capital Fund L.P. Vertex Aerospace LLC. Computershare Limited.
2004081	Computershare Limited	Geogeson Shareholder Coimunications, Inc.	Geogeson Shareholder Communications Inc.
20040101	KAT Holdings, L.P	General Electric Company	Atrium Corporation. General Electric Company. KAT Holdings, L.P.
20040119	Reliant Pharmaceuticals, LLC	Abbott Laboratories	Abbott Laboratories. Reliant Pharmaceuticals, LLC.
20040130	The Home Depot, Inc	RMA Home Services, Inc	RMA Home Services, Inc. The Home Depot, Inc.
20040131	Bain Capital Fund VII, L.P	Bombardier Inc	Bain Capital Fund VII, L.P. Bombardier Inc. Bombardier Motor Corporation of America.
20040132	Ralcorp Holdings, Inc	Wind Point Partners III, L.P	Ralcorp Holdings, Inc. Value Added Bakery Holding Company. Wind Point Partners III, L.P.
20040133	Unilin Holding N.V	Fritz Homann	Fritz Homann. Homanit USA, Inc. Unilin Holding N.V.
20040136	Rural Cellular Corporation	AT&T Wireless Services, Inc	ABC Wireless, LLC AirCom PCS, Inc. AMT Cellular, LLC AT&T Wireless PCS, LLC. AT&T Wireless Services, Inc. Comet Wireless, Inc. QuinCom, Inc. Rural Cellular Corporation. Tritel A/B Holding Corp. Tritel C/F Holding Corp.
20040137	AT&T Wireless Services, Inc	Rural Cellular Corporation	AT&T Wireless Services, Inc. RCC Holdings, Inc. RCC Minnesota, Inc. Rural Cellular Corporation.
20040142	BB&T Corporation	McGriff, Seibels & Williams, Inc	BB&T Corporation. McGriff, Seibels & Williams, Inc.
20040151	Aetna Inc	Frederick H. Chicos	Aetna Inc. Chickering Benefit Planning Insurance Agency, Inc. Chickering Claims Administrators, Inc. Frederick H. Chicos.
20040155	Copperweld Acquisition Corporation.	The LTV Corporation (Debtor-in-Possession).	Copperweld Acquisition Corporation. Copperweld Canada, Inc. Copperweld Corporation. LTV Copperweld Bimetals UK (Holdings) Ltd. The LTV Corporation (Debtor-in-Possession).
20040161	Aetna Inc	Kenneth Chicos	Aetna Inc. Chickering Benefit Planning Insurance Agency, Inc. Kenneth Chicos.

For Further Information Contact:  
Sandra M. Peay, Contact Representative,  
or Renee Hallman, Legal Technician,  
Federal Trade Commission, Premerger  
Notification Office, Bureau of  
Competition, Room H-303, Washington,  
DC 20580. (202) 326-3100.

By direction of the Commission.

**Donald S. Clark,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 03-30861 Filed 12-12-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6750-01-M**

## GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

### Office of Governmentwide Policy

#### Cancellation of an Optional Form by the Department of State

**AGENCY:** Office of Governmentwide  
Policy, GSA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of State  
cancelled the following Optional Form:  
OF 137, Designation of Beneficiary (12/  
77).

This form is now a State Department  
form. You can request copies from:  
Department of State, A/RPS/DIR, SA-  
22, 18th and G Streets, NW.; Suite 2400,  
Washington, DC 20520-2201, 202-312-  
9605.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr.  
Charles Cunningham, Department of  
State, 202-312-9605.

**DATES:** Effective December 15, 2003.

Dated: December 5, 2003.

**Barbara M. Williams,**

*Deputy Standard and Optional Forms  
Management Officer, General Services  
Administration.*

[FR Doc. 03-30891 Filed 12-12-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6820-34-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS-1370-N]

#### Medicare Program; The Practicing Physicians Advisory Council's Request for Nominations

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice invites all  
organizations representing physicians to  
submit nominees for membership on the  
Council. There will be several vacancies  
on the Council as of February 28, 2004.

