

EXHIBIT 1—ESTIMATED ANNUALIZED BURDEN HOURS—Continued

| Form name | Number of respondents | Number of responses per respondent | Minutes per response | Total burden hours |
|--|-----------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Review/update existing RoPR Record created through <i>ClinicalTrials.gov</i> pathway | 132 | 1 | 15/60 | 33 |
| Total | 246 | | | 107.42 |

Exhibit 2 shows the estimated cost time to participate in the RoPR. The estimated at an average of \$4,017.51 burden associated with the respondent's total cost burden to respondents is annually.

EXHIBIT 2—ESTIMATED ANNUALIZED COST BURDEN

| Form name | Number of respondents | Total burden hours | Average hourly wage rate † (\$) | Total cost burden (\$) |
|--|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| New RoPR Record entered manually through self-registration process | 16 | 14.67 | \$37.40 | \$548.66 |
| New RoPR Record entered through <i>ClinicalTrials.gov</i> pathway | 65 | 48.75 | 37.40 | 1,823.25 |
| Review/update existing RoPR Record created through self-registration process | 33 | 11 | 37.40 | 411.40 |
| Review/update existing RoPR Record created through <i>ClinicalTrials.gov</i> pathway | 132 | 33 | 37.40 | 1,234.20 |
| Total | 246 | 107.42 | 37.40 | 4,017.51 |

* Based on the mean wages for Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations, 29-0000. National Compensation Survey: Occupational wages in the United States May 2015, "U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics." Available at: <https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes290000.htm>.

Request for Comments

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, 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.

Sharon B. Arnold,
Acting Director.

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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, HHS.

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) reapprove the proposed information collection project: "*Medical Expenditure Panel Survey—Insurance Component*."

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by June 27, 2017.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be submitted to: Doris Lefkowitz, Reports Clearance Officer, AHRQ, by email at doris.lefkowitz@AHRQ.hhs.gov.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Doris Lefkowitz, AHRQ Reports

Clearance Officer, (301) 427-1477, or by email at doris.lefkowitz@AHRQ.hhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Proposed Project**

Medical Expenditure Panel Survey—Insurance Component

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521, AHRQ invites the public to comment on this proposed information collection. Employer-sponsored health insurance is the source of coverage for 84.4 million current and former workers, plus many of their family members, and is a cornerstone of the U.S. health care system. The Medical Expenditure Panel Survey—Insurance Component (MEPS-IC) measures the extent, cost, and coverage of employer-sponsored health insurance on an annual basis. These statistics for private industry are produced at the National, State, and sub-State (metropolitan area) level. Statistics are also produced for State and Local governments.

This research has the following goals:

- (1) Provide data for Federal policymakers evaluating the effects of National and State health care reforms.
- (2) Provide descriptive data on the current employer-sponsored health insurance system and data for modeling the differential impacts of proposed health policy initiatives.

(3) Supply critical State and National estimates of health insurance spending for the National Health Accounts and Gross Domestic Product.

The MEPS-IC is conducted pursuant to AHRQ's statutory authority to conduct surveys to collect data on the cost, use and quality of health care, including types and costs of private insurance, 42 U.S.C. 299b-2(a), and to conduct research on health care, 42 U.S.C. 299a.

Method of Collection

To achieve the goals of this project, following data collections will be implemented for both private sector and state and local government employers:

(1) Pre-screener Questionnaire—The purpose of the Pre-screener Questionnaire, which is collected via telephone, varies depending on the insurance status of the establishment contacted. Establishment is defined as a single, physical location in the private sector and a governmental unit in state and local governments. For establishments that do not offer health insurance to their employees, the Pre-screener Questionnaire is used to collect basic information, such as number of employees. For establishments that do

offer health insurance, the Pre-screener Questionnaire collects contact name and address information for the person in the establishment best equipped to complete the full questionnaire.

(2) Establishment Questionnaire—The purpose of the mailed Establishment Questionnaire is to obtain general information from employers that provide health insurance to their employees, including total active enrollment in health insurance, other employee benefits, demographic characteristics of employees, and retiree health insurance.

(3) Plan Questionnaire—The purpose of the mailed Plan Questionnaire is to collect plan-specific information on each plan (up to four plans) offered by establishments. This questionnaire obtains information on total premiums, employer and employee contributions to the premium, and plan enrollment for each type of coverage offered—single, employee-plus-one, and family—within a plan. It also asks for information on deductibles, copays, and other plan characteristics.

The primary objective of the MEPS-IC is to collect information on employer-sponsored health insurance. Such

information is needed in order to provide the tools for Federal, State, and academic researchers to evaluate current and proposed health policies and to support the production of important statistical measures for other Federal agencies.

Estimated Annual Respondent Burden

Exhibit 1 shows the estimated annualized burden hours for the respondent's time to participate in the MEPS-IC. The Pre-screener Questionnaire will be completed by 30,041 respondents and takes about 5½ minutes to complete. The Establishment Questionnaire will be completed by 25,914 respondents and takes about 23 minutes to complete. The Plan Questionnaire will be completed by 22,943 respondents and will require an average of 2.2 responses per respondent. Each Plan Questionnaire takes about 11 minutes to complete. The total annualized burden hours are estimated to be 21,636 hours.

Exhibit 2 shows the estimated annualized cost burden associated with the respondents' time to participate in this data collection. The annualized cost burden is estimated to be \$691,703.

