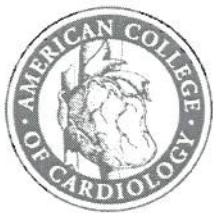


ATTACHMENT M

NAMCS Endorsing Organizational Letters

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USA

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William A. Zoghbi, M.D., F.A.C.C.

Executive

Chief Executive Officer
John C. Lewin, M.D.

Dear Doctor:

I am writing to urge you to participate in the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS). The National Center for Health Statistics has invested many years in developing this unique study, and the result is a sound and valuable mechanism for collecting national data on office-based, ambulatory practice.

The American College of Cardiology's endorsement and broad support among all physicians are indispensable in the continuation of this research program. The information collected will be an original, invaluable base for planning and organizing health services assessing health facility and workforce requirements, determining possible modifications in medical education programs, and providing increased knowledge reflecting the natural history and epidemiology of disease in the ambulatory setting. This information will be very helpful to the ACC and its members as we go forward.

Along with other medical organizations, we have been involved in developing the NAMCS forms and procedures. I believe you will find the survey design minimizes the amount of recordkeeping and time involved and maximizes the utility of the data collected. Strict confidentiality provisions will be maintained, and only summary data will be published and made available to the medical profession, health planners, researchers, and the public.

I am confident that the information derived will be well worth the extra, individual effort expended by participating physicians like you. Again, I urge you to support the NAMCS project by providing the information requested. The ACC looks forward to receiving the summary results of this valuable research study.

Sincerely,

W. Douglas Weaver, M.D., F.A.C.C.
President



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
PLASTIC SURGEONS



PLASTIC SURGERY
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Executive Office

444 East Algonquin Road • Arlington Heights, IL 60005-4664
847-228-9900 • Fax: 847-228-9131 • www.plasticsurgery.org

Dear Doctor:

The National Center for Health Statistics has invested ten years in developing the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS) and it has emerged as a sound mechanism for collecting national data on office based ambulatory practice. The American Society of Plastic Surgeons has gone on record as supporting this effort and this letter is being written to urge your participation in that survey.

The continued support of the Society and all physicians is indispensable in the inauguration of this research program. There is considerable interest in gaining new basic information which can be an original invaluable base for planning and organizing health services, for assessing health facility and manpower requirements, for determining desirable modifications in medical education programs, and for providing information on natural history and epidemiology of disease in ambulatory patients.

Along with other medical organizations, we have cooperated in the adoption of NAMCS forms and procedures. I hope you will find the survey design minimizes time and record keeping involved in acquiring adequate data. All information will be held in strictest confidence and only summary data will be published for use of the medical profession, health planners, researchers, and the public.

It is the official view of the Society that the information obtained will be well worth the effort expended by participating physicians like yourself, and you are urged to support the NAMCS by providing the information requested. We look forward in anticipation of obtaining and utilizing the results of this important research study.

Sincerely,

John W. Canady, MD
President ASPS



American College of Surgeons

FOUNDED BY SURGEONS OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA, 1913

633 N Saint Clair St • Chicago, IL 60611-3211 • *phone* 312/202-5305 • *fax* 312/202-5016

Thomas R. Russell, MD, FACS
Executive Director

Dear Doctor:

I am writing to urge your participation in the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS). The National Center for Health Statistics has invested many years in developing this unique study, which I believe has emerged as a sound and valuable mechanism for collecting national data on office-based, ambulatory practice.

Endorsement by the American College of Surgeons and the support generated among all physicians are indispensable in continuation of this research program. There is considerable interest in gaining such information, which can prove to be an original, invaluable base for planning and organizing health services, assessing health facility and manpower requirements, determining possible modifications in medical education programs, and providing increased knowledge reflecting the natural history and epidemiology of disease in the ambulatory setting.

Along with other medical organizations, we have been involved in developing the NAMCS forms and procedures. I believe you will find the survey design minimizes the amount of record keeping and time involved and maximizes the utility of the data collected. In addition, strict confidentiality provisions are to be maintained, with only summary data to be published and made available to the medical profession, health planners, researchers, and the public.

I am confident that the information derived will be well worth the extra, individual effort expended by participating physicians like yourself. Again, may I urge your support for the NAMCS by providing the information requested? We can look forward to obtaining the results of this research study.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "T. R. Russell".

Thomas R. Russell, M.D., F.A.C.S.

