

Supporting Statement B for Paperwork Reduction Act Submission for
Developmental Studies to Improve the National Health Care Surveys

New Generic

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Developmental Studies to Improve the National Health Care Surveys
Request for OMB Approval of a Generic Clearance for Data Collection

Part B. Collection of Information Employing Statistical Methods

1. Respondent Universe and Sampling Methods

This submission requests approval for a new, generic, three-year clearance to conduct developmental studies on survey design and data collection activities that are part of the National Health Care Surveys (NHCS). This clearance covers new survey research that will evaluate and improve upon survey design and operations, as well as examine the feasibility and address challenges that may arise with future expansions of the NHCS.

This generic request includes a broad range of research. The specific universe will be appropriate for the type of project. Universes could include listing of hospitals contained in the American Health Care Association list of facilities (or a geographic subgroup); universe lists of physicians, nurses or other health care providers; or lists of others in the varied health care research fields.

In some studies, probability sampling will be employed. The sampling method would approximate that of the individual National Health Care Survey being studied. For example, for a pilot study of the National Hospital Care Survey, facilities would be arrayed according to the approved methodology for that survey.

In other cases, however, small convenience samples will be employed to pilot test specific issues or questions.

The specific universe and sampling methods will be detailed in each individual GenIC.

2. Procedures for the collection of information

Because of the wide range of research anticipated and the fact that several surveys are covered by this request, the procedures for data collection are not fully known. It is anticipated that in-person, phone, or internet interviews (using NCHS staff or contractors) may be used. Focus groups may be convened to discuss issues such as recruitment efforts for hospital or physician surveys. Standard protocols are already in place at NCHS for these types of activities.

The detailed specific procedures for the collection of information will be described in each individual GenIC.

Each proposed activity will submit an application for NCHS ERB (Ethics Review Board) review and approval, which will outline the procedure for participant selection and consent.

3. Methods to maximize response rates and deal with nonresponse

The following are examples of some procedures that can be effective in obtaining pilot test participation:

- Informing respondents of what the project is asking, why it is being asked, who will see the results, and how the results will be used.
- A token of appreciation for a respondent's time and interest may be given to research participants.
- Addressing data security and anonymity with respondents.
- Minimizing the time needed for participation in the project.
- Informing respondents how much time the project will take so that they know what to expect.
- Utilizing deadlines, reminders, and follow-ups to remind respondents and encourage participation.
- Potential respondents will be informed about the importance of these projects and encouraged to participate through a variety of methods, including announcements from community organizations and letters of support from key individuals.
- When appropriate, a dedicated toll-free number and e-mail account will be established at NCHS or a contractor's office to allow potential respondents to confirm a research activity's legitimacy, ask questions, and voice concerns.
- Over-sampling if necessary to address potential for non-response.
- Obtaining support for information collections from trusted community leaders from the target populations.

Specific methods to maximize response rates, if any, will be described in the individual GenIC.

4. Tests of procedures or methods to be undertaken

Tests of procedures and methods related to the various current and planned NHCS surveys is the focus of this generic request. The specific procedures to be tested will be described in the individual GenIC.

5. Individuals Consulted on Statistical Aspects and Individuals Collecting and/or Analyzing Data

The following person was consulted on the statistical aspects of the design and data collection and is responsible for analysis for the National Health Care Survey:

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