EXHIBIT 1—ESTIMATED ANNUALIZED BURDEN HOURS FOR THE 2018–2019 MEPS-IC

| Form name | Number of respondents | Number of responses per respondent | Hours per response | Total burden hours |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Pre-screener Questionnaire | 30,041 | 1 | 0.09 | 2,704 |
| Establishment Questionnaire | 25,914 | 1 | * 0.38 | 9,847 |
| Plan Questionnaire | 22,943 | 2.2 | 0.18 | 9,085 |
| Total | 78,898 | na | na | 21,636 |

* The burden estimate printed on the establishment questionnaire is 45 minutes which includes the burden estimate for completing the establishment questionnaire, an average of 2.2 plan questionnaires, plus the prescreener. The establishment and plan questionnaires are sent to the respondent as a package and are completed by the respondent at the same time.

EXHIBIT 2—ESTIMATED ANNUALIZED COST BURDEN FOR THE 2018–2019 MEPS-IC

| Form name | Number of respondents | Total burden hours | Average hourly wage rate * | Total cost burden |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Pre-screener Questionnaire | 30,041 | 2,704 | 31.97 | \$86,447 |
| Establishment Questionnaire | 25,914 | 9,847 | 31.97 | 314,809 |
| Plan Questionnaire | 22,943 | 9,085 | 31.97 | 290,447 |
| Total | 78,898 | 21,636 | na | \$691,703 |

* Based upon the mean hourly wage for Compensation, Benefits, and Job Analysis Specialists occupation code 13–1141, at <https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes131141.htm> (U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics).

Request for Comments

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, 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.

Sharon B. Arnold,

Acting Director.

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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, HHS.

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) approve the proposed information collection project: "*Generic Clearance for Questionnaire and Data Collection Testing, Evaluation, and Research for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.*"

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by June 27, 2017.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be submitted to: Doris Lefkowitz, Reports Clearance Officer, AHRQ, by email at doris.lefkowitz@AHRQ.hhs.gov.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Doris Lefkowitz, AHRQ Reports Clearance Officer, (301) 427-1477, or by email at doris.lefkowitz@AHRQ.hhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Proposed Project

Generic Clearance for Questionnaire and Data Collection Testing, Evaluation, and Research for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501-3520, AHRQ invites the public to comment on this proposed information collection. The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) requests that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

reapprove generic pre-testing Clearance 0935-0124 for three years to facilitate AHRQ's efforts to (1) employ evaluation-type methods and techniques to improve AHRQ's current data collection and estimation procedures, (2) develop new collections and procedures, including toolkits, and (3) revise existing collections and procedures. AHRQ believes that developing, testing, and evaluating data collection and estimation procedures using survey methods and other techniques in anticipation of agency-sponsored studies can improve its information collection efforts, and the products it develops and allow AHRQ to be more responsive to fast-changing developments in the health care research field. AHRQ uses techniques to simplify data collection and estimation procedures, reduce respondent burden, and improve efficiencies to meet the needs of individuals and small business respondents who may have reduced budgets and staff.

This clearance request is limited to research on data collection, toolkit development, and estimation procedures and reports and does not extend to the collection of data for public release or policy formation. The current Clearance (0935-0124) was granted on November 12, 2014, and expires on November 30, 2017.

This generic clearance will allow AHRQ to draft and test toolkits, survey instruments and other data collection and estimation procedures more quickly and with greater lead time, thereby managing project time more efficiently and improving the quality of the data AHRQ collects. In some instances, the ability to test and evaluate toolkits, data collection and estimation procedures in anticipation of work or early in a project may result in the decision not to proceed with additional activities, which could save both public and private resources and eliminate respondent burden.

This generic clearance will facilitate AHRQ's response to a changing environment. Many of the tools AHRQ develops are made available to the private sector to assist in improving health care quality. The health and health care environment changes rapidly and requires a quick response from AHRQ to provide refined tools.

These preliminary research activities will not be used by AHRQ to regulate or sanction its customers. They will be entirely voluntary and the confidentiality of respondents and their

responses will be preserved. Proposed information collections submitted under this generic clearance will be submitted for review by OMB with a response expected in 14 days.

Method of Collection

The information collected through preliminary research activities under this generic clearance will be used by AHRQ to employ techniques to (1) improve AHRQ's current data collection and estimation procedures, (2) develop new collections and procedures, including toolkits, and (3) revise existing collections and procedures in anticipation or in response to changes in the health or health care field. The end result will be improvement in AHRQ's data collections and procedures and the quality of data collected, a reduction or minimization of respondent burden, increased agency efficiency, and improved responsiveness to the public.

Estimated Annual Respondent Burden

Exhibit 1 shows the estimated burden hours, over the full 3 years of this clearance, for the respondents' time to participate in the research activities that may be conducted under this generic clearance. Mail surveys will be conducted with about 6,000 persons (2,000 per year for 3 years) and are estimated to average 20 minutes. Mail surveys may also be sent to respondents via email, and may include a telephone non-response follow-up. Telephone non-response follow-up for mailed surveys is not counted as a telephone survey in Exhibit 1. Not more than 600 persons, over 3 years, will participate in telephone surveys that will take about 40 minutes. Web-based surveys will be conducted with no more than 3,000 persons and will require no more than 10 minutes to complete. About 1,500 persons will participate in focus groups which may last up to two hours, while in-person interviews will be conducted with 600 persons and will take about 50 minutes. Automated data collection will be conducted for about 1,500 persons and could take up to 1 hour. Cognitive testing will be conducted with about 600 persons and is estimated to take 1½ hours to complete. The total burden over 3 years is estimated to be 8,900 hours (about 2,967 hours per year).

Exhibit 2 shows the estimated cost burden over 3 years, based on the respondent's time to participate in these research activities. The total cost burden is estimated to be \$338,734.