

Dated: July 25, 2017.

**Lorin S. Curit,**

Director, Federal Acquisition Policy Division,  
Office of Governmentwide Acquisition Policy,  
Office of Acquisition Policy, Office of  
Governmentwide Policy.

[FR Doc. 2017-15931 Filed 7-27-17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6820-EP-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: “*Generic  
Clearance for Questionnaire and Data  
Collection Testing, Evaluation, and  
Research for the Agency for Healthcare  
Research and Quality.*”

This proposed information collection  
was previously published in the **Federal  
Register** on April 28, 2017, and allowed  
60 days for public comment. No  
substantive comments were received.  
The purpose of this notice is to allow an  
additional 30 days for public comment.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be  
received by August 28, 2017.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should  
be submitted to: AHRQ’s OMB Desk  
Officer by fax at (202) 395-6974  
(attention: AHRQ’s desk officer) or by  
email at [OIRA\\_submission@  
omb.eop.gov](mailto:OIRA_submission@omb.eop.gov) (attention: AHRQ’s desk  
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

*Generic Clearance for Questionnaire  
and Data Collection Testing, Evaluation,  
and Research for the Agency for  
Healthcare Research and Quality*

In accordance with the Paperwork  
Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501-3520,  
AHRQ invites the public to comment on  
this proposed information collection.  
The Agency for Healthcare Research and

Quality (AHRQ) requests that the Office  
of Management and Budget (OMB)  
reapprove generic pre-testing Clearance  
0935-0124 for three years to facilitate  
AHRQ’s efforts to (1) employ  
evaluation-type methods and techniques  
to improve AHRQ’s current data  
collection and estimation procedures,  
(2) develop new collections and  
procedures, including toolkits, and (3)  
revise existing collections and  
procedures. AHRQ believes that  
developing, testing, and evaluating data  
collection and estimation procedures  
using survey methods and other  
techniques in anticipation of Agency-  
sponsored studies can improve its  
information collection efforts, and the  
products it develops and allow AHRQ to  
be more responsive to fast-changing  
developments in the health care  
research. AHRQ uses techniques to  
simplify data collection and estimation  
procedures, reduce respondent burden,  
and improve efficiencies to meet the  
needs of individuals and small business  
respondents who may have reduced  
budgets and staff.

This clearance request is limited to  
research on data collection, toolkit  
development, and estimation  
procedures and reports and does not  
extend to the collection of data for  
public release or policy formation. The  
current Clearance (0935-0124) was  
granted on November 12, 2014, and  
expires on November 30, 2017.

This generic clearance will allow  
AHRQ to draft and test toolkits, survey  
instruments and other data collection  
and estimation procedures more quickly  
and with greater lead time, thereby  
managing project time more efficiently  
and improving the quality of the data  
AHRQ collects. In some instances, the  
ability to test and evaluate toolkits, data  
collection and estimation procedures in  
anticipation of work or early in a project  
may result in the decision not to  
proceed with additional activities,  
which could save both public and  
private resources and eliminate  
respondent burden.

This generic clearance will facilitate  
AHRQ’s response to a changing  
environment. Many of the tools AHRQ  
develops are made available to the  
private sector to assist in improving  
health care quality. The health and  
health care environment changes  
rapidly and requires a quick response  
from AHRQ to provide refined tools.

These preliminary research activities  
will not be used by AHRQ to regulate  
or sanction its customers. They will be  
entirely voluntary and the

confidentiality of respondents and their  
responses will be preserved. Proposed  
information collections submitted under  
this generic clearance will be submitted  
for review by OMB with a response  
expected in 14 days.

#### Method of Collection

The information collected through  
preliminary research activities under  
this generic clearance will be used by  
AHRQ to employ techniques to (1)  
improve AHRQ’s current data collection  
and estimation procedures, (2) develop  
new collections and procedures,  
including toolkits, and (3) revise  
existing collections and procedures in  
anticipation or in response to changes in  
the health or health care. The end result  
will be improvement in AHRQ’s data  
collections and procedures and the  
quality of data collected, a reduction or  
minimization of respondent burden,  
increased agency efficiency, and  
improved responsiveness to the public.

