

effectiveness to provide reasonable assurance that the security, confidentiality, and integrity of consumers' personal information is protected.

Parts III through VII of the proposed order are reporting and compliance provisions. Part III requires TJX to retain documents relating to its compliance with the order. For most records, the order requires that the documents be retained for a five-year period. For the third-party assessments and supporting documents, TJX must retain the documents for a period of three years after the date that each assessment is prepared. Part IV requires dissemination of the order now and in the future to principals, officers, directors, and managers having responsibilities relating to the subject matter of the order. Part V ensures notification to the FTC of changes in corporate status. Part VI mandates that TJX submit an initial compliance report to the FTC, and make available to the FTC subsequent reports. Part VII is a provision "sunsetting" the order after twenty (20) years, with certain exceptions.

This is the Commission's twentieth case to challenge the failure by a company to implement reasonable information security practices. Each of the Commission's cases to date has alleged that a number of security practices, taken together, failed to provide reasonable and appropriate security to prevent unauthorized access to consumers' information. The practices challenged in the cases have included, but are not limited to: (1) creating unnecessary risks to sensitive information by storing it on computer networks without a business need to do so; (2) storing sensitive information on networks in a vulnerable format; (3) failing to use readily available security measures to limit access to a computer network through wireless access points on the network; (4) failing to adequately assess the vulnerability of a web application and computer network to commonly known or reasonably foreseeable attacks; (5) failing to implement simple, low-cost, and readily available defenses to such attacks; (6) failing to use readily available security measures to limit access between computers on a network and between such computers and the internet, and (7) failing to use strong passwords to authenticate (or authorize) users to access programs and databases on computer networks or online.

The purpose of the analysis is to aid public comment on the proposed order. It is not intended to constitute an official interpretation of the proposed order or to modify its terms in any way.

By direction of the Commission.

**Donald S. Clark**

*Secretary*

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[BILLING CODE 6750-01-S]

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## 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: "Assessment of the Emergency Severity Index (ESI)." 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.

This proposed information collection was previously published in the **Federal Register** on January 22nd, 2008 and allowed 60 days for public comment. No 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 May 5, 2008.

**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 e-mail 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 e-mail at [doris.lefkowitz@ahrq.hhs.gov](mailto:doris.lefkowitz@ahrq.hhs.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**"Proposed Project—Assessment of the Emergency Severity Index (ESI)"**

AHRQ is proposing to examine uptake and use of an emergency room triage tool, the Emergency Severity Index (ESI). The hospital emergency department (ED) represents a critical point in care delivery for patients across

the United States. Over the past decade, however, the dramatic influx of patients into EDs has seriously challenged the ability of these departments to deliver timely, quality, and safe emergency healthcare services. Moreover, with most emergency departments operating at or over capacity it may prove difficult for them to respond to the surge in emergency room demand created by natural and man-made disasters. Development of increasingly refined and validated triage methods is one potential key to addressing overcrowding by speeding up the care delivery to the most acute ED patients while helping hospitals assess, carefully allocate and plan the amount of human and other resources needed to care for all patients.

In response to a need to standardize the triage process and improve the flow of patients, Richard C. Wuerz, MD, (Department of Emergency Medicine at the Brigham and Women's Hospital and the Harvard Medical School) and David R. Eitel, MD, (Department of Emergency Medicine, The York Hospital WellSpan Health System) initiated development of the Emergency Severity Index (ESI) in 1995. The ESI is unique in its focus on appropriate resource allocation and its consideration of necessary resource utilization in assigning acuity. To encourage adoption of the ESI, AHRQ developed an implementation handbook (Emergency Severity Index, Version 4) and companion DVDs. These materials are intended to provide hospitals and triage nurses with background on why they might want to implement the ESI as a triage tool, and offers recommendations on the implementation process and staff training.

This project will assess the product's acceptance by emergency departments and others involved in addressing medical surges to better understand the usefulness of the ESI compared to other similar tools. It will focus on the satisfaction with the product's presentation, content, and clarity; extent to which the product has improved emergency services and surge preparation; and the improvements users would like to see in the next version of this product. This will be accomplished through (1) developing and implementing an electronic and paper-based survey targeting emergency department professionals assessing the satisfaction with the ESI's content, clarity and actual use of the system in everyday emergency departments, and (2) convening focus groups of ED professionals to identify characteristics that might predict uptake and use of this

system in participating emergency departments.

**Method of Collection**

*Survey:* An equal-probability sample of 507 ED professionals from the database AHRQ maintains of individuals and organizations that requested a copy of the ESI tools will be contacted to participate in the survey. Where a phone number has been provided, we will do a reverse telephone number search to identify the mailing address of the requester and conduct a mail survey with telephone follow-up. For those who have provided an e-mail address, we will send a link to a Web survey. Telephone and e-mail

prompts will be sent after two weeks to those who have not yet completed the questionnaire, followed by two additional reminders sent three weeks apart. The expected response rate of 80 percent will result in 405 respondents to the survey with approximately 70% ED nurses, 20% ED medical and health services managers, and 10% ED physicians.

*Focus Groups:* Focus groups will be conducted to gauge ED managers' and clinicians' awareness of the ESI tool as well as AHRQ's role in ED surge planning and preparation. To the extent that we are able to identify a subgroup of ED representatives who are aware of the ESI tool but have chosen not to

utilize it in their emergency departments, focus groups may also be useful to gather information on why these organizations opted not to employ the ESI. In order to facilitate communication among focus group participants and ensure that responses address the key issues identified in the focus group guide, we will limit participation in each focus group meeting to between six and eight individuals. A total of four focus group meetings will be held, including two meetings each with ED medical directors, ED triage nurses, and ED medical and health services managers.

**Estimated Annual Respondent Burden**

EXHIBIT 1.—ESTIMATED ANNUALIZED BURDEN HOURS

Data collection effort	Number of respondents	Number of responses per respondent	Hours per response	Total burden hours
ED professionals survey .....	405	1	20/60	135
ED professionals focus groups .....	32	1	1.5	48
Total .....	437	na	na	183

EXHIBIT 2.—ESTIMATED ANNUALIZED COST BURDEN

Data collection effort	Number of respondents	Total burden hours	Average hourly wage rate*	Total cost burden
ED professionals survey .....	405	135	\$33.70	\$4,549.50
ED professionals focus groups .....	32	48	36.62	1,757.76
Total .....	437	183	na	6,307.26

\*Total cost burden for the survey is based upon the weighted average of 13 physicians at \$58.76/hr, 95 nurses at \$29.10/hr, and 27 medical and health services managers at \$37.82/hr. Total cost burden for the focus groups is based on the weighted average of 6 ED physicians at \$58.76/hr, 21 nurses at \$29.10/hr, and 21 medical and health services managers at \$37.82/hr. National Compensation Survey: Occupational wages in the United States 2006, "U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics."

This information collection will not impose a cost burden on respondents beyond that associated with their time to provide the required data. There will be no additional costs for capital equipment, software, computer services, etc.

**Estimated Annual Costs to the Federal Government**

Developing and implementing the survey—\$183,305.  
 Developing and conducting focus groups—\$69,669.  
 Analyzing the data and report production—\$26,172.  
 Associated personnel costs—\$17,073.  
 The total cost to the government for this activity is estimated to be \$296,219.

**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: March 25, 2008.

**Carolyn M. Clancy,**  
*Director.*

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**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, Department of Health and Human Services.

**ACTION:** Notice.