

consider in good faith any request for correction or amendment. The proposed rule establishes a policy that allows a covered entity to use information to affect the rights, benefits, or treatment of an individual but it does not require the entity to even consider a request for amendment in some circumstances. It is not necessary to require a covered entity to change a record that it did not create in some circumstances, but the covered entity must be required to consider the request in good faith if it is using the information to make decisions about the record subject.

Relationship to State Laws

While a State may submit a written request to the Secretary to except a provision of State law from preemption, it is recommended that the Secretary prior to granting the waiver give notice to the citizens of the State.

Definition of Protected Health Information (Sec. 164.504)

The definition of protected health information excludes individually identifiable health information of inmates of correctional facilities and detainees in detention facilities. The NCVHS is opposed to exempting inmates and detainees from the proposed rule. Information about this vulnerable population should be protected to the extent possible without jeopardizing the safety of the facilities or inmates. For example, access to schedules that would jeopardize security would not be provided.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer these comments and again congratulate the Department on a comprehensive regulation.
Sincerely,

John R. Lumpkin,
Chairman, National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Information about the Committee as well as the text of the HIPAA recommendations is available on the NCVHS website (<http://ncvhs/hhs/gov>) or from Marjorie S. Greenberg, Executive Secretary, NCVHS, NCHS, Room 1100, Presidential Building, 6525 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Maryland 20782, telephone (301) 458-7245.

Dated: June 28, 2000.

James Scanlon,

Director, Division of Data Policy, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Executive Staff Director, National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Meeting of the National Advisory Council for Healthcare Research Quality

AGENCY: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 10(a) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, this notice announces a meeting of the National Advisory Council for Healthcare Research and Quality.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Friday, July 28, 2000, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is open to the public.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at 6010 Executive Boulevard, Fourth Floor, Rockville, Maryland, 20852.

FOR GENERAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

Anne Lebbon, Coordinator of the Advisory Council, at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, 2101 East Jefferson Street, Suite 600, Rockville, Maryland, 20852, (301) 594-7216. For press-related information, please contact Karen Migdail at 301-594-6120.

If sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodation for a disability is needed, please contact Linda Reeves, Assistant Administrator for Equal Opportunity, AHCPR, on (301) 594-6662 no later than March 10, 2000.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Purpose

Section 921 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 299c) established the National Council for Healthcare Research and Quality. In accordance with its statutory mandate, the Council is to advise the Secretary and the Director, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), on matters related to actions of the Agency to enhance the quality, improve outcomes, reduce costs of health care services, improve access to such services through scientific research, the promotion of improvements in clinical practice and in the organization, financing, and delivery of health care services.

The Council is composed of members of the public appointed by the Secretary and Federal ex-officio members. Donald M. Berwick, M.D., the Council chairman, will preside.

II Agenda

On Friday, July 28, 2000, the meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m., with the call to

order by the Council Chairman. The Director, AHRQ, will present the status of the Agency's current research, programs and initiatives. Tentative agenda items include technology assessment, international health, research on health insurance and costs, and the Agency's grant process. The official agenda will be available on AHCPR's website at www.ahrq.gov no later than July 10, 2000. The meeting will adjourn at 4 p.m.

Dated: June 27, 2000.

John M. Eisenberg,

Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

Community/Tribal Subcommittee to the Board of Scientific Counselors, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry: Meeting

In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) announces the following subcommittee meeting.

Name: Community/Tribal Subcommittee (CTS).

Times and Dates: 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., July 26, 2000; 9 a.m.-3 p.m., July 27, 2000.

Place: Tulane University, School of Public Health, CAEPH, Suite 800, 1440 Canal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

Status: Open to the public, limited by the space available. The meeting room accommodates approximately 35 people.

Purpose: This subcommittee brings to the Board of Scientific Counselors advice and citizen input, as well as recommendations on community and tribal programs, practices, and policies of the Agency. The subcommittee reports directly to the Board of Scientific Counselors.

Matters To Be Discussed: Issues and concerns of the Community/Tribal Subcommittee as related to ATSDR's community and tribal programs. ATSDR will provide an update on the Environmental Health Research Agenda, initiate a discussion on how recently finalized Public Health Assessments (PHAs) have addressed community concerns (more extensive discussion of this topic will occur at a future meeting); the process for conducting an evaluation of PHAs; and, the CTS will give an update on cultural sensitivity training.

Contact Person for More Information: Sandra Coulberson, Principal ATSDR