

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Advisory Committee on Blood Safety and Availability will meet to examine the role of the Federal Government in the distribution of the nation's blood supply. The meeting will be entirely open to the public.

DATES: The Advisory Committee on Blood Safety and Availability will meet on Wednesday, January 28 and Thursday, January 29, 2004 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place at the Grand Hyatt Washington Hotel, 1000 H Street NW., Washington, DC 20001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: CAPT Lawrence C. McMurtry, Deputy Executive Secretary, Advisory Committee on Blood Safety and Availability, Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Public Health and Science, 1101 Wootton Parkway, Suite 250, Rockville, MD 20852, (301) 443-2331, FAX (301) 443-4788, e-mail lmcmurtry@osophs.dhhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Public comment will be solicited at the meeting. Public comment will be limited to five minutes per speaker. Those who wish to have printed material distributed to Advisory Committee members should submit thirty (30) copies to the Executive Secretary prior to close of business January 16, 2004. Those who wish to utilize electronic data projection in their presentation to the Committee must submit their material to the Executive Secretary prior to close of business January 16, 2004. In addition, anyone planning to comment is encouraged to contact the Executive Secretary at her/his earliest convenience.

Dated: December 10, 2003.

CAPT Lawrence C. McMurtry,
Deputy Executive Secretary, Advisory Committee on Blood Safety and Availability.
[FR Doc. 03-30966 Filed 12-15-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Guidance to Federal Financial Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient Persons; Extension of Comment Period

AGENCY: Health and Human Services, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is extending the period for comments on revised Guidance to Federal Financial Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient Persons through January 6, 2004. This revised guidance was issued pursuant to Executive Order 13166.

DATES: The deadline for comments is extended to January 6, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Deeana Jang with "Attention: LEP Comments," and should be sent to 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 506F, Washington, DC 20201. Comments may also be submitted by e-mail at LEP.comments@hhs.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Deeana Jang, 202-619-1795.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the notice document 03-20179 beginning on page 47311 in the issue of Friday, August 8, 2003, HHS announced an extended 120 day comment period, "to encourage comment from the public and from recipients regarding experience in applying the revised guidance." However, that notice incorrectly identified January 6, 2004, as the end of the comment period. This was corrected in notice document C3-20179 on page 49843 in the issue of Tuesday, August 19, 2003, which identified the correct date as December 8, 2003. In comments received by the Department by December 8, concerns were raised that confusion about the close of the 120 day comment period may inadvertently foreclose consideration of submissions made by commenters relying on the January 6, 2004 date. To avoid any such confusion, the Department will hold open the comment period through January 6, 2004, for comments received by the Department through that date.

Dated: December 9, 2003.

Richard M. Campanelli,
Director, Office for Civil Rights.
[FR Doc. 03-30967 Filed 12-15-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the intention of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to request that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) allow the proposed information collection project: "National Children's Study Pilot: Primary Care Practice-Based Research Networks (PBRNs)." In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 1004-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), AHRQ invites the public to comment on this proposed information collection.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by February 17, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be submitted to: Cynthia D. McMichael, Reports Clearance Officer, AHRQ, 540 Gaither Road, Room #5022, Rockville, MD 20850.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cynthia D. McMichael, AHRQ, Reports Clearance Officer, (301) 427-1651.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Proposed Project

National Children's Study pilot project to determine feasibility of NCS data collection in Primary Care Practices."

The project is being conducted in response to a modification of an AHRQ RFP entitled "Recourse Center for Primary Care Practice-Based Research Networks (PBRNs)" (issued under Contract 290-02-0008). In January 2003 AHRQ requested that the PBRN Resource Center assess the potential for PBRNs to participate in the National Children's Study (NCS).

In 2000, Congress passed the Children's Health Act, authorizing an unprecedented study of the impact of the environment on children's health.

The goal of the NCS is to identify sufficient numbers of women of childbearing age to enroll 100,000 pregnant women into the NCS early in gestation, and then to enroll and follow their children through 21 years of age.

