

**Sunshine Act Meeting**

**AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING:** Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

**TIME AND DATE:** 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, October 2, 1996.

**PLACE:** Marriner S. Eccles Federal Reserve Board Building, C Street entrance between 20th and 21st Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20551

**STATUS:** Closed.

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:**

1. Personnel actions (appointments, promotions, assignments, reassignments, and salary actions) involving individual Federal Reserve System employees.

2. Any items carried forward from a previously announced meeting.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Mr. Joseph R. Coyne, Assistant to the Board; (202) 452-3204. You may call (202) 452-3207, beginning at approximately 5 p.m. two business days before this meeting, for a recorded announcement of bank and bank holding company applications scheduled for the meeting.

Dated: September 25, 1996.

Jennifer J. Johnson,

*Deputy Secretary of the Board.*

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**BILLING CODE** 6210-01-P

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES****Agency for Health Care Policy and Research****Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request**

**AGENCY:** Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research's (AHCPR) intention to request the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to allow a proposed information collection project. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506 (c)(2)(A)), AHCPR invites the public to comment on this proposed information collection.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by November 27, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be submitted to: Ruth A. Celtnieks, Reports Clearance Officer, AHCPR, 2101 East Jefferson Street, Suite 500, Rockville, MD 20852-4908.

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

In accordance with the above cited legislation, comments on the AHCPR information collection proposal are requested with regard to any of the following: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of functions of the Agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection 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 on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ruth A. Celtnieks, AHCPR Reports Clearance Officer, (301) 594-1406, ext. 1497.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Proposed Project**

Conducting the 1997 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey Insurance Component (MEPS-IC).

The AHCPR intends to conduct an annual survey of establishments beginning in 1997 to collect information from employers concerning employer-sponsored health insurance. The MEPS-IC survey will be an integration of two previous surveys that collected similar information:

1. The 1987 Health Insurance Plans Survey (HIPS) sponsored by AHCPR; and

2. The 1994 National Employer Health Insurance Survey (NEHIS) sponsored by AHCPR, the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) and the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA).

This survey will be conducted using a sample of employers, (including both public and private sectors) and health insurance providers. The sample will be comprised of two parts:

1. A list sample of employers selected from sample frames available from the Bureau of the Census; and

2. A group of employers and other health insurance providers identified by respondents to the 1996 MEPS-Household Component (HC). The MEPS-HC is a household survey which collects information concerning health care expenditures and related data for individuals. This household survey collects information similar to the 1987 National Medical Expenditure Survey.

Data to be collected from each employer include a description of the business (e.g., size, industry) and descriptions of health insurance plans available, plan enrollments, total plan costs and costs to employees.

For employers that can be matched to the MEPS-Household Component (HC) respondents, data are also collected indicating the actual plan selected by the MEPS-HC respondent and the plan costs.

Data will be produced in two forms:

(1) files containing employer information only from the list sample of selected employers; and (2) files which can be linked to other information from the same respondent for the employer cases derived from the MEPS-HC.

The data are intended to be used for purposes such as:

- Generating national and State estimates of employer health care offerings;
- Producing aggregate data on national and State estimates of spending on employer-sponsored health insurance for analyzing results of national and State health care policy data to model the demand for health insurance; and

- When pooled with data from the MEPS-HC, providing a valuable source of information concerning household responses regarding choices of health plans and costs and benefits of these plans.

These data provide the basis for researchers to address vitally important questions for employers and policymakers alike.

**Method of Collection**

The data will be collected using a combination of modes. AHCPR intends to make a first contact of employers by telephone. This contact will provide information on the availability of health insurance from that employer and essential persons to contact. Based upon this information, AHCPR will send a mail questionnaire. In order to assure high response rates, AHCPR will followup with a second mailing at an acceptable interval, followed by a telephone call to collect data from those who have not responded to the mailings.

As part of this process, for larger respondents with high burdens, such as State employers and very large firms, we will, if needed, perform personal visits and do customized collection, such as, acceptance of data in computerized formats.

**Data**

*Type of review:* Regular Submission.  
*Affected Public:* Employers.