DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Consumer Health IT Pledge Program

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

ACTION: Notice of availability for Consumer Health IT Pledge Program.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services’ Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (UNIC) is leading a national campaign to educate and engage the public on the value and benefits of health information technology (health IT) in improving health and health care. As part of the campaign, we encourage entities that touch Americans’ lives to pledge to empower individuals to be partners in their health through health IT. There are two types of pledges: One for those who manage or maintain individually identifiable health data (e.g., providers, hospitals, payers, retail pharmacies) and another for those who do not manage or maintain consumer health data, but have the ability to educate consumers about the importance of getting access to and using their health information (e.g., employers, consumer and disease-based organizations, healthcare associations, product developers).

Taking the pledge is voluntary, and does not represent any endorsement by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services or any other part of the federal government.

To learn more about the details of the pledge, please visit: http://www.healthit.gov/pledge.


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jerry Menikoff, M.D., J.D., Director, Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP), or Julia Gorey, J.D., Executive Director, SACHRP; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1101 Wootton Parkway, Suite 200, Rockville, Maryland 20852; 240–453–8141; fax: 240–453–6909; e-mail address: Julia.Gorey@hhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the authority of 42 U.S.C. 217a, Section 222 of the Public Health Service Act, as amended, SACHRP was established to provide expert advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Assistant Secretary for Health on issues and topics pertaining to or associated with the protection of human research subjects.

Both days of this meeting will be devoted to SACHRP discussion of the recent Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM), Human Subjects Research Protections: Enhancing Protections for Research Subjects and Reducing Burden, Delay, and Ambiguity for Investigators, published in the July 26 Federal Register. The meeting will open October 4 with remarks from SACHRP Chair Dr. Barbara Bierer and OHRP Director Dr. Jerry Menikoff, followed by presentation of joint recommendations on the ANPRM from the Subpart A Subcommittee (SAS) and the Subcommittee on Harmonization (SOH).

SAS is charged with developing recommendations for consideration by SACHRP regarding the application of subpart A of 45 CFR part 46 in the current research environment; this