DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

National Center for Health Statistics
3311 Toledo Road
Hyattsville, Maryland 20782

June 3, 2010

Margo Schwab, Ph.D.
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Dr. Schwab:

The staff of the NCHS Questionnaire Design Research Laboratory (QDRL) plans to conduct research to evaluate a set of general wellness questions within a selected set of questions from the Cancer Module for the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), and questions on Creatine and Lifestyle for the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) under (OMB No. 0920-0222, exp. 03/31/2013). Note that OMB already gave approval on May 5 for cognitive testing of the Creatine & Life Style questions in conjunction with other NHIS questions. However, due to timing issues, we did not end up testing the two sets of questions together. So now we are combining them with the NHIS general wellness cancer questions.

We propose to start advertising for volunteer participants as soon as we receive clearance and to start testing as soon as possible after that.

Background Information about Cognitive Testing of Questionnaires

The methodological design of this proposed study is consistent with the design of typical cognitive testing research. As you know, the purpose of cognitive testing is to obtain information about the processes people use to answer survey questions as well as to identify any potential problems in the questions. The analysis will be qualitative.

Proposed project: NHIS General Wellness/Cancer and NHANES Creatine & Life Style Questions

This project will conform to the usual QDRL procedures for cognitive testing of a questionnaire module. The proposed questions will be asked of adults (aged 18 and over).

We propose to recruit 30 adults (aged 18 years and older) who have any difficulty seeing, hearing, walking, or climbing steps through a combination of a newspaper advertisement, flyers, and our QDRL Respondent Database. The newspaper advertisement/flyer is shown in Attachment 1. For comparative purposes we may recruit several respondents from previous studies for which we have contact information in our QDRL Respondent Database who do not meet the screening criteria. Within these constraints, we hope to recruit participants with some demographic variety (particularly in terms of gender, education, race/ethnicity, and income).

Interviews will be conducted by QDRL Staff, and one staff person from the Office of Analysis and Epidemiology (OAE), in the QDRL with as many as 30 respondents for 60 minutes each. With the consent of the participants, the interviews will be recorded on videotape or audiotape. Participants will be informed of taping procedures (including observation if applicable) in the process of reviewing the consent forms, and the equipment will be turned on once it is clear that the procedures are understood and agreed upon.

The testing instrument is shown in Attachment 2. At the end of the interviews, participants will be paid and provided with copies of all papers they signed.

We propose paying participants $40, which is our standard payment. In total, for this project, the maximum respondent burden will be 30 hours of interviewing in addition to travel time. An updated burden table for this project is shown below:

Projects	**Number of Participants**	**Number of Responses/ Participant**	**Average hours per response**	**Response burden**
QDRL Interviews				
1) NCHS Surveys	30	1	1	30

Attachments (2)
cc:
M. Moien
M. Daneshvar
S. Perryman