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UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

HUMAN RESOURCES
DIVISION

December 17, 1982

B-197357

The Honorable John Heinz
Chairman, Special Committee on Aging
United States Senate

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Subject: GAO's Major Activities in Aging During
Fiscal Year 1982 (GAO/HRD-83-25)

In response to your November 9, 1982, request for information concerning programs and services for the elderly, we are enclosing a statement of our internal activities which involve the elderly (enc. I). We have also included a list of reports issued during the period September 30, 1981, through September 30, 1982 (enc. II) and a list of current assignments (enc. III) which relate to programs and services for the elderly.

Copies of the issued reports are being provided to your office separately. A summary of the major findings and conclusions for each report is included in a digest bound in each report or in the letter transmitting it.

Sincerely yours,

Edward A. Blensmore
for Philip A. Bernstein
Director

Enclosures - 3

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GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE'SINTERNAL ACTIVITIES WHICH INVOLVE THE ELDERLY

In continuing our policy regarding employment of the elderly, during the period from October 15, 1981, through December 9, 1982, GAO has appointed 453 persons to permanent and temporary positions. Of that number, 27 persons were age 40 and older at the time of their appointment.

As of December 9, 1982, 1,802 persons age 40 and older (34 percent of our work force) were on the rolls of GAO. Although employees in this age group participate widely in all our programs, we especially note that we have had five employees age 40 and older in the Upward Mobility program. This program usually draws participants from a younger population.

Equal Employment Opportunity and Merit Promotion, two programs covered by GAO Orders, provide the basis for our policy regarding employment of the elderly. Other policies and practices evolved from the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of age in employment and in selection for job vacancies. For instance, because training is important to enhance effectiveness and provide opportunities for advancement, older employees are included in opportunities for training, both in-house and outside the agency.

The Employee Health Maintenance Examination, a comprehensive and professional medical examination, is available on a 2-year cycle for all employees age 40 and older. Employees nearing retirement age have available individual preretirement counseling. The Office of Organization and Human Development provides semiannual preretirement seminars. Our Civil Rights Office also provides information and advice to persons regarding complaints of alleged discrimination because of age.

GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE ELDERLY RELATED REPORTSISSUED DURING THE PERIOD 9/30/81 THROUGH 9/30/82

<u>Title of report</u>	<u>Date</u>
State Field Offices Are Not Protecting Social Security Beneficiary Information From Potential Abuse And/Or Misuse (HRD-81-151)	September 30, 1981
Procedures To Safeguard Social Security Beneficiary Records Can Still Be Improved (HRD-81-157)	September 30, 1981
Better Management of Private Pension Plan Data Can Reduce Costs and Improve ERISA Administration (HRD-82-12)	October 19, 1981
Medicaid's Quality Control System Is Not Realizing Its Full Potential (HRD-82-6)	October 23, 1981
Age Discrimination and Other Equal Employ- ment Opportunity Issues in the Federal Work Force (FPCD-82-6)	November 20, 1981
Experiments Have Not Demonstrated Success of Competitive Fixed-Price Contracting in Medicare (HRD-82-17)	December 1, 1981
Solving Social Security's Computer Problems: Comprehensive Corrective Action Plan and Better Management Needed (HRD-82-19)	December 10, 1981
Guidance and Information Needed on the Use of Machine Readable Claims Under Medicare and Medicaid (HRD-82-30)	December 16, 1981
Information on Medicare's Hospital Inpatient Routine Operating Cost Reimbursement Limits for Duluth-Superior (HRD-82-23 and 24)	December 22, 1981
How Health Maintenance Organizations Control Costs (HRD-82-31)	December 29, 1981
Social Security Needs To Determine the Cost Effectiveness of Manually Identifying Supplemental Security Income Recipients With Income from Other Federal Sources (HRD-82-33)	January 8, 1982

<u>Title of report</u>	<u>Date</u>
Legislative And Administrative Changes To Improve Verification of Welfare Recipients' Income and Assets Could Save Hundreds of Millions (HRD-82-9)	January 14, 1982
Do Aged Medicare Patients Receive More Costly Routine Nursing Services? Evidence Inconclusive (HRD-82-32)	January 20, 1982
Physician Cost-Containment Training Can Reduce Medical Costs (HRD-82-36)	February 4, 1982
Medicare Equalization Factor Payments To Group Practice Prepayment Plans Should Be Stopped (HRD-82-39)	February 18, 1982
Analysis of Four States' Administration of the AFDC Program: Management Improving But More Needs To Be Done (HRD-82-20)	February 22, 1982
Information on Selected Medicare Independent Dialysis Facility Audits (HRD-82-42)	February 22, 1982
Legislation Is Needed To Ensure That Cost-of-Living Increases In Federal Programs Will Be Considered on a More Timely Basis in Computing Supplemental Security Income Benefits (HRD-82-52)	March 26, 1982
The Residential Conservation Service: Issues Affecting the Program's Future (EMD-82-70)	March 29, 1982
Status of Special Efforts To Meet Transportation Needs of the Elderly and Handicapped (CED-82-66)	April 15, 1982
Information on Programs Involved in the President's Swap Proposal (CED-82-71)	April 15, 1982
Need To Establish Standards That Must Be Met Before Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded Can Obtain Medical Reimbursement (HRD-82-57)	April 16, 1982