TRR:cp

American Academy of Pediatrics

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141 Northwest Point Blvd
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007-1098
Phone: 847/434-4000
Fax: 847/434-8000
E-mail: kidsdocs@aap.org
www.aap.org

Dear Doctor:

You will soon be receiving from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) an invitation to participate in the National Ambulatory Care Survey (NAMCS). You have been selected by the NCHS through a careful scientific process – your participation is important so that nationally representative information on pediatric care can be gathered. We urge you to participate.

This is a very important survey. We know that because the American Academy of Pediatrics uses this unique data set to track trends in the delivery of pediatric care and develop informed policies.

This survey has been conducted periodically since 1972, thus, it has been especially useful in examining our health care system. Information from the survey provides an invaluable base for planning and organizing health services, assessing health facility and workforce requirements, determining possible modifications in medical education programs, and knowing what diseases are seen in the ambulatory setting.

The NCHS maintains strict confidentiality of the data. Only de-identified data will be published and made available to the medical profession, to health planners and researchers and to the public.

We know how busy you are. Your time is very valuable, but we believe the information obtained will be worth the extra effort expended by participating physicians. Please provide your support for the NAMCS by providing the information requested.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Errol R. Alden".

Errol R. Alden, MD, FAAP
Executive Director
American Academy of Pediatrics

ERA/lo

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Dear Colleague:

I am writing to urge your participation in the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS). The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) has invested many years in developing this unique study that has emerged as a sound and valuable mechanism for collecting national data on office-based ambulatory practice.

The continued support of American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery members is indispensable in the continuation of this research program. There is considerable interest in providing data that can be an original, invaluable resource for planning and organizing health services, assessing health facilities and manpower requirements, for determining desirable modifications in medical education programs, and for providing increased knowledge reflecting the natural history and epidemiology of disease in the ambulatory setting.

Along with other medical organizations, we have been involved in the final approval of NAMCS forms and procedures. I believe you will find this survey design diminishes the amount of record keeping and time involved and increases utility of the data collected. Strict confidentiality will be maintained, with only summary data to be published and made available to the medical profession, to health planners and researchers, and to the public.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

David W. Kennedy, MD
President



AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

142 East Ontario Street, Chicago, IL 60611-2864 ph 312 202 8000 | 800 621 1773

TO: Osteopathic Physicians

FROM: Carlo J. DiMarco, DO
President, American Osteopathic Association

SUBJECT: Continued Participation in the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey

In cooperation with the National Center for Health Statistics and several national healthcare organizations, the American Osteopathic Association has renewed its endorsement of the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS). This survey is the only national survey of patient visits made to private, office-based, non-Federal physicians in the United States and the results are used in making health policy decisions for our nation.

In the past, the information gathered by the NAMCS has offered several benefits to osteopathic physicians. The NAMCS is a major source of information about the number of office visits physicians provide and the services provided in those visits. It provides information about practice characteristics including the type and size of the practice, and the use of electronic medical records. The data has served as a source of information for planning and organizing health services, as a tool for assessing health facility and staffing requirements, and as an opportunity to study epidemiologic issues. We are confident that the methodology is sound and that you will find the results both relevant and useful for everyday practice.

Thank you for taking time and effort to support this worthwhile survey by providing the NAMCS with the information requested.

P.O. Box 7424
San Francisco
California 94120-7424

655 Beach Street
San Francisco
California 94109-1336

Tel. 415.561.8500
Fax: 415.561.8533
<http://www.aaopt.org>

Dear Doctor,

The National Center for Health Statistics, as part of its continuing program to provide information on the health status of the American people, is conducting the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS). This study has proven itself to be a sound and valuable mechanism for collecting national data on office-based ambulatory practice.

I am writing you to urge your participation in this survey. In return, we will gain a fund of basic information, which will help significantly in planning and organizing office practice for the years ahead.

Along with other professional organizations, we have reviewed the NAMCS forms and procedures. I believe you will find that the survey design minimizes the amount of time and record keeping involved. It also maintains the strictest guarantees of confidentiality for both you and your patient.

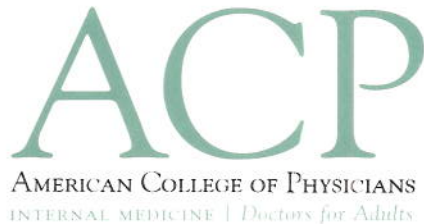
I am confident that you will find that the information derived will be worth the effort expended by participating physicians like yourself.

Again, may I urge your support?

