

From: Queen, Susan G (HRSA) [mailto:SQueen@hrsa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2007 2:20 PM
To: Matsuoka, Karen Y.
Cc: Wright-Solomon, Lisa (HRSA)
Subject: Chiro question

Hi Karen,

I am sending you in the body of this email the program's response to the question you sent recently about the Chiro project. Please let me know if this response addresses your concerns, or if you require anything further for your review. (I've inserted your actual question below, followed by the response.) Thanks.

Great. On a separate but related note, what will this mean regarding the study's ability to evaluate the significance of the NHSC award in helping centers/clinics recruit physicians to work in underserved areas? If clinicians already work in underserved areas when they apply for the award, wouldn't that suggest the award itself did not have much impact in their decision to work in underserved areas? Isn't this the central question this study wants to answer?

This question seems to ask how the study will measure demonstration results when some of the chiropractors and pharmacists were working at the clinics before they received an NHSC loan repayment award. We also know anecdotally that during the recruitment process clinics tell clinicians that the site will help them apply for an NHSC loan repayment award. We recognize that having a clinician at a site prior to an award is an issue, which is why we have a question on the survey that will tell us if the clinician was already employed at the site, and for how long, so this information will be included in the overall descriptive findings. We also have a question that asks if they would have continued to work at the clinic if you had not received the NHSC loan repayment award.

One of the central questions of this study is whether chiropractors and pharmacists should be part of the NHSC loan repayment program. Specifically, Congress specified that the evaluation study "...whether adding chiropractic doctors and pharmacists as permanent members of the National Health Service Corps would be feasible and would enhance the effectiveness of the National Health Service Corps." Through this evaluation of the demonstration, we will gain descriptive information to respond to this question.

Susan G. Queen, Ph.D.
Deputy Director, Research and Data Policy Group
Office of Planning and Evaluation
Health Resources and Services Administration
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 10-33
Rockville, MD. 20857
(301) 443-1129
squeen@hrsa.gov