A key design issue for the NCS is the manner in which participants will be recruited and enrolled into the study. Previous research states that a well-established relationship between the researcher and the subject, convenient study location and active community ties bolster recruitment success and the likelihood of a parent to enroll their child in longitudinal studies. PBRNs

consist mainly of non-academic, community-based primary care practices with well-established relationships with their subject population. PBRNs therefore offer a potentially valuable resource for identifying, enrolling, and following women and children for the NCS.

Recognizing this, AHRQ requested that the Resource Center participate in the design of a pilot study of PBRNs' ability to participate in the NCS. The proposed NCS pilot study will test the ability of PBRNs to collect, process, and manage data similar to that which is expected to be collected and processed in the NCS. This pilot study will allow the Resource Center to determine the factors that enable or hinder the collection of such data at primary care practices, as well as make an overall determination of the feasibility of PBRN practices' participation in the NCS.

The pilot study will involve use of in-person interviews, developmental assessments of children, self-administered parent/guardian questionnaires, and physical exams including the collection of urine. The pilot study will evaluate the feasibility of having PBRNs participate in the NCS using several indicators:

The ability of practices to use self-administered questionnaires to collect and manage the medical and dietary history data of pregnant women and of children ages 1 and 5;

The ability of practices to effectively collect and manage data from a physical examination of study subjects (including health status and urine collection);

The ability of practices to facilitate a developmental assessment of children conducted at age one and age five;

The amount of burden data collection places on practices;

The characteristics of successful and unsuccessful practices in the study;

The ease of data collection across different patient populations and data collection modes and;

To make the necessary determinations, assessments and surveys will be conducted with PBRN practice patients as well as with a small number of patients who ordinarily receive care elsewhere, and PBRN staff will also be surveyed.

Methods of Collection

The data will be collected from 36 practices per respondent category, meaning 36 practices will collect data

on pregnant women, 36 practices will collect data on children aged 1 and 5. It is expected that some practices will collect data on more than one respondent group. Each practice will recruit 14 patients per respondent group using convenience sampling procedures. A total of 504 pregnant women and 504 children and their parents (half will be 1 year old and half will be 5 years old) will be involved in the data collection. Because a small proportion (20%) of patients will be asked to visit another practice participating in the pilot study in order to test the ability of practices to collect and manage data on non-member patients, the NCS will require some providers to collect data on some patients they do not normally care for.

The method of data collection for the patient assessment includes self-administered questionnaires, physical examination, and collection of a urine sample. The practice will contact potential participants through a mailing and a phone call. Non-respondents will not be contacted again.

Estimated Annual Respondent Burden

Data collection	Number of respondents	Estimated time per respondent in hours	Estimated total burden hours	Average hourly wage rate	Labor rates
Pregnant woman: Data collected at their current practice ..	403	2.5	1007.5	17.18*	\$17,308.85
Pregnant woman: Data collected at a practice other than usual source of care	101	3	303	17.18*	5,205.54
Parent of a 1 year old or 5 year old: Data collected at their current practice	403	4	1,612	17.18*	27,694.16
Parent of a 1 year old or 5 year old: Data collected at a practice other than usual source of care	101	4.5	454.5	17.18*	7,808.31
1 year old or 5 year old: Data collected at their usual practice	403	4	1,612	0	0.00
1 year old or 5 year old: Data collected at their usual practice	101	4.5	454.5	0	0.00
Total	1512	3.6	5443.50	\$58,016.86

*Based on the average hourly wage across private and public sector jobs in the United States, National Compensation Survey, July 2002. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Estimated Costs to the Federal Government

The total cost to the government for activities directly related to this data collection is estimated to be \$780,411.

Request for Comments

In accordance with the above cited legislation, comments on the AHRQ information collection 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 AHRQ, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of

the AHRQ's estimate of burden (including hours and cost) 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 upon the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

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.

Dated: December 10, 2003.
Carolyn M. Clancy,
Director.
 [FR Doc. 03-31023 Filed 12-12-03; 10:46 am]
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