Sincerely yours,



H. Dunbar Hoskins, Jr., M.D.
Executive Vice President



John Tooker, MD, MBA, FACP
*Executive Vice President and
Chief Executive Officer*

Phone: 215 351-2800, Fax: 215 351-2829
Email: jtooker@acponline.org

Dear Colleague:

I am writing to urge your participation in the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS). The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) has invested many years in developing this unique study which has emerged as a sound and valuable mechanism for collecting national data on office-based ambulatory practice.

The continued support of the internal medicine community is indispensable in the continuation of this research program. There is considerable interest in gaining the information to be produced—new basic data that can prove to be an original and invaluable resource for planning and organizing health services, assessing health facilities and manpower requirements, determining desirable modifications in medical education programs, and providing increased knowledge reflecting the natural history and epidemiology of disease in the ambulatory setting.

Along with other medical organizations, we have been involved in final approval of the NAMCS forms and procedures. I believe you will find the survey design diminishes the amount of record keeping and time involved and increases utility of the data collected. Strict confidentiality will be maintained, with only summary data to be published and made available to the medical profession, to health planners and researchers, and to the public.

We have been partners with NCHS in this project since 1973. The information derived has been well worth the individual effort expended by participating physicians like yourself. We look forward to continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Tooker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

John Tooker, MD, MBA, FACP

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Dear Colleague:

I am writing to urge your participation in the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS). The National Center for Health Statistics has invested many years in developing this study and the years of survey activity attest to its soundness and value in collecting national data on office-based ambulatory practices.

More than 110 survey reports have been published since the survey first began. Its many purposes are to obtain information which can provide useful base for planning and organizing health services, for assessing health facility and manpower requirements, for determining modifications in medical education programs, and for providing increased knowledge of disease in the ambulatory setting.

Along with other medical organizations, the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation has been involved in developing the NAMCS forms and procedures. I believe you will find the survey design minimizes the amount of record-keeping and time involved. In addition, strict confidentiality is to be maintained, with only summary data to be published and made available to the medical profession, to health planners and research workers and to the public.

I am confident that the information derived will be well worth the extra individual effort expended by participating physicians like yourself. Again may I urge your support for the NAMCS by providing the information requested?

Sincerely,



David X. Cifu, MD





The American College of Preventive Medicine is the national medical specialty society for physicians who practice preventive medicine.

American College of
Preventive Medicine

PHYSICIANS PROVIDING
LEADERSHIP IN THE SCIENCE,
POLICY AND PRACTICE OF
PREVENTIVE MEDICINE.

Dear Doctor:

The American College of Preventive Medicine has a continuing interest in the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS) and is an endorsing organization. I am writing to ask your participation in the current NAMCS Study.

The National Center for Health Statistics has invested many years in developing the mechanism for collection of national data on office-based ambulatory practice. There is considerable interest in gaining the information produced--new, basic information which can be an original, valuable base for planning and organizing health services, assessing health facility and manpower requirements, determining modification in medical education programs, and providing increased knowledge reflecting the history and epidemiology of disease in the ambulatory setting.

Our college has been involved in reviewing NAMCS forms and procedures. I believe you will find the design minimizes record keeping and facilitates data collecting. Strict confidentiality is to be maintained, with only summary data to be made available to the medical profession, health planners, researchers, and the public.

I am confident that the information derived will be well worth the effort by participating physicians like yourself.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Parkinson, MD, MPH, FACPM
President



Real Nurses. Real Issues. Real Solutions.

Dear Doctor:

I am writing to urge your participation in the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS). The National Center for Health Statistics has invested many years in developing this unique study, which I believe has emerged as a sound and valuable mechanism for collecting national data on office-based, ambulatory practice.

Endorsement by the American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing and the support generated among all physicians are indispensable in continuation of this research program. There is considerable interest in gaining such information, which can prove to be an original, invaluable base for planning and organizing health services, assessing health facility and manpower requirements, determining possible modifications in medical education programs, and providing increased knowledge reflecting the natural history and epidemiology of disease in the ambulatory setting.

I believe you will find the survey design minimizes the amount of record keeping and time involved and maximizes the utility of the data collected. In addition, strict confidential provisions are to be maintained, with only summary data to be published and made available to the medical profession, health planners, researchers, and the public.

I am confident that the information derived will be well worth the extra, individual effort expended by participating physicians like you. Again, I urge your support for the NAMCS by providing the information requested.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Karen Griffin'.