<u>Title of report</u>	<u>Date</u>
Inquiry About Alleged Discriminatory Medicare Part B Reimbursement in New Jersey (HRD-82-58)	April 19, 1982
Identifying Computer Data Bases To Aid Congressional Oversight on the Needs of Older Americans (IPE-82-6)	April 19, 1982
Discontinuing Social Security's Currently Insured Benefit Provision Would Save Millions and Eliminate Inequities (HRD-82-51)	April 23, 1982
Investigation To Reform Teamsters' Central States Pension Fund Found Inadequate (HRD-82-13)	April 28, 1982
Complete and Accurate Information Needed in Social Security's Automated Name and Number Files (HRD-82-18)	April 28, 1982
Need To Recover Medicare Part B Duplicate Payments in Illinois (HRD-82-67)	April 30, 1982
The Status of the Department of Health and Human Services' Compliance with Requirements To Establish a Data Collection Plan for the Medicaid Home and Community Care Waiver (IPE-82-3)	May 4, 1982
Information on Prospective Reimbursement Systems (HRD-82-73)	May 10, 1982
Rural Health Clinic Services Act Has Not Met Expectations (HRD-82-62)	May 14, 1982
Federal Efforts To Simplify the Aid to Families with Dependent Children, Medicaid, and Food Stamp Program Requirements and Quality Control Procedures (HRD-82-78)	May 18, 1982
Delays in Processing Medicare Beneficiary Claims in Texas (HRD-82-74)	May 19, 1982
Examination of the Social Security Administration's Systems Modernization Plan (HRD-82-83)	May 28, 1982
A CPI for Retirees Is Not Needed Now But Could Be in the Future (GGD-82-41)	June 1, 1982

<u>Title of report</u>	<u>Date</u>
Results of Investigation Into Alleged Quotas Being Used by the Social Security Administration To Terminate Disability Insurance Benefits (HRD-82-88)	June 3, 1982
Social Security Benefit Increases for Inflation May Leave Many Retirees Worse Off Financially (HRD-82-40)	July 2, 1982
Relationship of Dual Benefit Windfall Payments to Total Railroad Retirement Benefits (HRD-82-97)	July 12, 1982
State Drawdowns and Use of Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program Funds (HRD-82-100)	July 12, 1982
Preliminary Findings on Patient Characteristics and State Medicaid Expenditures For Nursing Home Care (IPE-82-4)	July 15, 1982
Waiver of Medicaid Freedom-of-Choice Requirement: Potential Savings and Practical Problems (HRD-82-90)	July 20, 1982
Medicare Payments for Durable Medical Equipment Are Higher Than Necessary (HRD-82-61)	July 23, 1982
Federal Oversight of State Medicaid Management Information Systems Could Be Further Improved (HRD-82-99)	July 30, 1982
Impact of Medicare Reimbursement Limits on Small Rural Hospitals (HRD-82-109)	August 6, 1982
Assessment of the Use of Tax Credits for Families Who Provide Health Care to Disabled Elderly Relatives (IPE-82-7)	August 27, 1982
Responses to Questions About Performance Evaluation Criteria for Professional Standards Review Organizations (HRD-82-124)	September 2, 1982

<u>Title of report</u>	<u>Date</u>
Social Security Needs to Determine the Cost Effectiveness of the Supplemental Security Income Redetermination Process and To Implement Recommendations Made for Eliminating Erroneous Payments (HRD-82-126)	September 2, 1982
The Elderly Remain in Need of Mental Health Services (HRD-82-112)	September 16, 1982
A Primer on Competitive Strategies for Containing Health Care Costs (HRD-82-92)	September 24, 1982
VA Should Consider Less Costly Alternatives Before Constructing New Nursing Homes (HRD-82-114)	September 30, 1982

GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE AUDITS IN PROCESSWHICH CONCERN THE ELDERLY

*Review of Government-wide Discrimination Complaint Processes

*Medicaid Reimbursement and Nursing Home Bed Supply: An Analysis of Multiyear Survey Data

*Review of Hurricane Emergency Plans

Potential Savings from Change in Eligibility for Beneficiaries of Medicare and Federal Employee Health Benefits by Making the Federal Employee Health Benefit Program the Primary Payor

