DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Meeting of the Citizens’ Health Care Working Group

AGENCY: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), HHS.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 10(a) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, this notice announces a meeting of the Citizens’ Health Care Working Group (the Working Group) mandated by section 1014 of the Medicare Modernization Act.

DATES: The Business meeting of the Working Group will be held on Tuesday, November 15, 2005 from 2:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and continue on Wednesday, November 16, 2005 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place at the Tremont Park Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland. The Tremont Park Hotel is located at 8 East Pleasant Street.

The meeting is open to the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Caroline Taplin, Citizens’ Health Care Working Group, at (301) 443–1514 or ctaplin@ahrq.gov. If sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodation for a disability is needed, please contact Mr. Donald L. Inniss, Director, Office of Equal Employment Opportunity Program, Program Support Center, on (301) 443–1144.

The agenda for this Working Group meeting will be available on the Citizens’ Working Group Web site, www.citizenshealthcare.gov. Also available at that site is a roster of Working Group members. When transcripts of the Group’s November 15th–16th meeting is completed, it will also be available on the Web site.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 1014 of Public Law 108–173, (known as the Medicare Modernization Act) directs the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), acting through the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, to establish a Citizens’ Health Care Working Group (Citizen Group). This statutory provision, codified at 42 U.S.C. 299 n., directs the Working Group to: (1) Identify options for changing our health care system so that every American has the ability to obtain quality, affordable health care coverage; (2) provide for a nationwide public debate about improving the health care system; and (3) submit its recommendations to the President and the Congress.

The Citizens’ Health Care Working Group is composed of 15 members: the Secretary of DHHS is designated as a member by statute and the Comptroller General of the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) was directed to name the remaining 14 members whose appointments were announced on February 28, 2005.

Working Group Meeting Agenda

The Working Group business meeting on November 15th and 16th will be devoted to ongoing Working Group business. Topics to be addressed are expected to include: Working Group partners, plans for community meetings and other activities to engage the public, questions to be asked in public engagement activities, and the process for developing recommendations.
Submission of Written Information

The Working Group invites written submissions on those topics to be addressed at the Working Group business meeting listed above. In general, individuals or organizations wishing to provide written information for consideration by the Citizens’ Health Care Working Group should submit information electronically to citizenshealth@ahrq.gov. Since all electronic submissions will be posted on the Working Group Web site, separate submissions by topic will facilitate review of ideas submitted on each topic by the Working Group and the public.

Carolyn M. Clancy,
Director.

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BILLING CODE 4160–90–M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[30Day–06–0334]

Proposed Data Collections Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) publishes a list of information collection requests under review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). To request a copy of these requests, call the CDC Reports Clearance Officer at (404) 639–4766 or send an e-mail to omb@cdc.gov. Send written comments to CDC Desk Officer, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC or by fax to (202) 395–6974. Written comments should be received within 30 days of this notice.

Proposed Project

National Survey of Ambulatory Surgery—Reinstatement—National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The National Survey of Ambulatory Surgery (NSAS) was previously conducted by the CDC National Center for Health Statistics from 1994 through 1996. It is the principal source of data on ambulatory surgery center (ASC) services in the United States. It complements surgery data obtained in the NCHS National Hospital Discharge Survey (NHDS) (OMB No. 0920–0212), which provides annual data concerning the nation’s use of inpatient medical and surgical care provided in short-stay, non-Federal hospitals. The NSAS is a national probability sample survey of ambulatory surgery visits in hospitals and freestanding ambulatory surgery centers. It has been the benchmark against which special programmatic data sources are compared.

Data for the NSAS will be collected annually beginning in 2006 from a nationally representative sample of hospitals and freestanding ambulatory surgery centers. The hospital universe includes noninstitutional hospitals exclusive of Federal, military, and Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals located in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. The universe of freestanding facilities includes the freestanding ambulatory surgery centers licensed by states and/or certified as ambulatory surgery centers for Medicare reimbursement. As in the earlier survey, facilities specializing in dentistry, podiatry, abortion, family planning, or birthing will be excluded. As with previous years, the data items which will be abstracted from medical records are the basic core variables from the Uniform Hospital Discharge Data Set (UHDDS) as well as surgery times, total charges and information on anesthesia, complications from surgery and anesthesia. Since the publication of the 60-day notice in the Federal Register on March 10, 2005 (FR 70 No. 46. p. 11985), changes made to the conduct of the NSAS include collecting data from fewer medical records and collecting more information from each participating facility, such as the use of electronic medical records, facility hours of operation, physician specialty and board certification, complications from surgery and anesthesia, plans to handle unexpected emergencies, and post-surgical follow-up. There is no cost to respondents other than their time. The annualized burden hours are 11,231.

ESTIMATES OF ANNUALIZED BURDEN HOURS

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<tr>
<th>Data collection forms and type of respondents</th>
<th>Number of respondents</th>
<th>Number of responses/ respondent</th>
<th>Averge burden response (in hrs.)</th>
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<td>4/60</td>
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