Karen Griffin, MSN, RN, CNAA
President



American Academy of Dermatology

Physicians Dedicated to Excellence in Dermatology™

C. William Hanke, MD, FAAD
President

Correspondence
PO Box 4014
Schaumburg IL 60168-4014

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Schaumburg IL 60173-4729

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Executive Director & CEO

September 11, 2008

Dear Colleague:

The National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS) has been collecting data annually since 1989 on office visits to primary care and specialty physicians. The Academy uses these data to estimate the prevalence and type of skin diseases in the United States, to analyze the changes in the practice of dermatology over time, and to project potential manpower needs. This is an important source of data on office-based practice.

I understand that you are being requested to participate in the current survey, and I strongly encourage you to do so. The contribution to be made will come from a small sample of practicing dermatologists, so your participation is critical in providing information on current dermatologic practice.

The Academy has been told that the survey will require no more than 25 minutes per day for a week to complete. Strict confidentiality is assured and only summary data will be published.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Mary E. Maloney, MD, FAAD
Secretary-Treasurer
American Academy of Dermatology



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS
STRONG MEDICINE FOR AMERICA

Dear Family Physician Colleague,

You have been asked by the National Center for Health Statistics to provide information for the annual National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS). I hope you take this opportunity to participate. The NAMCS provides a wide range of data about the scope of ambulatory visits.

Educators, planners, and the medical community recognize this survey as a valuable resource. The Academy makes extensive use of these data in its publications. The Academy also uses NAMCS data to provide information about our specialty to policy makers, the media, Academy members, and the public.

The information you provide will be held in strict confidence. Only summary data is published.

The Academy is pleased that this survey continues to provide baseline and trend data on the use of ambulatory care. Your support and participation in the data collection will be greatly appreciated. I believe the information obtained will be well worth the effort you expend.

Sincerely,

Douglas E. Henley, MD, FAFPP

DEH:jb



Office of the Executive Vice President

Ralph W. Hale, MD, FACOG

Telephone: 202/863-2525

Fax: 202/863-1643

Dear Doctor:

Each year physicians have many requests for surveys about your practice. This survey is one the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) hopes you will complete, thus I am writing to urge your participation in this National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS). The National Center for Health Statistics has invested many years in developing this study. The past years of survey activity attest to its soundness and value in collecting national data on office-based ambulatory practice and has had major influence in developing ACOG education and training activities.

These valuable reports have many other useful purposes: to obtain information which can provide a useful base for planning and organizing health services; to assess health facilities and manpower requirements; to determine modifications in medical education programs, and to provide increased knowledge of disease in the ambulatory settings. All of these reports have been used extensively by ACOG in its ongoing efforts to keep our members at the forefront of ambulatory care. As we enter new arenas of medical care, the information will be essential to help ACOG members prepare and adjust to the changing environment.

Along with other medical organizations, ACOG participates in developing the NAMCS forms and procedures. I believe you will find that the survey design minimizes the amount of record-keeping and time involvement. In addition, strict confidentiality will be maintained, with only summary data published and made available to the medical profession, health planners, researchers and the public.

I know from past experience that the information derived from this study will be well worth the extra individual effort expended by participating physicians like yourself. Again, on behalf of ACOG, may I urge your support for the NAMCS by providing the information requested?

Sincerely,

Ralph W. Hale, MD, FACOG
Executive Vice President



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

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F. 847.823.7219

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Karen L. Hackett, FACHE, CAE
Rosemont, Illinois

Dear Doctor:

I am writing to inform you that you may be called upon, as a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS), to participate in a study known as the "National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey" (NAMCS), from the National Center for Health Statistics.

Continued support from AAOS is indispensable to the success of this research program. If selected for participation, you will help provide input on the epidemiology of disease, referral patterns in the ambulatory setting, health facility and workforce requirements, and desirable modifications in medical education programs.

The Academy has used data from the NAMCS in an epidemiologic study titled *Burden of Musculoskeletal Diseases in the United States: Prevalence, Societal and Economic Cost*, as well as in other studies of office-based practice.

I believe you will find that the NAMCS survey design minimizes record-keeping and maximizes the utility of data collected. In addition, strict confidentiality provisions are maintained. Data are published in summary form only and made available to the medical profession, health planners and researchers, and the public.

I am confident that the NAMCS will be of value to many audiences, and worth the individual effort of physicians like you. On behalf of the AAOS, I urge you to provide the requested information. We can look forward to obtaining the results of the research study.

