

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Office of Small Business Utilization; Small Business Advisory Committee; Notification of a Public Meeting of the Small Business Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Office of Small Business Utilization, GSA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The General Services Administration (GSA) is announcing a public meeting of the GSA Small Business Advisory Committee (the Committee).

DATES: The meeting will take place April 21, 2008. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude no later than 6:00 p.m. that day. The Committee will accept oral public comments at this meeting and has reserved a total of thirty minutes for this purpose. Members of the public wishing to reserve speaking time must contact Aaron Collmann in writing at: sbac@gsa.gov or by fax at (202) 501-2590, no later than one week prior to the meeting.

ADDRESS: Marriott Anaheim, Gold Key I and II, 700 W Convention Way, Anaheim, CA 92802

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT Aaron Collmann, Room 6029, GSA Building, 1800 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20405; (202) 501-1021 or email at sbac@gsa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) (Pub. L. 92-463). The purpose of this meeting is to develop the topics generated during the previous meetings; to receive briefings from small business topical experts, and to hear from interested members of the public on proposals to improve GSA's small business contracting performance.

Topics for this meeting will include discussion on GSA's Veteran Outreach Program (21 Gun Salute) and GSA's role in the Presidential Transition. Other topics to be discussed may include, but are not limited to, topics from previous meetings. The agenda will be published online at <http://www.gsa.gov/sbac> at least 7 days prior to the meeting. Information and agendas from previous meetings can be found online at <http://www.gsa.gov/sbac>.

Dated: March 24, 2008.

Felipe Mendoza,

Associate Administrator, Office of Small Business Utilization, General Services Administration.

[FR Doc. E8-6274 Filed 3-26-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), Office of Preparedness and Emergency Operations (OPEO), Revised National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) Patient Treatment and Tracking Records System

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, HHS.

ACTION: Notice of a Revised Privacy Act System of Records (SOR).

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, we are proposing to revise the new Privacy Act System of Records (SOR) entitled, "The National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) Patient Treatment and Tracking Records System," System Number 09-90-0040, in response to public comments received. The primary purpose of the NDMS Patient Treatment and Tracking Records System is to collect and store data about individuals who are served by the medical care response capabilities provided by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through the NDMS, and through other HHS medical personnel. The proposed system will cover the collection, storage and sharing of personally identifiable data in accordance with the Privacy Act.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

In a **Federal Register** Notice [72 FR 35052-35055] published on June 26, 2007, the HHS, ASPR, OPEO, NDMS proposed to establish the NDMS Patient Treatment and Tracking Record System. This system will collect demographic and health care data from individuals treated by the medical response personnel of HHS and in particular, ASPR. The HHS notice included reasons why this system is necessary as well as routine uses for disclosures. HHS received comments from private, non-profit organizations regarding the privacy protections that apply to information about individuals treated by HHS medical personnel. The comments suggested that the notice lacked clarity. The following paragraphs summarize the comments, recommendations and the agency's responses. We are also making other editorial changes to the System of Records Notice at this time.

B. Comments and Responses

Comment: There was an overall comment that the notice lacked

adequate discussion of whether this system would be maintained in compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule. It was recommended that compliance with the HIPAA Privacy Rule be "spelled out in the notice."

Response: While ASPR, in operating NDMS, provides medical care to individuals who are victims of disasters, emergencies, public health emergencies, and events of national significance, ASPR is not a covered entity or a health care component of a covered entity, and therefore is not subject to the HIPAA Privacy Rule. Congress provided that these HIPAA standards only apply to health care providers that transmit health information electronically in connection with a transaction for which the Secretary of HHS has adopted standards (i.e., the standards provided for in the HIPAA Transactions Rule at 45 CFR Part 162). NDMS health care providers, operating under ASPR auspices, do not engage in these electronic transactions. However, the records within the NDMS Patient Treatment and Tracking Records System are protected by the Privacy Act.

Comment: The organizations which commented on the notice wanted to make it clear that there will be "no routine uses that are in violation of HIPAA."

Response: As explained above, while ASPR provides medical care to individuals who are victims of disasters, emergencies, public health emergencies, and events of national significance, ASPR is not subject to the HIPAA Privacy Rule. The routine uses will comply with the provisions of the Privacy Act.

