

following address: OMB Human Resources, and Housing Branch, Attention: Allison Eydtt, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: February 1, 1996.

Kathleen B. Larson,  
*Director, Management Planning and Analysis Staff, Office of Financial and Human Resources, Health Care Financing Administration.*

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**Health Resources and Services Administration**

**National Practitioner Data Bank: Change in User Fee**

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is announcing a discount in the fee charged to entities authorized to request information from the National Practitioner Data Bank (Data Bank) for queries which meet all requirements for fully automated processing.

The current fee structure was announced in the Federal Register of June 7, 1995 (60 FR 30090). The user fee is \$3.00 per name per query submitted via telecommunications network and paid via an electronic funds transfer or credit card, with query response sent via the telecommunications network. A \$3.00 surcharge is charged for queries submitted electronically on diskette to

pay for the extra handling and mailing costs for these queries. A \$4.00 surcharge is charged for all queries which are paid for by check or money order to cover the cost of debt management.

The Data Bank is authorized by the Health Care Quality Improvement Act of 1986 (the Act), title IV of Public Law 99-660, as amended (42 U.S.C. 11101 *et seq.*). Section 427 (b)(4) of the Act authorizes the establishment of fees for the costs of processing requests for disclosure and of providing such information.

Final regulations at 45 CFR part 60 set forth the criteria and procedures for information to be reported to and disclosed by the Data Bank. Section 60.3 of these regulations should be consulted for the definition of terms used in this announcement.

A reassessment of the full operating costs related to processing requests for disclosure of Data Bank information, as required by the DHHS Appropriations Act of 1994 (title II of Pub. L. 103-112, dated October 21, 1993), as well as an analysis of the comparative costs of the various methods for filing and paying for queries, has resulted in a decision to further reduce fees for users when they both query and receive responses via the telecommunications network as well as pay query fees by credit card, electronic funds transfer or such other electronic transfer options as may be offered in the future. The options to query and pay user fees by these means facilitate the querying process and make it less costly

to both users and the Data Bank than all other available options.

Accordingly, the Department is implementing a \$1.00 discount from the current \$3.00 per name per query fee for queries submitted both electronically and paid via the methods described above, with receipt by electronic method. The discounted fee for such queries will be \$2.00. This change is effective January 1, 1996.

The criteria set forth in § 60.12 (b) of the regulations and allowable costs required by the Appropriations Act of 1994 were used in determining the amount of this new fee. The criteria include such cost factors as: (1) Electronic data processing time, equipment, materials, computer programmers and operators or other employees; and (2) preparation of reports—materials, photocopying, postage, and administrative personnel.

When a query is for information on one or more physicians, dentists, or other health care practitioners, the appropriate total fee will be \$3.00 (less a \$1.00 discount or plus a \$3.00 and/or a \$4.00 surcharge for submission and payment as described above) multiplied by the number of individuals about whom information is being requested. For examples, see the table below.

The fee charged will be reviewed periodically, and revised as necessary, based upon experience. Any changes in the fee, and the effective date of the change, will be announced in the Federal Register.

Query method	Fee per name in query, by method of payment	Examples
Electronic query (Telecom network) with electronic payment.	\$2.00 (if paid electronically via credit card or other electronic means and response received electronically (\$3.00 fee less \$1.00 discount).	10 names in query. 10×\$2=\$20.00.
Electronic query (Diskette) with electronic payment.	\$6.00 (if paid electronically via credit card or other electronic means and response received on paper) (\$3.00 fee plus \$3.00 surcharge).	10 names in query. 10×\$6=\$60.00.
Electronic query (Telecom network) with non-electronic payment.	\$7.00 (if not paid via credit card or other electronic means) (\$3.00 fee plus \$4.00 surcharge).	10 names in query. 10×\$7=\$70.00.
Electronic query (Diskette) with non-electronic payment.	\$10.00 (if not paid via credit card or other electronic means) (\$3.00 fee plus \$3.00 and \$4.00 surcharges).	10 names in query. 10×\$10=\$100.00

Dated: February 5, 1996.

Ciro V. Sumaya,  
*Administrator.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Land Management**

[OR-110-6310-04-241A]

**Emergency Closure of Public Lands: Jackson County, Oregon**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Medford District Office, Ashland Resource Area.

**ACTION:** Emergency closure of public lands and access roads in Jackson County, Oregon.

Notice is hereby given that certain public lands in Jackson County, Oregon are hereby temporarily closed to all public use, including vehicle operation and sightseeing, from January 25, 1996, until notice is rescinded. The closure is made under the authority of 43 CFR 9268.3(d)(1)(l) and 8364.1(a).

The public lands affected by this emergency closure are specifically identified as follows:

Keno Access Road (39-7E-31) and Howard Prairie Hook-Up Road (38-4E-32) T. 38 S., R. 4 E., Secs. 19, 29, 32, 33, 34, and 35,