

**Supporting Statement for Standards for Privacy  
of Individually Identifiable Health Information  
and Supporting Regulations Contained in  
45 CFR Parts 160 and 164**

**A. Justification**

**1. Circumstances Making the Collection of Information Necessary**

This information collection request is for an extension on a previously approved OCR data collection, OMB # 0990-0294. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) (Public Law 104-191) and its implementing regulations at 45 CFR Part 160 and Subparts A and E of Part 164, the HIPAA Privacy Rule require covered entities (health plans, health care clearinghouses, and certain health care providers) to maintain strong protections for the privacy of individually identifiable health information; to use or disclose this information only as required or permitted by the Privacy Rule or with the express written authorization of the individual; to provide a notice of the entity's privacy practices; and to document compliance with the Privacy Rule. All of these requirements were carefully considered and deemed necessary to assure the achievement of the regulation's goals to balance the need for information with the need to protect the privacy of this sensitive information.

**2. Purpose and Use of Information Collection**

The individually identifiable health information collected is used by patients and by more than 500,000 covered entities affected by the HIPAA Privacy Rule. The information is routinely used by covered entities for treatment, payment, and health care operations. In addition, the information is used for specified public policy purposes, including research, public health, and as required by other laws. The Privacy Rule also ensures that the individual is able to access and seek amendments to their health records, to receive a notice of privacy practices from their direct treatment providers and health plan, and to request restrictions on the uses and disclosures of their information.

**3. Use of Improved Information Technology and Burden Reduction**

The HIPAA Privacy Rule is, in part, necessitated by the rapidly changing nature of technology. Computerization is greatly enhancing the potential use and dissemination of health information. The Privacy Rule was constructed to allow covered entities at different levels of technological sophistication to be able to adapt their existing systems to the requirements of the regulation. Thus, covered entities are able to determine for themselves the appropriate level of technology.

**4. Efforts to Identify Duplication and Use of Similar Information**

The requirements of the HIPAA Privacy Rule do not duplicate those of any other federal regulation.

**5. Impact on Small Businesses or Other Small Entities**

The HIPAA Privacy Rule provides great flexibility to covered entities, including small businesses, to determine the policies and procedures that are best suited to the entity's

current practices to comply with the standards, implementation specifications and requirements of the Privacy Rule. The Privacy Rule generally provides a flexible and scalable approach to appropriate methods for compliance depending on the size and capabilities of each individual covered entity.

**6. Consequences of Collecting the Information Less Frequent Collection**

Under the HIPAA Privacy Rule, the frequency of collection is a function of activity by covered entities and the policies and procedures that they establish for complying with the Privacy Rule.

**7. Special Circumstances Relating to the Guidelines of 5 CFR 1320.5**

There are no special circumstances under the HIPAA Privacy Rule.

**8. Comments in Response to the Federal Register Notice/Outside Consultation**

A 60-day Federal Register Notice was published in the *Federal Register* on XXXX (see attachment).

**9. Explanation of Any Payment/Gift to Respondents**

There are no payments or gifts to the respondents.

**10. Assurance of Confidentiality Provided to Respondents**

The HIPAA Privacy Rule requires covered entities to protect individually identifiable health information.

**11. Justification for Sensitive Questions**

The HIPAA Privacy Rule requires covered entities to protect individually identifiable health information they hold. The federal government does not require that sensitive questions be asked in this information collection.

**12. Estimates of Annualized Burden Hours (Total Hours & Wages)**

Because the HIPAA Privacy Rule has been in effect for several years, these numbers are based on past experience with this information collection. The overall total for respondents to comply with the information collection requirements of the Privacy Rule is 62,254,161 burden hours.

12A. Estimated Annualized Burden Hours

Section	Type of Respondent	Number of Respondents	Number of Responses per Respondent	Average Burden hours per Response	Total Burden Hours
160.204	Process for Requesting Exception Determinations (states or persons)	40	1	16	640
164.504	Uses and Disclosures – Organizational Requirements	764,799	1	5/60	63,733

