DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology; HIT Standards Committee’s Workgroup Meetings; Notice of Meetings

AGENCY: Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, HHS

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

This notice announces forthcoming subcommittee meetings of a federal advisory committee of the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC). The meetings will be open to the public via dial-in access only.


General Function of the Committee: To provide recommendations to the National Coordinator on standards, implementation specifications, and certification criteria for the electronic exchange and use of health information for purposes of adoption, consistent with the implementation of the Federal Health IT Strategic Plan, and in accordance with policies developed by the HIT Policy Committee.

Date and Time: The HIT Standards Committee Workgroups will hold the following public meetings during April 2010: April 1st Privacy & Security Workgroup, webcast only, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m./ET; April 23rd Clinical Quality Workgroup, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m./ET; April 23rd Privacy & Security Workgroup, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m./ET; and April 30th Implementation Workgroup, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m./ET.

Location: All workgroup meetings will be available via webcast; visit http://healthit.hhs.gov for instructions on how to listen via telephone or Web. Please check the ONC Web site for additional information as it becomes available.

Contact Person: Judy Sparrow, Office of the National Coordinator, HHS, 330 C Street, SW., Washington, DC 20201, 202–205–4528, Fax: 202–690–6079, e-mail: judy.sparrow@hhs.gov. Please call the contact person for up-to-date information on these meetings. A notice in the Federal Register about last minute modifications that affect a previously announced advisory committee meeting cannot always be published quickly enough to provide timely notice.

Agenda: The workgroups will be discussing issues related to their specific subject matter, e.g., clinical operations vocabulary standards, clinical quality measure, implementation opportunities and challenges, and privacy and security standards activities. If background materials are associated with the workgroup meetings, they will be posted on ONC’s Web site prior to the meeting at http://healthit.hhs.gov.

Procedure: Interested persons may present data, information, or views, orally or in writing, on issues pending before the workgroups. Written submissions may be made to the contact person before the workgroups. Written submissions will be made to the contact person on or before two days prior to the workgroups’ meeting date. Oral comments from the public will be scheduled at the conclusion of each workgroup meeting. Time allotted for each presentation will be limited to three minutes. If the number of speakers requesting to comment is greater than can be reasonably accommodated during the scheduled open public session, ONC will take written comments after the meeting until close of business on that day.

If you require special accommodations due to a disability, please contact Judy Sparrow at least seven (7) days in advance of the meeting.

ONC is committed to the orderly conduct of its advisory committee meetings. Please visit our Web site at http://healthit.hhs.gov for procedures on public conduct during advisory committee meetings.

Notice of this meeting is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92–463, 5 U.S.C., App. 2).

Dated: March 11, 2010.

Judith Sparrow, Office of Programs and Coordination, Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology.

BILLING CODE 4150–45–P
Preliminary Project

Laboratory Medicine Best Practices Project (LMBP)—New—National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID) (proposed), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

**Background and Brief Description**

CDC is seeking approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to collect information from healthcare organizations in order to conduct a systemic review of laboratory practice effectiveness. The purpose of the information collection is to include completed unpublished quality improvement studies/assessments carried out by healthcare organizations (laboratories, hospitals, clinics) in systematic reviews of practice effectiveness. CDC has been sponsoring the Laboratory Medicine Best Practices (LMBP) initiative to develop new systematic evidence reviews methods for making evidence-based recommendations in laboratory medicine. This initiative supports the CDC’s mission of improving laboratory practices.

The focus of the Initiative is on pre- and post-analytic laboratory medicine practices that are effective at improving health care quality. While evidence-based approaches for decisionmaking have become standard in healthcare, this has been limited in laboratory medicine. No single-evidence-based model for recommending practices in laboratory medicine exists, although the number of laboratories operating in the United States and the volume of laboratory tests available certainly warrant such a model.

The Laboratory Medicine Best Practices Initiative began in October 2006, when Division of Laboratory Systems (DLS) convened the Laboratory Medicine Best Practices Workgroup (Workgroup), a multidisciplinary panel of experts in several fields including laboratory medicine, clinical medicine, health services research, and health care performance measurement. The Workgroup has been supported by staff at CDC and the Battelle Memorial Institute under contract to CDC.

To date, the Laboratory Medicine Best Practices (LMBP) project work has been completed over three phases. During Phase 1 (October 2006–September 2007) of the project, CDC staff developed systematic review methods for conducting paper reviews related to the effectiveness of laboratory medicine practices. Results of a review of practices that reduce patient specimen identification indicated that an insufficient quality and number of published studies were available for completing systematic evidence reviews of laboratory medicine practice effectiveness for multiple practices. These results were considered likely to be generalizable to most potential review topics of interest. A finding from Phase 1 work was that laboratories would be unlikely to publish quality improvement projects or studies demonstrating practice effectiveness in the peer reviewed literature, but that they routinely conducted quality improvement projects and had relevant data for completion of evidence reviews. Phase 2 (September 2007–November 2008) and Phase 3 (December 2008–September 2009), involved further development of methods to obtain and critically appraise published and unpublished data. A pilot test of a standardized data collection form with less than nine potential laboratory respondents supported the Phase 1 finding that data from completed laboratory medicine quality improvement projects could supplement published evidence in systematic reviews. The objective for successive LMBP evidence reviews of practice effectiveness is to supplement the published evidence with unpublished evidence to fill in gaps in the literature.

Healthcare organizations and facilities (laboratories, hospitals, clinics) will have the opportunity to voluntarily enroll in an LMBP network and submit readily available unpublished studies; quality improvement projects, evaluations, assessments, and other analyses relying on unlinked, anonymous data using the LMBP Submission Form. LMBP Network participants will also be able to submit unpublished studies/data for evidence reviews on an annual basis using this form. There will be no charge to respondents for their participation, other than their time. The total estimated annualized burden hours for this information collection request are 138 hours.

**Estimated Annualized Burden Hours**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Number of respondents</th>
<th>Number of responses per respondent</th>
<th>Average burden per response (in hours)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare Organizations</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>55/60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Date:** March 11, 2010.

Maryam I. Daneshvar,
**Acting Reports Clearance Officer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.**

[FR Doc. 2010–5843 Filed 3–16–10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4163–18–P