Sincerely,

Karen L. Hackett, FACHE, CAE
Chief Executive Officer

KLH/mkr

American Psychiatric Association

1000 Wilson Boulevard
Suite 1825
Arlington, VA 22209
Telephone 703.907.7300
Fax 703.907.1085
E mail apa@psych.org
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Dear Doctor,

While acknowledging the many competing demands on your busy schedule, I am writing to encourage you to participate in the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS) that you will be receiving in the mail within the next few weeks. As the foundation for a wide array of health services research and policy initiatives, the NAMCS database plays a singularly important role in improving the quality of health care in the United States.

The American Psychiatric Association, along with other medical specialty organization, has assumed an active role in finalizing the NAMCS forms and procedures. I believe you will find that the survey design minimizes record-keeping on your part and your overall investment of time while it maximizes the utility of the data. Having participated in the survey by virtue of my own part-time clinical practice, I can attest to the user-friendliness of the survey questionnaire and to the efficiency with which the researchers at the National Center for Health Statistics analyze and disseminate the findings.

The usefulness of the NAMCS data does not end with the NCHS reporting. These data have greatly enriched research projects undertaken by APA's American Psychiatric Institute for Research and Education (APIRE). Indeed, throughout all of health care, the survey findings lend themselves to a wealth of applications, including planning and organizing health services, assessing health facility and workforce requirements, determining desirable modifications in medical education programs, and yielding an ever-clearer picture of the nature, history, and epidemiology of disease in ambulatory settings.

You should be aware that the NAMCS is the *only* national survey of patient visits made to private, office-based, non-Federal physicians in the U.S. APA and other physician group strongly endorse the survey, but the value of our endorsement clearly is contingent on your involvement.

I am confident that you will find the information derived from the survey will be well worth your contribution of time and energy. Thanks in advance for your positive response to this "bottom up" initiative for enhancing the quality of contemporary future health care in our Nation.

Sincerely yours,



Darrel A. Regier, M.D., M.P.H.
Director, APA Division of Research; and
Executive Director, APIRE





Dear Health Center Director and Medical Director:

You have been asked by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), a division of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to participate in the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS). We strongly encourage you to participate.

The NAMCS helps identify trends in the delivery of ambulatory care services across various types of providers, and is therefore a valuable resource for researchers, policymakers, and providers. NACHC has used findings from the NAMCS in reports and advocacy materials. While the NAMCS has traditionally focused on private, office-based physicians, the NCHS has specially designed this survey instrument for health centers. Findings from this survey will allow greater representation of low-income and uninsured patient visits in the annual NAMCS, and will allow us to learn much more about the care you provide.

NACHC has worked very closely with the NCHS on the survey design. I believe you will find that it minimizes record-keeping and time involvement. The information you provide will be held in the strictest of confidence, and only aggregate data will be made publicly available.

We urge you to support this important survey by providing the information requested. We look forward to sharing the final report with you.

Thank you,



Daniel R. Hawkins, Jr.
Senior Vice President for Programs and Policy
National Association of Community Health Centers



American Urological Association

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Dear Doctor:

We are writing to urge your participation in the 2009/2010 National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS). The National Center for Health Statistics has invested more than 30 years in developing this unique study which, we believe, has emerged as a sound and valuable mechanism for collecting national data on office-based ambulatory practice.

The ongoing support of the American Urological Association and all of its members is indispensable in the continuing success of this clinical research program. There is extensive interest in gaining new basic information which can be used as an original, invaluable base for planning and organizing health services in assessing health facility and manpower requirements, in determining desirable modifications in medical education programs, and also in providing additional information on the natural history and epidemiology of disease in the ambulatory setting.

Along with other medical organizations, we have supported this survey for many years. We have been assured strict confidentiality provisions will be maintained. Only summary data will be published and made available to the medical profession, health planners, researchers and the public.

We are confident that all will find the information derived worth the individual effort expended by participating physicians like yourself. Again, may we request your support for the NAMCS by providing the information requested? We look forward to obtaining and utilizing the results of this important research study.

Sincerely,

Steven M. Schlossberg, M.D.
Chairman, Health Policy Council
American Urological Association

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Dear Fellow Neurologists:

In recent years, the American Academy of Neurology has cooperated with the Division of Health Care Statistics by supporting the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey. This survey provides the basic information needed to describe the characteristics of patients seen in office-based practice in the United States.

The resulting statistics will assist in the planning for more effective health services, manpower requirements, and medical education.

The AAN endorses this valuable activity and encourages your participation.

Stephen M. Sergay, MB BCH
President