

Services (HHS) is hereby giving notice that the National Vaccine Advisory Committee (NVAC) will hold a meeting September 9–10, 2014. The meeting is open to the public. However, pre-registration is required for both public attendance and public comment. Individuals who wish to attend the meeting and/or participate in the public comment session should register at <http://www.hhs.gov/nvpo/nvac>. Participants may also register by emailing [nvpo@hhs.gov](mailto:nvpo@hhs.gov) or by calling 202–690–5566 to provide your name, organization, and email address.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on September 9–10, 2014. The meeting times and agenda will be posted on the NVAC Web site at <http://www.hhs.gov/nvpo/nvac> as soon they become available.

**ADDRESSES:** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 800, 200 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20201.

The meeting can also be accessed through a live webcast the day of the meeting. For more information, visit <http://www.hhs.gov/nvpo/nvac/meetings/upcomingmeetings/index.html>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** National Vaccine Program Office, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Room 715–H, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20201. Phone: (202) 690–5566; email: [nvpo@hhs.gov](mailto:nvpo@hhs.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to Section 2101 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300aa–1), the Secretary of Health and Human Services was mandated to establish the National Vaccine Program to achieve optimal prevention of human infectious diseases through immunization and to achieve optimal prevention against adverse reactions to vaccines. The NVAC was established to provide advice and make recommendations to the Director of the National Vaccine Program on matters related to the Program's responsibilities. The Assistant Secretary for Health serves as Director of the National Vaccine Program.

The topics planned for NVAC discussion will include a presentation on the progress of the development of a National Adult Immunization Plan; plans by the NVPO to conduct a mid-course review of the 2010 National Vaccine Plan; the recent findings of a comprehensive review of vaccine safety; and an overview of vaccine research and development efforts for developing

vaccines for use in pregnant women. In addition, the NVAC working group on Vaccine Confidence will present their findings and recommendations for NVAC consideration and discussion. The NVAC also will hear an overview of Canada's efforts to strengthen the Canadian immunization system and an update on our national progress towards the Healthy People 2020 immunization goals. Finally, the NVAC HPV Working Group will provide an update on its progress. The meeting agenda will be posted on the NVAC Web site: <http://www.hhs.gov/nvpo/nvac> prior to the meeting.

Public attendance at the meeting is limited to the available space. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should notify the National Vaccine Program Office at the address/phone listed above at least one week prior to the meeting. For those unable to attend in person, a live webcast will be available. More information on registration and accessing the webcast can be found at <http://www.hhs.gov/nvpo/nvac/meetings/upcomingmeetings/index.html>.

Members of the public will have the opportunity to provide comments at the NVAC meeting during the public comment periods designated on the agenda. Individuals who would like to submit written statements should email their comments to the National Vaccine Program Office ([nvpo@hhs.gov](mailto:nvpo@hhs.gov)) at least five business days prior to the meeting.

Dated: July 29, 2014.

**Bruce Gellin,**

*Executive Secretary, National Vaccine Advisory Committee, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health, Director, National Vaccine Program Office.*

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**BILLING CODE 4150–44–P**

## 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) approve the proposed information collection project: “Evaluation of the AHRQ Healthcare Horizon Scanning System.” In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13 (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 October 14, 2014.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be submitted to: Doris Lefkowitz, Reports Clearance Officer, AHRQ, by email at [doris.lefkowitz@ahrq.hhs.gov](mailto:doris.lefkowitz@ahrq.hhs.gov).

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:** Doris Lefkowitz, AHRQ Reports Clearance Officer, (301) 427–1477, or by email at [doris.lefkowitz@ahrq.hhs.gov](mailto:doris.lefkowitz@ahrq.hhs.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Proposed Project

*“Evaluation of the AHRQ Healthcare Horizon Scanning System”*

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) appropriated \$1.1 billion for comparative effectiveness research (CER), of which \$300 million was made available to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). The goal of CER is to improve patient outcomes by providing clinicians and patients the information they need to choose between preventive and diagnostic treatments, and other health care options to identify the options that best fit an individual patient's needs and preferences. The EHC Program was created in response to Section 1013 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act (MMA) of 2003.

