

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**Office of the Secretary****Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request**

The Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Secretary publishes a list of information collections it has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance in compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) and CFR 1320.5. The following are those information collections recently submitted to OMB.

1. Application for Waiver of the two-year Foreign Residence Requirement of the Exchange Visitor Program—0990-0001—Extension—the application is used by institutions (colleges, hospitals, etc.) To request a favorable recommendation to the USIA for waiver of the two-year Foreign Residence Requirement of the Exchange Visitor Program on behalf of foreign visitors working in areas of interest to HHS. Respondents: Individuals, State or local governments, Businesses or other for-profit, non-profit institutions; Total Number of Respondents: 200; Frequency of Response: one time; Average Burden per Response: 6 hours; Estimated Annual Burden: 1200 hours.

OMB Desk Officer: Allison Eydt.

Copies of the information collection packages listed above can be obtained by calling the OS Reports Clearance Officer on (202) 690-6207. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent directly to the OMB desk officer designate above at the following address: Human Resources and Housing Branch, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503.

Comments may also be sent to Cynthia Agens Bauer, OS Reports Clearance Officer, Room 503H, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Ave SW, Washington, DC, 20201. Written comments should be received within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: October 4, 1999.

Dennis P. Williams,

Deputy Assistant Secretary, Budget.

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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 intention of the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR) to request the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to allow the proposed information collection project: 1999-2001 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey—Insurance Component (MEPS-IC). 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 December 13, 1999.

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

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

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 will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and costs) of the proposed collection 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.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cynthia McMichael, AHCPR Reports Clearance Officer, (301) 594-6659.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Proposed Project

1999-2001 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey—Insurance Component (MEPS-IC).

The MEPS-IC, an annual survey of the characteristics of employer-sponsored health insurance, was first conducted by AHCPR in 1997, seeking data pertaining to the calendar year 1996. The survey has since been conducted annually for calendar years 1997 and 1998. AHCPR proposes to continue this annual survey of establishments for calendar years 1999 through 2001. The survey data for calendar year 1999 will be collected in 2000. Likewise, calendar year 2000 data will be collected in 2001 and calendar year 2001 data in 2002. The survey will collect information from both public and private employers.

This survey will be conducted for AHCPR by the Bureau of the Census using a sample comprised of:

1. Employers selected from Census Bureau lists of private sector employers and government employers (known as the List Sample); and

2. Employers identified by respondents to the MEPS-Household Component (MEPS-HC) for the same calendar year (known as the Household Sample). The MEPS-HC is an annual household survey designed to collect information concerning health care expenditures and related data for individuals.

Data to be collected from each employer will 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.

Data Confidentiality Provisions

MEPS-IC List Sample data confidentiality is protected under section 9 of Title 13, United States Code (the U.S. Census Bureau statute). MEPS-IC Household Sample data confidentiality is protected under sections 308(d) and 903(c) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 242m and 42 U.S.C. 299a-1). Section 308(d), the confidentiality statute of the National Center for Health Statistics, is applicable because the MEPS-HC sample is derived from respondents of an earlier NCHS survey. Section 903(c) is the confidentiality statute of AHCPR. All data products listed below must fully comply with the data confidentiality statute under which the raw data was collected.

Data Products

Data will be produced in three forms: (1) Files derived from the Household