Survey of Medicare Reimbursement Differential for General Practitioners and Specialists

Survey of Physician Reimbursement in the End Stage Renal Disease Program

Survey of Related Organizations Principals of Management

Reviews of Medicare/Medicaid Reimbursement for Indian Health Care Clinics

Review of Utilization Review Efforts for Respiratory/Inhalation Therapy

Survey of Medicaid Reimbursement Systems for Nursing Homes

*Survey of Cost Increases Resulting From Purchases of Hospital Assets

Survey of Utilization Review Efforts for Intensive Care Units

Survey of State Medicaid Audit of Nursing Homes

Survey of Medicare/Medicaid Controls Over Payments for Prosthetic Lenses

Survey of Carrier Controls Over Medicare Part B Duplicate Payments

*Review of Current Medicare Requirements for Controlling Payments by Medicare Providers for Service Contracts

*Being Performed at the Request of Committees or Individual Members of Congress.

- *Survey of Purchasing Arrangements Under Hospital Full-Service Management Contracts
 - *Survey of the Cost of Cardiac Pacemakers and Related Services Under Medicare
 - Survey of Third-Party Liability for Medicare/Medicaid Crossover Claims
 - *Review of the 1981 White House Conference on Aging
 - *Survey of ACTION'S Current Program Policies and Management Practices
 - Review of Recovery Techniques Used in Public Assistance Programs
 - *Review of Railroad Retirement Board's Awards of Disability Claims
 - Review of Social Security Administration's Actuarial Projections
 - Review of Parent Benefits or Spouses With Older Children
 - *Survey of Social Security's Earnings Records for the Self-Employed
 - *Survey of Social Security Administration's Payments to Beneficiaries Living Overseas
 - Survey of Social Security Administration's Program for Detecting Unreported Changes in the RSDI Program
 - *Survey of Social Security Administration's Annual Reporting Requirements and Earnings Enforcement
 - Survey of Early Retirees' Dependents Benefits
 - Survey of Potential Income Enforcing Interest and Penalty Provisions
 - *Review of Social Security Administration's Short-Term Windfall Benefits
 - *Nonprofit Groups Withdrawing From Social Security
 - Survey of Social Security Administration's Processes for Resolving Self-Employed Earnings Postings
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- *Being performed at the Request of Committees or Individual Members of Congress.

*Review of Benefit Recomputation Due to Late Earnings Postings

Survey To Determine If Social Security Disability Benefits
Are Offset by Federal Workers' Compensation Payments as
Required by Law

Survey of Relationships Between Worker's Compensation and Social
Security Administration's Disability Program

Survey of Social Security Administration's Potential To Return
Disabled to Work

Survey of the Cost Effectiveness of the Current Legislative
Periodic Review Requirements for Social Security's Disability
Programs

Survey of the Use of Consultative Examinations in the Social
Security Disability Program

Medical Improvement Standard For Continuing Disability
Investigations

SSA's Determination of Mental Disabilities

*Review of Employment Agency Compliance with the Age Discrimina-
tion in Employment Act

Survey of VA's Health Care Planning for Aging Veterans

Review of Assumptions of Private Pension Liability Under ERISA

*Review of Multiemployer Pension Plan Amendments Act's Effects
on Parties Associated with Selected Plans

*Survey of the General Rules for Employers' Multiemployer
Pension Plan Withdrawal Liability

*Survey of the Actuary's Role in Administering Multiemployer
Pension Plan

*Survey of the Effects on Employers and Participants of Reducing
Unfunded Plan Liabilities and Converting Defined Benefits to
Defined Contributions Plans

*Being performed at the Request of Committees or Individual
Members of Congress.

- *Survey of Labor's Investigations of Allegations of Abuse of Trust Funds Involving the Southern Nevada Culinary Workers and Bartenders Pension Trust
- *Review of Labor's Solicitor Office's Handling of Complaints on ERISA and Non-ERISA Union Corruption
- *Review of Labor's Handling of Allegations of Corruption Involving Labor Unions and Their Pension Funds from January 1976 to Present
- *Evaluation of Distribution of Terminated Pension Plan Assets
- *Review of Internal Controls in Social Security Administration's Title II Computerized Systems
- *Review of Social Security Administration's Problems In Implementing New Program Legislation
- Survey of Medicare Automated Payment System
- *Feasibility Study For Transferring St. Elizabeth's Hospital to the District of Columbia
- *Survey of Special Industry Rules for Employers' Multiemployer Pension Plan Withdrawal Liability
- *Survey of Reorganization Provision of the Multiemployer Pension Plan Amendments Act

*Being Performed at the request of Committees or Individual Members of Congress.