To better inform comparative effectiveness research investments at the EHC Program, AHRQ used some of the ARRA funds to develop a horizon scanning system to identify and monitor emerging health care technologies and innovations. While horizon scanning systems exist in other countries, these systems do not take into account the unique political, regulatory, cultural, and economic context of the U.S. health care system. To meet this need, the AHRQ Healthcare Horizon Scanning System was implemented in November 2010. The AHRQ Healthcare Horizon Scanning System provides a systematic process to identify and monitor target technologies and innovations in health care and to create an inventory of target technologies that have the highest

potential for impact on clinical care, the health care system, patient outcomes, and costs. It is also a tool for the public to identify and find information on new health care technologies and interventions. Additionally, the AHRQ Healthcare Horizon Scanning System serves as a resource for those involved in decision making about adoption, implementation, and coverage of new health care interventions.

To fulfill its purpose, the AHRQ Healthcare Horizon Scanning System performs three functions: (1) Identification and prioritization of interventions in late phase development for tracking and monitoring; (2) monitoring of target interventions through the development of detailed information on interventions in late phase development; and (3) assessment of potential impact of target interventions through the gathering and synthesizing the perspectives of experts from various areas of the health care community about the potential impact those target interventions may have on the health care system, clinical care, patient outcomes, and health care costs.

As the first and only U.S. horizon scanning system, it is important to understand whether the AHRQ Healthcare Horizon Scanning System is implementing its functions effectively. This evaluation is also essential to determining whether the AHRQ Healthcare Horizon Scanning System is meeting the needs of patients, clinicians, private industry, and policymakers and how it can be improved to better meet those needs. The evaluation will address the following research questions:

1. How successfully did the AHRQ Healthcare Horizon Scanning System identify and prioritize interventions for monitoring?

2. How successfully did the AHRQ Healthcare Horizon Scanning System monitor the selected target interventions?

3. How accurately did the AHRQ Healthcare Horizon Scanning System assess the potential impact of the interventions?

4. How can the processes for identification, prioritization, monitoring, and assessment of potential impact of the interventions be improved?

This research has the following goals:

1. To assess the performance of the AHRQ Healthcare Horizon Scanning System in the identification and prioritization of interventions which are important topics for further assessment.

2. To assess the performance of the AHRQ Healthcare Horizon Scanning System in terms of the quality of

information provided on the topics selected, and the accuracy of the assessment of potential impact.

3. To identify which, if any, of these areas of performance may require improvement so as to strengthen the effectiveness of the AHRQ Healthcare Horizon Scanning System.

This evaluation is being conducted by AHRQ through its contractor, ECRI Institute, and ECRI's subcontractor, Mathematica Policy Research, pursuant to AHRQ's statutory authority to conduct and support research on health care and on systems for the delivery of such care, including activities with respect to the quality, effectiveness, efficiency, appropriateness and value of health care services and with respect to quality measurement and improvement. 42 U.S.C. 299a(a)(1) and (2).

#### Method of Collection

To achieve the goals of this project the following data collections will be implemented:

1. Expert Survey—The purpose of this survey, completed by domain experts, is to measure the accuracy and completeness of the AHRQ Healthcare Horizon Scanning System Potential High Impact reports and to collect their assessment of the potential for high impact for the included Potential High Impact interventions.

2. Expert Consultation—The purpose of this consultation with experts is to confirm the cases of inaccurate or missing information identified by a sole expert in the Expert Survey.

3. Stakeholder Survey—The purpose of this survey, completed by stakeholders and likely users of the reports issued by the AHRQ Healthcare Horizon Scanning System, is to rate the relevance, clarity, and usefulness of the Potential High Impact reports.

4. Key Informant Interview—The purpose of these interviews of the AHRQ Healthcare Horizon Scanning System staff is to learn about areas and suggestions for improvement in the identification, monitoring, and impact assessment processes.

The data collected by the Expert Survey will be used to measure the accuracy and completeness of the Potential High Impact reports and the accuracy of the potential for high impact assessments. If the expert survey identifies cases of inaccurate or missing information that are not reported by multiple experts, we will conduct an Expert Consultation with another expert to confirm these cases. Accuracy of the potential for high impact assessments will be measured by the level of sensitivity (if experts agree that the Potential High Impact interventions

identified by the AHRQ Healthcare Horizon Scanning System are high impact interventions) and specificity (if experts agree that the No Potential High Impact interventions identified by the AHRQ Healthcare Horizon Scanning System should be excluded from the group of Potential High Impact interventions).

The Stakeholder Survey will collect data to measure the usability of the Potential High Impact reports and the specific report sections that include the potential high impact assessment, summary, and synthesis of expert comments. These data will be used to inform the improvement of the format and content of the report. The survey will also collect information on the sources and media these stakeholders use to find CER information to help AHRQ better target distribution of these reports to stakeholders.

