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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Patricia Norris, National Bioethics Advisory Commission, 6100 Executive Boulevard, Suite 5B01, Rockville, Maryland 20892-7508, telephone 301-402-4242, fax number 301-480-6900.

Dated: January 15, 1999.

**Eric M. Meslin,**

*Executive Director, National Bioethics Advisory Commission.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics: Meeting

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Department of Health and Human Services announces the following advisory committee meeting.

*Name:* National Committee on Vital Statistics (NCVHS).

*Times and Dates:* 9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m., February 3, 1999; 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., February 4, 1999.

*Place:* Conference Room 705A, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue S.W., Washington D.C. 20201.

*Status:* Open.

*Purpose:* The meeting will focus on a variety of health data policy and privacy issues. Department officials will update the Committee on recent activities of the HHS Data Council and the status of HHS activities in implementing the administrative simplification provisions of P.L. 104-191, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). The Committee also will be briefed on developments in the national health information infrastructure in Australia and an overview of public health surveillance in the U.S. Panel discussions are planned on data requirements for Medicare risk adjusted payments, and standardizing surveillance data for immunizations. In addition, Subcommittee breakout sessions are planned. All topics are tentative and subject to change. Please check the NCVHS website, where a detailed agenda will be posted prior to the meeting.

*Contact Person For More Information:* Substantive information as well as summaries of NCVHS meetings and a roster of committee members may be obtained by visiting the NCVHS website (<http://aspe.os.dhhs.gov/ncvhs>) where an agenda for the meeting will be posted when available. Additional information may be obtained by calling James Scanlon, NCVHS Executive Staff Director, Office of the Assistant

Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, DHHS, Room 440-D, Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201, telephone (202) 690-7100, or Marjorie S. Greenberg, Executive Secretary, NCVHS, NCHS, CDC, Room 1100, Presidential Building, 6525 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Maryland 20782, telephone 301/436-7050.

*Note:* In the interest of security, the Department has instituted stringent procedures for entrance to the Hubert H. Humphrey Building by non-government employees. Thus, individuals without a government identification card may need to have the guard call for an escort to the meeting room.

Dated: January 14, 1999.

**James Scanlon,**

*Director, Division of Data Policy.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[INFO-99-07]

#### Proposed Data Collections Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations

In compliance with the requirement of Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 for opportunity for public comment on proposed data collection projects, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will publish periodic summaries of proposed projects. To request more information on the proposed projects or to obtain a copy of the data collection plans and instruments, call the CDC Reports Clearance Officer on (404) 639-7090.

*Comments are invited on:* (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the 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 through the use of automated collection techniques for other forms of information technology. Send comments to Seleda Perryman, CDC Assistant Reports Clearance Officer, 1600 Clifton Road, MS-D24, Atlanta, GA 30333. Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

#### Proposed Project

*The Role of Positive and Negative Emotion in Promoting Hearing Conservation Behaviors Among Coal Miners—New—*The mission of the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is to promote "safety and health at work for all people through research and prevention." NIOSH investigates and identifies occupational safety and health hazards and conducts a variety of activities, including educational programs with workers, to help prevent work-related illness and injury.

One of the most widespread, but often overlooked, occupational hazards is noise. As a result, hearing loss is the most common occupational diseases in the United States today. More than 30 million workers are exposed to hazardous noise levels.

The risk of hearing loss is particularly high in certain occupations. Research shows that more than 90 percent of coal miners will experience moderate to significant hearing loss by the time they reach retirement. This level of hearing loss has a number of negative implications for both the affected individual and others: (1) impaired communication with family members, friends, and coworkers can result in social isolation; (2) unrelenting tinnitus (ringing in the ears) can significantly lower one's quality of life; (3) a diminished ability to monitor the work environment (including warning signals, etc.) increases the risk of accidents and further injury at the workplace; and finally, (4) there are economic costs that result from workers compensation and lower productivity.

NIOSH believes that there are two broad strategies for reducing the risk of hearing loss. First, wherever possible, engineering controls have to be implemented at the source of the hazardous noise. Second, workers have to be educated about hazardous levels of noise and what they can do to prevent hearing loss. This study falls into the latter category.

The study is required because past efforts at educating coal miners about hearing loss have had only mixed success. Hearing loss occurs without pain or obvious physical abnormalities, so it has been difficult to create a sense of urgency about this problem among workers. NIOSH has to identify new and more effective ways of promoting hearing conservation behaviors.

In this study, NIOSH proposes working with the United Mine Workers of America, and experts in health communication, to test the effectiveness of several innovative approaches to