

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Josh Brammer

FROM: Matthew Swain, ONC's Office of Economic Analysis, Evaluation, and Modeling

DATE: July 20, 2011

RE: Non-Substantive Change to Evaluation of the IT Professionals in Health Care ("Workforce") Program: ICR Reference No: 201012-0990-002

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This Memorandum is to request a non-substantive change to the Evaluation of the IT Professionals in Health Care Program ICR; specifically, to the web-based survey of community college faculty. The two changes requested are:

- 1) Administer the survey in September 2011
- 2) Modification of survey questions

### **Purpose of Web Survey:**

The intention of the web-based community college faculty survey approved under this Information Collection Request (ICR) is for the program evaluation purposes. In ONC's approved ICR, the survey purpose was defined as follows:

*To collect information on instructors' opinions of the curriculum developed, the extent to which the instructor adhered to the curriculum, and their impressions of the implementation of the program at their institution.*

### **Reasons for change in timing:**

The Curriculum Development Center Program is an ONC-funded program that awarded grants to five institutions to develop health IT curricula and educational materials aimed primarily at the community-college level. ONC awarded an additional \$900,000 to one institution, Oregon Health & Science University to serve as the National Training and Dissemination Center (NTDC). This structure of the program requires grant recipients to develop three versions of the curriculum. In August 2010, the NTDC released Version 1.0 of the curriculum and educational materials to the community colleges funded through ONC's Community College Consortia to Educate Health Information Technology Program. They released Version 2.0 of the materials in May 2011 to the community colleges, and in June 2011 to the public. The NTDC will release Version 3.0 in early 2012.

ONC originally intended to administer the program evaluation survey to the community college faculty in January 2011; however, they delayed the administration due to the NTDC collecting information from the same population during this period. The information collected by the NTDC did not have Federal involvement and its primary purpose was to enhance the curriculum materials' quality and clarity for Version 2.0. ONC felt that it would be unduly burdensome for the community college faculty to

participate in two distinct data-collection efforts concurrently, and that doing so would adversely affect response rates and diminish the substantive contributions that each survey would make to the overall Workforce Program. Therefore, ONC proposes to have NORC survey the faculty in September 2011, which will have the added advantage of gathering feedback on Version 2.0 (which the faculty are using now) and the ways in which it improved upon Version 1.0.

**Reasons for modification to questions:**

Some of the approved questions in this ICR are no longer as salient due to the evolution of the curriculum. The proposed modifications account for the changes in the curriculum from Version 1.0 to Version 2.0. These modifications will benefit the program evaluation and provide ONC with the ability to assess whether the faculty perceive Version 2.0 to be of higher quality than Version 1.0. Results from this data collection effort will provide critical formative feedback to the Curriculum Development Centers and contribute to the summative evaluation of ONC's Workforce Program overall.

- Attachment A is the proposed survey instrument;
- Attachment B is the version of the instrument that was initially approved.

The survey question modifications and timing will not affect the burden of this ICR.

If you have any questions or need further clarification, please contact Matthew Swain at [matthew.swain@hhs.gov](mailto:matthew.swain@hhs.gov).

Thank you,  
Matt Swain