DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Department of Health and Human Services.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the intention of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to request that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) allow the renewal of the generic information collection project: ''Questionnaire and Data Collection Testing, Evaluation, and Research for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.'' In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), AHRQ invites the public to comment on this proposed information collection.

This proposed information collection was previously published in the **Federal Register** on August 15, 2007 and allowed 60 days for public comment. No comments were received. The purpose of this notice is to allow an additional 30 days for public comment.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by November 19, 2007.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be submitted to: AHRQ's OMB Desk Officer by fax at (202) 395–6974 (attention: AHRQ's desk officer) or by e-mail at *OIRA_submission@omb.eop.gov* (attention: AHRQ's desk officer).

Copies of the proposed collection plans, data collection instruments, and specific details on the estimated burden can be obtained from AHRQ's Reports Clearance Officer.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Doris Lefkowitz, AHRQ, Reports Clearance Officer, (301) 427–1477.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Proposed Project

''Questionnaire and Data Collection Testing, Evaluation, and Research for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.''

AHRQ plans to employ the latest techniques to improve its current data collections by developing new surveys, or information collection tools and methods, and by revising existing collections in anticipation of, or in response to, changes in the healthcare field, for a three-year period. The clearance request is limited to research on information collection tools and methods, and related reports and does not extend to the collection of data for public release or policy formation.

A generic clearance for this work allows AHRQ to draft and test information collection tools and methods more quickly and with greater lead time, thereby managing project time more efficiently and improving the quality of the methodological data the agency collects.

In some instances the ability to pretest/pilot-test information collection surveys, tools, and methods, in anticipation of work, or early in a project, may result in the decision not to proceed with particular survey activities. This would save both public and private resources and effectively eliminate or reduce respondent burden.

Many of the tool AHRQ develops are made available to users in the private sector. The health care environment changes rapidly and requires a quick response from the agency to provide appropriately refined tools. A generic clearance for this methodological work will facilitate the agency's timely development of information collection tools and methods suitable for use in changing conditions.

It is particularly important to refine AHRQ's tools because they have a widespread impact. These tools are frequently made available to help the private sector to improve health care quality by enabling the gathering of useful data for analysis. They are also used to provide information about health care quality to consumers and purchasers so that they can make marketplace choices to influence and improve health care quality. The current clearance will expire January 31, 2008. This is a request for a generic approval from OMB to test information collection instruments and methods over the next three years.

Methods of Collection

Participation in the testing of information collection tools and methods will be fully voluntary and non-participation will have no affect on eligibility for, or receipt of, future AHRQ health services research support or on future opportunities to participate in research or to obtain informative research results. Specific estimation procedures, when used, will be described when we notify OMB as to actual studies conducted under the clearance.

ESTIMATED ANNUAL RESPONDENT BURDEN

Type of research activity	Number of respondents	Estimated time per respondent (min)	Total burden hours
Face-to-Face Interviews	100	60	100
Field Tests (short)	2,400	20	800
Field Tests (long)	7,600	30	3,800
Lab Experiments	200	90	300
Focus Groups	100	60	100
Cognitive Interviews	100	60	100
Totals	10,500	Not Applicable	5,200

This information collection will not impose a cost burden on the respondents beyond that associated with their time to provide the required data. There will be no additional costs for capital equipment, software, computer services, etc.

Estimated Annual Costs to the Federal Government

Expenses (equipment, overhead, printing, and support staff) will be incurred by AHRQ components as part of their normal operating budgets. No additional cost to the Federal Government is anticipated. Any deviation from these limits will be noted in reports made to OMB with respect to a particular study or studies conducted under the clearance.

Request for Comments

In accordance with the above-cited Paperwork Reduction Act legislation, comments on AHRQ's information

collection are requested with regard to any of the following: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of AHRQ health care research and health care information dissemination functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of AHRQ's estimate of burden (including hours and costs) of the proposed collection(s) of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information upon the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and included in the Agency's subsequent request for OMB approval of the proposed information collection. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Dated: October 15, 2007.

Carolyn M. Clancy,

Director.

[FR Doc. 07–5156 Filed 10–18–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160–90–M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The Board of Scientific Counselors, National Center for Environmental Health/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (NCEH/ATSDR): Meeting

In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92–463), CDC and NCEH/ATSDR announce the following committee meeting:

Times and Dates:

8:30 a.m.–3:15 p.m., November 15, 2007.

8:30 a.m.–11:15 a.m., November 16, 2007.

Place: CDC, 4770 Buford Highway, Chamblee, Georgia 30341.

Status: Open to the public, limited only by the space available. The meeting room accommodates approximately 75 people.

Purpose: The Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and by delegation, the Director, CDC, and Administrator, NCEH/ATSDR, are authorized under Section 301(42 U.S.C. 241) and Section 311 (42 U.S.C. 243) of the Public Health Service Act, as amended, to: (1) Conduct, encourage, cooperate with, and assist other appropriate public authorities, scientific institutions, and scientists in the conduct of research, investigations, experiments, demonstrations, and studies relating to the causes, diagnosis, treatment, control, and prevention of physical and mental diseases and other impairments; (2) assist states and their political subdivisions in the prevention of infectious diseases and other preventable conditions and in the promotion of health and well being; and (3) train state and local personnel in health work. The BSC, NCEH/ATSDR provides advice and guidance to the Secretary, HHS; the Director, CDC, and Administrator, ATSDR; and the Director, NCEH/ATSDR, regarding program goals, objectives, strategies, and priorities in fulfillment of the agency's mission to protect and promote people's health. The board provides advice and guidance that will assist NCEH/ATSDR in ensuring scientific quality, timeliness, utility, and dissemination of results. The board also provides guidance to help NCEH/ATSDR work more efficiently and effectively with its various constituents and to fulfill its mission in protecting America's health.

Matters To Be Discussed: An update on NCEH/ATSDR's Office of the Director, update on CDC Goals and Goal Action Plans, presentation on Formaldehyde and temporary housing units, presentation on NCEH and Top Off IV Exercise, update on ATSDR Response to BSC Program Peer Review: ATSDR Site-Specific Activities, presentation on Pandemic Flu and NCEH Laboratory Science, discussion on developing a national plan for chemical safety, and discussion on the BSC organizational and operational structure: subcommittees and/or workgroups.

Agenda items are tentative and subject to change.

The deadline for notification of attendance is November 5, 2007.

Contact Person for More Information: Sandra Malcom, Committee Management Specialist, NCEH/ATSDR, 1600 Clifton Road, Mail Stop E–28, Atlanta, Georgia 30303. Telephone (770) 488–4461, Fax (404) 498–0622, E-mail: *smalcom@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 CDC and the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry.

Dated: October 11, 2007.

Elaine L. Baker,

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

[FR Doc. E7–20629 Filed 10–18–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4163–18–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[Document Identifier: CMS–102, 105 and CMS–10238]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

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

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Department of Health and Human Services, is publishing the following summary of proposed collections for public comment. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including any of the following subjects: (1) The necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the Agency's function; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

1. *Type of Information Collection Request:* Extension of a currently approved collection; *Title of Information Collection:* Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA) Budget Workload Reports and Supporting Regulations Contained in 42 CFR 493.1–.2001; *Use:* Information collected will be used by CMS in determining the amount of Federal Reimbursement for compliance surveys. Use of the information includes program evaluation, audit, budget formulation and budget approval; *Form Number:* CMS–102, 105 (OMB#: 0938–0599); *Frequency:* Reporting: Quarterly; *Affected Public:* State, Local or Tribal Governments; *Number of Respondents:* 50; *Total Annual Responses:* 550; *Total Annual Hours:* 4,500.