

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HIT Policy Committee's Workgroup Meetings; Notice of Meetings

AGENCY: Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, HHS.

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

This notice announces forthcoming subcommittee meetings of a federal advisory committee of the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC). The meetings will be open to the public via dial-in access only.

Name of Committees: HIT Policy Committee's Workgroups: Meaningful Use, Privacy & Security Tiger Team, Quality Measures, Adoption/Certification, and Information Exchange workgroups.

General Function of the Committee: To provide recommendations to the National Coordinator on a policy framework for the development and adoption of a nationwide health information technology infrastructure that permits the electronic exchange and use of health information as is consistent with the Federal Health IT Strategic Plan and that includes recommendations on the areas in which standards, implementation specifications, and certification criteria are needed.

Date and Time: The HIT Policy Committee Workgroups will hold the following public meetings during October 2011: October 5 and 6, Meaningful Use Workgroup's hearing and public meeting, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m./ET; October 7th, Privacy & Security Tiger Team, 2 to 4 p.m./ET; October 18th Meaningful Use Workgroup, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m./ET; October 20th, Privacy & Security Tiger Team, 2 to 4 p.m./ET.

Location: All workgroup meetings will be available via webcast; for instructions on how to listen via telephone or Web visit <http://healthit.hhs.gov>. Please check the ONC Web site for additional information or revised schedules as it becomes available. Detailed information on the October 5 and 6 Meaningful Use meetings can be found on the ONC Web site as it becomes available.

Contact Person: Judy Sparrow, Office of the National Coordinator, HHS, 330 C Street, SW., Washington, DC 20201, 202-205-4528, Fax: 202-690-6079, e-mail: judy.sparrow@hhs.gov. Please call the contact person for up-to-date information on these meetings. A notice in the **Federal Register** about last minute modifications that affect a previously announced advisory committee meeting cannot always be published quickly enough to provide timely notice.

Agenda: The workgroups will be discussing issues related to their specific subject matter, e.g., meaningful use, information exchange, privacy and security, quality measures, governance, or adoption/certification. If background materials are associated with the workgroup meetings, they will be posted on ONC's Web site prior to the meeting at <http://healthit.hhs.gov>.

Procedure: Interested persons may present data, information, or views, orally or in writing, on issues pending before the workgroups. Written submissions may be made to the contact person on or before two days prior to the workgroup's meeting date. Oral comments from the public will be scheduled at the conclusion of each workgroup meeting. Time allotted for each presentation will be limited to three minutes. If the number of speakers requesting to comment is greater than can be reasonably accommodated during the scheduled open public session, ONC will take written comments after the meeting until close of business on that day.

If you require special accommodations due to a disability, please contact Judy Sparrow at least seven (7) days in advance of the meeting.

ONC is committed to the orderly conduct of its advisory committee meetings. Please visit our Web site at <http://healthit.hhs.gov> for procedures on public conduct during advisory committee meetings.

Notice of this meeting is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 5 U.S.C., App. 2).

Dated: September 1, 2011.

Judith Sparrow,

Office of Programs and Coordination, Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Request for Comments on Research Across Borders: Proceedings of the International Research Panel of the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues

AGENCY: Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues is requesting public comment on the report of the International Research Panel titled, *Research Across Borders: Proceedings of the International Research Panel of the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues*, available for review at <http://www.bioethics.gov>.

DATES: To assure consideration, comments must be received by October 11, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Individuals, groups, and organizations interested in commenting on this study may submit comments by e-mail to info@bioethics.gov or by mail to the following address: Public

Commentary, Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues, 1425 New York Ave., NW., Suite C-100, Washington, DC 20005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Hillary Wicai Viers, Communications Director, Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues, 1425 New York Avenue, NW., Suite C-100, Washington, DC 20005. Telephone: 202-233-3960. E-mail: Hillary.Viers@bioethics.gov. Additional information may be obtained at <http://www.bioethics.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On November 24, 2009, the President established the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues (Commission) to advise him on bioethical issues generated by novel and emerging research in biomedicine and related areas of science and technology. The Commission is charged to identify and promote policies and practices that assure ethically responsible conduct of scientific research, healthcare delivery, and technological innovation. In undertaking these duties, the Commission seeks to identify and examine specific bioethical, legal, and social issues related to potential scientific and technological advances; examine diverse perspectives and possibilities for international collaboration on these issues; and recommend legal, regulatory, or policy actions as appropriate.

On October 1, 2010, the U.S. Government disclosed that it had supported research on sexually transmitted diseases in Guatemala from 1946 to 1948 involving the intentional infection of vulnerable human populations. In response, President Barack Obama directed the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues (the Commission) to "oversee a thorough fact-finding investigation into the specifics" of the U.S. Public Health Service supported research, and to conduct a review of current human subjects protection "to determine if Federal regulations and international standards adequately guard the health and well-being of participants in scientific studies supported by the Federal Government." The President asked specifically for assurance "that current rules for research participants protect people from harm or unethical treatment, domestically as well as internationally." President Obama directed the Commission to consult with its counterparts in the global community and to seek the insight of international experts as part of its work on contemporary protections for human subjects of research. The Commission