

The measurement of these dimensions will require a standardized instrument that produces reliable and valid results.

Furthermore, the National Quality Forum (NQF) has cited the need for further research and development of suitable performance measures to evaluate and improve the quality of care in the hospital setting. Among the many priorities cited by the NQF in this area, the need to measure patient experiences with inpatient care is crucial.

In an effort to address the concerns of the industry, the Acting Director of AHRQ and the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) have established a priority to develop a standard for measuring and the public reporting of patient experiences in the acute care setting.

AHRQ, through a collaborative process with CMS and other Federal agencies, as well as other stakeholders, has initiated the process for this project. The steps to advance this initiative include:

- *Stakeholder Meetings:* A series of public meetings will be held to identify the issues, concerns and interests of the healthcare community. Summaries of all meetings will be posted on the AHRQ Website: <http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/cahpsix.htm>.

- *Sponsorship:* Identify potential sponsors who will fund, assist in development and periodic revisions, and ultimately help support the process for implementing and maintaining this standardized instrument.

- *Research Plan:* The process by which measures will be defined and applicable instruments identified. Instruments submitted will be evaluated to determine if they meet the measurement needs and to identify whether additional measure development is required. Once consensus among AHRQ and the CAHPS Grantees on the instrument is achieved, and the instrument testing is concluded, the resulting work will be readily available free of charge to all prospective users.

- *Implementation Plan:* A description of the recommended or required process to implement the standardized instrument will also be readily available including information related to data collection, analysis, and public reporting.

Dated: July 18, 2002.

Carolyn M. Clancy,
Acting Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Citizens Advisory Committee on Public Health Service Activities and Research at Department of Energy Sites: Notice of Charter Renewal

This gives notice under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463) of October 6, 1972, that the Citizens Advisory Committee on Public Health Service Activities and Research at Department of Energy Sites of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services, has been renewed for a 2-year period extending through July 7, 2004.

For further information, contact Burma Burch, CDC/ATSDR Committee Management Officer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the Department of Health and Human Services, 1600 Clifton Road, NE., MS E72, Atlanta, Georgia 30333. Telephone (404) 498-0090, or fax (404) 498-0011.

The Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, has been delegated the authority to sign **Federal Register** notices pertaining to announcements of meetings and other committee management activities, for both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

Dated: July 18, 2002.

John Burckhardt,

Acting Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

[Document Identifier: CMS-10064]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, DHHS.

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) (formerly known as the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA)), Department of Health and

Human Services, is publishing the following summary of proposed collections for public comment. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including any of the following subjects: (1) The necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

Type of Information Collection

Request: Extension of a currently approved collection; **Title of Information Collection:** Minimum Data Set (MDS) for Swing Bed Hospitals and Supporting Regulations in 42 CFR, Sections 413.337 and 483.20; **Form No.:** CMS-10064 (OMB# 0938-0872); **Use:**

We are requesting re-approval of resident assessment information that swing bed hospitals are required to submit as described at 42 CFR 483.20 in the manner necessary to administer the payment rate methodology described in 42 CFR 413.337; **Frequency:** Other: Days 5, 14, 30, 60 & 90 of stay; **Affected Public:** Not-for-Profit Institutions, and State, Local or Tribal Government; **Number of Respondents:** 1,250; **Total Annual Responses:** 156,480; **Total Annual Hours:** 132,360.

To obtain copies of the supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed paperwork collections referenced above, access CMS's Web site address at <http://www.hcfa.gov/regs/prdact95.htm>, or e-mail your request, including your address, phone number, OMB number, and CMS document identifier, to Paperwork@hcfa.gov, or call the Reports Clearance Office on (410) 786-1326. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collections must be mailed within 60 days of this notice directly to the CMS Paperwork Clearance Officer designated at the following address: CMS, Office of Information Services, Security and Standards Group, Division of CMS Enterprise Standards, Attention: Dawn Willingham, CMS-10064, Room N2-14-26, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.