#### Estimated Annual Respondent Burden

Exhibit 1 shows the estimated burden  
hours, over the full 3 years of this  
clearance, for the respondents’ time to  
participate in the research activities that  
may be conducted under this generic  
clearance. Mail surveys will be  
conducted with about 6,000 persons  
(2,000 per year for 3 years) and are  
estimated to average 20 minutes. Mail  
surveys may also be sent to respondents  
via email, and may include a telephone  
non-response follow-up. Telephone  
non-response follow-up for mailed  
surveys is not counted as a telephone  
survey in Exhibit 1. Not more than 600  
persons, over 3 years, will participate in  
telephone surveys that will take about  
40 minutes. Web-based surveys will be  
conducted with no more than 3,000  
persons and will require no more than  
10 minutes to complete. About 1,500  
persons will participate in focus groups  
which may last up to two hours, while  
in-person interviews will be conducted  
with 600 persons and will take about 50  
minutes. Automated data collection will  
be conducted for about 1,500 persons  
and could take up to 1 hour. Cognitive  
testing will be conducted with about  
600 persons and is estimated to take 1½  
hours to complete. The total burden  
over 3 years is estimated to be 8,900  
hours (about 2,967 hours per year).

Exhibit 2 shows the estimated cost  
burden over 3 years, based on the  
respondent’s time to participate in these  
research activities. The total cost burden  
is estimated to be \$338,734.

EXHIBIT 1—ESTIMATED BURDEN HOURS OVER 3 YEARS

Type of information collection	Number of respondents	Number of responses per respondent	Hours per response	Total burden hours
Mail/email *	6,000	1	20/60	2,000
Telephone	600	1	40/60	400
Web-based	3,000	1	10/60	500
Focus Groups	1,500	1	2.0	3,000
In-person	600	1	1.0	600
Automated**	1,500	1	1.0	1,500
Cognitive Testing***	600	1	1.5	900
Totals	13,800	na	na	8,900

\* May include telephone non-response follow-up in which case the burden will not change.  
 \*\* May include testing of database software, CAPI software or other automated technologies.  
 \*\*\* May include cognitive interviews for questionnaire or toolkit development, or “think aloud” testing of prototype Web sites.

EXHIBIT 2—ESTIMATED COST BURDEN OVER 3 YEARS

Type of information collection	Number of respondents	Total burden hours	Average hourly wage rate *	Total cost burden
Mail/email	6,000	2,000	\$38.06	\$76,120
Telephone	600	400	38.06	15,224
Web-based	3,000	500	38.06	19,030
Focus Groups	1,500	3,000	38.06	114,180
In-person	600	600	38.06	22,836
Automated	1,500	1,500	38.06	57,090
Cognitive Testing	600	900	38.06	34,254
Totals	13,800	8,900	na	338,734

\* Based upon the average wages for 29–000 (Healthcare Practitioner and Technical Occupations), “National Compensation Survey: Occupational Wages in the United States, May 2016,” U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics [https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_nat.htm#29-0000](https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_nat.htm#29-0000).

**Request for Comments**

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, 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.

**Sharon B. Arnold,**  
*Deputy Director.*  
 [FR Doc. 2017–15883 Filed 7–27–17; 8:45 am]  
**BILLING CODE 4160–90–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) reapprove the proposed information collection project: “*Medical Expenditure Panel Survey—Insurance Component.*”

This proposed information collection was previously published in the **Federal Register** on April 28, 2017, and allowed

60 days for public comment. No substantive comments were received; however changes have been made to the burden estimates in Exhibit 1, resulting in an increase of 1,316 burden hours. The purpose of this notice is to allow an additional 30 days for public comment.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by August 28, 2017.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be submitted to: AHRQ’s OMB Desk Officer by fax at (202) 395–6974 (attention: AHRQ’s desk officer) or by email at [OIRA\\_submission@omb.eop.gov](mailto:OIRA_submission@omb.eop.gov) (attention: AHRQ’s desk officer).

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:**