164.508	Uses and Disclosures for Which Individual authorization is required	764,799	1	1	764,799
164.512	Uses and Disclosures for which Consent, Individual Authorization, or Opportunity to Agree or Object is Not Required (for other specified purposes by an IRB or privacy board)	113,524	1	5/60	9,460
164.520	Notice of Privacy Practices for Protected Health Information (health plans)	10,570	1	3/60	529
164.520	Notice of Privacy Practices for Protected Health Information (health care providers – dissemination)	613,000,000	1	3/60	30,650,000
164.520	Notice of Privacy Practices for Protected Health Information (health care providers – acknowledgement)	613,000,000	1	3/60	30,650,000
164.522	Rights to Request Privacy Protection for Protected Health Information	150,000	1	3/60	7,500
164.524	Access of Individuals to Protected Health Information (disclosures)	150,000	1	3/60	7,500
164.526	Amendment of Protected Health Information (requests)	150,000	1	3/60	7,500
164.526	Amendment of Protected Health Information (denials)	50,000	1	3/60	2,500
164.528	Accounting for Disclosures of Protected Health Information	1,080,000	1	5/60	90,000
<b>Total</b>					<b>62,254,161</b>

#### 12B. Estimated Annualized Burden Costs

The HIPAA Privacy Rule requires covered entities to collect information from all individuals to whom they provide treatment or services. In calculating the total respondent costs, OCR used the Department of Labor’s mean hourly wage estimate of

\$24.28 for the category “Healthcare Providers and Technical Workers, all Other.” The total burden cost, based on the 62,254,161 total burden hours, is \$1,511,531,029.08.<sup>1,2</sup>

<b>Section</b>	<b>Type of Respondent</b>	<b>Total Burden Hours</b>	<b>Hourly Wage Rate</b>	<b>Total Respondent Costs</b>
160.204	Process for Requesting Exception Determinations (states or persons)	640	\$24.28	\$15,539.00
164.504	Uses and Disclosures – Organizational Requirements	63,733	\$24.28	\$1,547,437.00
164.508	Uses and Disclosures for Which Individual authorization is required	764,799	\$24.28	\$18,569,320.00
164.512	Uses and Disclosures for which Consent, Individual Authorization, or Opportunity to Agree or Object is Not Required (for other specified purposes by an IRB or privacy board)	9,460	\$24.28	\$229,689.00
164.520	Notice of Privacy Practices for Protected Health Information (health plans)	529	\$24.28	\$12,844.00
164.520	Notice of Privacy Practices for Protected Health Information (health care providers – dissemination)	30,650,000	\$24.28	\$744,182,000.00
164.520	Notice of Privacy Practices for Protected Health Information (health care providers – acknowledgement)	30,650,000	\$24.28	\$744,182,000.00
164.522	Rights to Request Privacy Protection for Protected Health Information	7,500	\$24.28	\$182,100.00
164.524	Access of Individuals to Protected Health Information (disclosures)	7,500	\$24.28	\$182,100.00
164.526	Amendment of Protected	7,500	\$24.28	\$182,100.00

<sup>1</sup> Healthcare Providers and Technical Occupations mean hourly wage estimate, *May 2008 National Occupational Employment and Wage Estimate*, Department of Labor, available at [http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_nat.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_nat.htm).

<sup>2</sup> OCR has rounded the Total Respondent Costs to the nearest dollar.

	Health Information (requests)			
164.526	Amendment of Protected Health Information (denials)	2,500	\$24.28	\$60,700.00
164.528	Accounting for Disclosures of Protected Health Information	90,000	\$24.28	\$2,185,200.00
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$1,511,531,029.00</b>

**13. Estimates of Other Total Annual Cost Burden to Respondents or Recordkeepers/Capital Costs**

There are no capital costs associated with this information collection.

**14. Annualized Cost to Federal Government**

The HIPAA Privacy Rule requires covered entities to collect information in order to comply with the Privacy Rule’s requirements. Covered entities must collect this information and maintain this information in order to comply with the Privacy Rule. However, OCR does not produce the forms on which the information is collected, OCR does not store this information, nor does OCR require covered entities to provide them with all information they collect to comply with the Privacy Rule. This collection is done outside of OCR and is completely a function completed by the covered entities. Therefore, there is no cost to the federal government for this information collection.

**15. Explanation for Program Changes or Adjustments**

There are no program changes or adjustments.

**16. Plans for Tabulation and Publication and Project Time Schedule**

The HIPAA Privacy Rule requires covered entities to protect individually identifiable health information and to only disclose this information as permitted by the Privacy Rule.

**17. Reason(s) Display of OMB Expiration Date is Inappropriate**

OCR has no concerns about displaying the OMB expiration date.

**18. Exceptions to Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions**

There are no exceptions to the certification.

**B. Collection of Information Employing Statistical Methods**

Not applicable. The information collection required by the HIPAA Privacy Rule as described above in part A does not require nor lend itself to the application of statistical methods.