**DATES:** Nominations will be considered  
if received at the appropriate address,  
no later than 5 p.m. (EST) December 26,  
2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Mail or deliver nominations  
to the following address: Centers for  
Medicare & Medicaid Services, Center  
for Medicare Management, Division of  
Provider Relations and Evaluations,  
Attention: Cheryl L. Slay, Designated  
Federal Official, Practicing Physicians  
Advisory Council, 7500 Security  
Boulevard, Mail Stop C4-11-27,  
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Kenneth Simon, M.D., Executive  
Director, Practicing Physicians Advisory  
Council, 7500 Security Boulevard, Mail  
Stop C4-10-07, Baltimore, MD 21244-  
1850, (410) 786-3377. Please refer to the  
CMS Advisory Committees Information  
Line: (1-877-449-5659 toll free)/(410-  
786-9379 local) or the Internet at [http://  
www.cms.hhs.gov/faca/ppac/  
default.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/faca/ppac/default.asp) for additional information  
and updates on committee activities.  
News media representatives must  
contact the CMS Press Office, (202) 690-  
6145.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The  
Secretary of the Department of Health  
and Human Services (the Secretary) is  
mandated by section 1868 of the Social  
Security Act (the Act) to appoint a  
Practicing Physicians Advisory Council  
(the Council) based on nominations  
submitted by medical organizations  
representing physicians. The Council  
meets quarterly to discuss certain  
proposed changes in regulations and  
carrier manual instructions related to  
physicians' services, as identified by the  
Secretary. To the extent feasible and  
consistent with statutory deadlines, the  
consultation must occur before  
publication of the proposed changes.  
The Council submits an annual report  
on its recommendations to the Secretary  
and the Administrator of the Centers for  
Medicare & Medicaid Services not later  
than December 31 of each year.

The Council consists of 15 physicians,  
each of whom has submitted at least 250  
claims for physicians' services under  
Medicare in the previous year. Members  
of the Council include both  
participating and nonparticipating  
physicians, and physicians practicing in  
rural and underserved urban areas. At  
least 11 members of the Council must be  
physicians described in section  
1861(r)(1) of the Act; that is, State-  
licensed doctors of medicine or  
osteopathy. The remaining 4 members  
may include dentists, podiatrists,  
optometrists, and chiropractors.  
Members serve for overlapping 4-year  
terms; terms of more than 2 years are

contingent upon the renewal of the  
Council by appropriate action before its  
termination. Section 1868(a) of the Act  
provides that nominations to the  
Secretary for Council membership must  
be made by medical organizations  
representing physicians.

The Council held its first meeting on  
May 11, 1992. The current members are:  
James Bergeron, M.D.; Ronald  
Castallanos, M.D.; Rebecca Gaughan,  
M.D.; Carlos R. Hamilton, M.D.; Joseph  
Heyman, M.D.; Dennis K. Iglar, M.D.;  
Christopher Leggett, M.D.; Joe Johnson,  
D.O.; Barbara McAneny, M.D.; Angelyn  
L. Moultrie-Lizana, D.O.; Laura B.  
Powers, M.D.; Michael T. Rapp, M.D.;  
Amilu Rothhammer, M.D.; Robert L.  
Urata, M.D.; and Douglas L. Wood, M.D.

This notice serves as an invitation to  
all organizations representing  
physicians to submit nominees for  
membership on the Council. Each  
nomination must state that the nominee  
has expressed a willingness to serve as  
a Council member and must be  
accompanied by a short résumé or  
description of the nominee's experience.  
To permit an evaluation of possible  
sources of conflicts of interest, potential  
candidates will be asked to provide  
detailed information concerning  
financial holdings, consultant positions,  
research grants, and contracts. Section  
1868(b) of the Act provides that the  
Council meet quarterly to discuss  
certain proposed changes in regulations  
and manual issuances that relate to  
physicians' services, as identified by the  
Secretary. Council members are  
expected to participate in all meetings.  
Section 1868(c) of the Act provides for  
payment of expenses and a per diem  
allowance for Council members at a rate  
equal to payment provided members of  
other advisory committees. In addition  
to making these payments, the  
Department of Health and Human  
Services/Centers for Medicare &  
Medicaid Services provides  
management and support services to the  
Council. The Secretary will appoint new  
members to the Council from among  
those candidates determined to have the  
expertise required to meet specific  
agency needs and in a manner to ensure  
appropriate balance of the Council's  
membership.

**Authority:** (Section 1868 of the Social  
Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ee) and section  
10(a) of Public Law 92-463 (5 U.S.C. App. 2,  
sections 10(a) and 14)

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance  
Program No. 93.773, Medicare—Hospital  
Insurance; and Program No. 93.774,  
Medicare—Supplementary Medical  
Insurance Program)