A series of semi-structured Key Informant Interviews will be conducted with staff and domain experts at ECRI Institute and other organizations that participate in the AHRQ Healthcare Horizon Scanning System in order to identify opportunities for improvements to the AHRQ Healthcare Horizon Scanning System process. Qualitative interviews are the main vehicle for gathering data to (1) learn which elements of the AHRQ Healthcare Horizon Scanning System Protocol are working well and the reasons why they are working well; and (2) understand which elements of the AHRQ Healthcare Horizon Scanning System Protocol can be improved, how they might be improved, and the relative importance of suggested improvements.

All of these information collection activities will allow for an evaluation of the AHRQ Healthcare Horizon Scanning System, thereby creating the opportunity to both maintain and improve this important national resource. The findings will be presented in a report to ECRI Institute and AHRQ.

#### Estimated Annual Respondent Burden

Mathematica expects a response rate of 80 percent from the sample of 67 experts for the Expert Survey — 54 completed surveys. The Expert Survey is expected to require about 20 minutes, on average, to complete. Mathematica expects that Expert Consultation with 15 experts will be needed to confirm cases of inaccurate or missing information identified in the Expert Survey. The follow-ups should be about 10 minutes.

For the Stakeholder Survey, Mathematica expects that 30 percent of the sample of 700 stakeholders will be ineligible (i.e. will not find any of the

presented reports relevant and therefore should take about 30 minutes to average lasting 50 minutes, with 23 unable to rate a report) and that 65 complete the Stakeholder Survey. respondents. percent of the eligible sample will Mathematica will conduct seni- structured Key Informant Interviews, on complete, resulting in 319 completes. It

EXHIBIT 1—ESTIMATED ANNUALIZED BURDEN HOURS

Form name	Number of respondents	Number of responses per respondent	Hours per response	Total burden hours
Expert Survey .....	54	1	.33	18
Expert Consultation .....	15	1	.17	3
Stakeholder Survey .....	319	1	.50	160
Key Informant Interviews .....	23	1	.83	19
Total .....	411	.....	.....	200

EXHIBIT 2—ESTIMATED ANNUALIZED COST BURDEN

Form name	Number of respondents	Total burden hours	Average hourly wage rate *	Total cost burden
Expert Survey .....	54	17.8	\$92.25	\$1,642
Expert Consultation .....	15	2.5	** 92.25	231
Stakeholder Survey .....	319	59.5	*** 48.72	7,771
Key Informant Interviews .....	23	19.1	38.68	739
Total .....	411	.....	.....	10,383

\* May 2013 National Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates, U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.  
 \*\* Based on average wage for physicians and surgeons.  
 \*\*\* Based on average wage for medical and health services managers.  
 \*\*\*\* Based on average wage for social scientists and related workers.

Request for Comments

In accordance with the above-cited Paperwork Reduction Act legislation, comments on AHRQ’s 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 AHRQ health care research and health care information dissemination functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of AHRQ’s estimate of burden (including hours and costs) of the proposed collection(s) 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 Agency’s subsequent request for OMB approval of the proposed information collection. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Dated: July 30 2014.  
**Richard Kronick,**  
 AHRQ Director.  
 [FR Doc. 2014–18972 Filed 8–11–14; 8:45 am]  
**BILLING CODE 4160–90–M**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services**

[Document Identifier: CMS–10305]

**Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Extension of Comment Period**

**AGENCY:** Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), HHS.  
**ACTION:** Agency information collection activities: Proposed collection; comment request; extension of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** This notice extends the comment period for a 60-day notice request for proposed information collection request associated with the notice [Document Identifier: CMS–10305] entitled “Medicare Part C and Part D Data Validation” that was published in the June 13, 2014 (79 FR 33927) **Federal Register**. The comment period for the information collection request, which would have ended on

August 12, 2014, is extended to August 26, 2014.

**DATES:** The comment period for the information collection request published in the June 13, 2014, **Federal Register** (79 FR 33927) is extended to August 26, 2014.

**ADDRESSES:** When commenting, please reference the document identifier or OMB control number. To be assured consideration, comments and recommendations must be submitted in any one of the following ways:

1. *Electronically.* You may send your comments electronically to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for “Comment or Submission” or “More Search Options” to find the information collection document(s) that are accepting comments.

2. *By regular mail.* You may mail written comments to the following address: CMS, Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs, Division of Regulations Development, Attention: Document Identifier/OMB Control Number \_\_\_\_\_, Room C4–26–05, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21244–1850.

To obtain copies of a supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed collection(s) summarized in this notice, you may make your request using one of following: