

## GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

### Maximum Per Diem Rates for the Continental United States (CONUS)

**AGENCY:** Office of Governmentwide Policy, General Services Administration (GSA).

**ACTION:** Notice of Per Diem Bulletin 05-1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 continental United States (CONUS) per diem rates.

**SUMMARY:** An analysis of lodging data reveals that the FY 2005 maximum per diem rates for locations within the continental United States (CONUS) should be updated to provide for the reimbursement of Federal employees' expenses covered by per diem. Per Diem Bulletin 05-1 increases/decreases the maximum lodging amounts in existing per diem localities, increases the standard CONUS lodging amount from \$55 to \$60 (which results in the deletion of several existing per diem localities), and adds new per diem localities due to requests by Federal agencies. The per diems prescribed in Bulletin 05-1 may be found at <http://www.gsa.gov/perdiem>. In an effort to improve the ability of the per diem rates to meet the lodging demands of Federal travelers, the General Services Administration (GSA) has integrated average daily rate cost data obtained from lodging industry sources into the per diem rate-setting process. The use of such data in the per diem rate setting process enhances the Government's ability to obtain policy compliant lodging where it is needed. Bulletin 05-1 also contains a listing of pertinent information that must be submitted through an agency for GSA to restudy a location if a CONUS per diem rate is insufficient to meet necessary expenses.

**DATES:** This notice is effective October 1, 2004, and applies for travel performed on or after October 1, 2004.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For clarification of content, contact Adlore Chaudier, Office of Governmentwide Policy, Travel Management Policy, at (202) 501-3859. Please cite Notice of Per Diem Bulletin 05-1.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### A. Background

After an analysis of additional data, GSA has determined that current lodging rates for certain localities do not adequately reflect the lodging economics in those areas.

##### B. Change in standard procedure

GSA issues/publishes the CONUS per diem rates, formerly published in Appendix A to 41 CFR chapter 301,

solely on the internet at <http://www.gsa.gov/perdiem>. This process, implemented in 2003, ensures more timely increases or decreases in per diem rates established by GSA for Federal employees on official travel within CONUS. Notices published periodically in the **Federal Register**, such as this one, now constitute the only notification of revisions in CONUS per diem rates to agencies.

Dated: August 25, 2004

**John G. Sindelar,**

*Deputy Associate Administrator.*

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**BILLING CODE 6820-14-S**

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Office of the Secretary

#### Notice of Meeting: Secretary's Advisory Committee on Genetics, Health, and Society

Pursuant to Public Law 92-463, notice is hereby given of the fifth meeting of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Genetics, Health, and Society (SACGHS), U.S. Public Health Service. The meeting will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on October 18, 2004 and 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. October 19, 2004 at the Marriott Hotel Bethesda at 5151 Pooks Hill Road, Bethesda, Maryland. The meeting will be open to the public with attendance limited to space available. The meeting will be webcast.

The first half of the first day will be devoted to a session to receive testimony from individuals who have been affected by genetic discrimination in health insurance and employment. The second half of the first day will include presentations related to and discussion of a revised draft report on coverage and reimbursement for genetic technologies and services and the development of recommendations on the issues identified in the report. Discussion of the draft coverage and reimbursement report will continue throughout the first half of the second day. The second day will end with a status report on the National Academy of Sciences' study of genomics and patents and discussions of future plans for Committee action on the issues of pharmacogenomics and large population studies. Time will be provided each day for public comments.

Under authority of 42 U.S.C. 217a, Section 222 of the Public Health Service Act, as amended, the Department of Health and Human Services established SACGHS to serve as a public forum for deliberations on the broad range of

human health and societal issues raised by the development and use of genetic technologies and, as warranted, to provide advice on these issues. The draft meeting agenda and other information about SACGHS, including information about access to the webcast, will be available at the following Web site: <http://www4.od.nih.gov/oba/sacghs.htm>.

The Committee would welcome hearing from anyone wishing to provide public comment on any issue related to genetics, health and society. In addition, the Committee is specifically seeking written public comment from individuals who have experienced genetic discrimination in health insurance or in employment, who fear genetic discrimination, or who have paid out of pocket for services to keep genetic information out of medical records. Individuals who would like to provide public comment or who plan to attend the meeting and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should notify the SACGHS Executive Secretary, Ms. Sarah Carr, by telephone at 301-496-9838 or E-mail at [sc112c@nih.gov](mailto:sc112c@nih.gov). The SACGHS office is located at 6705 Rockledge Drive, Suite 750, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Dated: August 19, 2004.

**LaVerne Stringfield,**

*Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

#### Population-Based Birth Defects Surveillance Programs and the Utilization of Surveillance Data by Public Health Programs

*Announcement Type:* New.

*Funding Opportunity Number:* RFA 05009.

*Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:* 93.283.

*Key Dates:*

*Letter of Intent Deadline:* September 27, 2004.

*Application Deadline:* October 20, 2004.

#### I. Funding Opportunity Description

**Authority:** This program is authorized under sections 311, 317(k)(2), and 317(C) of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 243, 247(k)(2), and 247b-4], as amended.