

Supporting Statement – Part B

Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods

1 . Describe (including a numerical estimate) the potential respondent universe and any sampling or other respondent selection method to be used. Data on the number of entities (e.g., establishments, State and local government units, households, or persons) in the universe covered by the collection and in the corresponding sample are to be provided in tabular form for the universe as a whole and for each of the strata in the proposed sample. Indicate expected response rates for the collection as a whole. If the collection had been conducted previously, include the actual response rate achieved during the last collection.

The ESRD Network associated with the Medicare-approved providers, generate the facility survey form based on underlying events in the SIMS local databases. The Networks mail one generated facility survey to the providers. The provider signs the form and returns it to the Network. Each of the ESRD Networks has a local database that replicates to the SIMS Central Repository nightly. In 2008, there were 5,964 facility surveys at the SIMS Central Repository; however, it is expected that the number increases yearly.

2. Describe the procedures for the collection of information including:

- Statistical methodology for stratification and sample selection,
- Estimation procedure,
- Degree of accuracy needed for the purpose described in the justification,
- Unusual problems requiring specialized sampling procedures, and
- Any use of periodic (less frequent than annual) data collection cycles to reduce burden.

The aggregate patient information is collected from each Medicare-approved provider of dialysis and kidney transplant services. The ESRD Medicare-approved facilities provide the survey data to their respective ESRD Network either via hardcopy form or electronically depending upon the technological capabilities of the provider. Data are transmitted electronically to CMS by the ESRD Networks.

3. Describe methods to maximize response rates and to deal with issues of non-response. The accuracy and reliability of information collected must be shown to be adequate for intended uses. For collections based on sampling, a special justification must be provided for any collection that will not yield 'reliable' data that can be generalized to the universe studied.

4. Describe any tests of procedures or methods to be undertaken. Testing is encouraged as an effective means of refining collections of information to minimize burden and improve utility.

Tests must be approved if they call for answers to identical questions from 10 or more respondents. A proposed test or set of tests may be submitted for approval separately or in combination with the main collection of information.

5. Provide the name and telephone number of individuals consulted on statistical aspects of the design and the name of the agency unit, contractor(s), grantee(s), or other person(s) who will actually collect and/or analyze the information for the agency.