Comment: There was a comment regarding clarifying the use of data by NDMS's federal partners.

Response: The language has been clarified. Disclosure of personally identifiable information between federal partners will be limited to what is needed to support patient care and medical transport.

Comment: There is a concern that routine disclosure of patient location, especially when the patient is a victim of domestic violence, should be changed.

Response: Agree. The routine disclosure to family members regarding patient location and status has been revised to state that disclosure is not permitted when there is a reasonable belief that such information could endanger the life, safety, health, or well-being of the patient.

Revised Document

1. The Categories of Individuals Covered by the System section in the System of Records Notice (SORN) is revised to include other HHS personnel who may treat individuals. The section is revised as follows:

The individuals covered by the system are all persons and owners of animals treated by NDMS and other HHS medical personnel when the NDMS Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs), National Veterinary Response Teams (NVRTs), or other HHS medical personnel are activated to respond to emergency situations, or as a response to any other situation for which they are activated.

2. The Purpose(s) section in the SORN is revised to include other HHS personnel who may treat individuals. The first sentence of that section is revised to read:

Medical and demographic information is collected on all patients seen and/or treated by NDMS or other HHS personnel.

3. Routine Use No. 1 in the SORN is revised to clarify that it refers to sharing information between NDMS partner agencies, and to include a discussion, at the end of the routine use, of the relationship between all of the NDMS partners regarding the use of medical records as follows:

NDMS is a coordinated effort between HHS, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Department of Defense (DoD), and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). As such, the medical treatment and movement of patients is a shared responsibility between these partnership agencies. The medical and demographic information collected during the treatment of a patient is shared with the partners to ensure that patients treated through NDMS receive the appropriate level of health care. The health information disclosed among the partners is limited to what is needed for continuity of health care operations.

4. Routine Use No. 4 in the SORN is revised to include volunteers as follows: *Disclosure to agency contractors, consultants, grantees, or volunteers who have been engaged by the agency to assist in the performance of a service related to this collection and who have a need to have access to the records in order to perform the activity.*

5. Routine Use No. 6 in the SORN is revised to include a discussion, at the end of the routine use, of the circumstances when the agency will not disclose the patient's location or status to family members as follows: *Disclosure of a patient's location or status is not permitted when there is a*

reasonable belief that disclosing such information could endanger the life, safety, health, or well-being of the patient.

6. In the SORN, in the Policies and Practices for Storing, Retrieving, Accessing, Retaining, and Disposing of Records in the System, in the Disposition authority subsection, the first two sentences are revised as follows:

Patient Care Forms or other Medical Records created by the Federal Medical Station(s) (FMS) or by any component of HHS/ASPR inclusive of NDMS during a response to an event while caring for victims of that event are cutoff at the end of the response activity by the Federal Medical Station(s) or HHS/ASPR component for a particular event. Cutoff refers to breaking, or ending files at regular intervals, usually at the close of a fiscal or calendar year, to permit their disposal or transfer in complete blocks and, in this case, cutoff is at the end of the response activity. The cutoff date marks the beginning of the records retention period.

Dated: March 3, 2008.

Kevin Yeskey,

Deputy Assistant Secretary, Director, Office of Preparedness and Emergency Operations.

[FR Doc. E8-6238 Filed 3-26-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the intention of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to request that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approve the proposed information collection project: "Health Care Systems for Tracking Colorectal Cancer Screening Tests." In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A), AHRQ invites the public to comment on this proposed information collection.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by May 27, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be submitted to: Doris Lefkowitz, Reports Clearance Officer, AHRQ, by e-mail at: doris.lefkowitz@ahrq.hhs.gov.

Copies of the proposed collection plans, data collection instruments, and specific details on the estimated burden can be obtained from the AHRQ Reports Clearance Officer.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Doris Lefkowitz, AHRQ Reports Clearance Officer, (301) 427-1477, or by e-mail at: doris.lefkowitz@ahrq.hhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Proposed Project

Health Care Systems for Tracking Colorectal Cancer Screening Tests

AHRQ proposes to implement and assess a system redesign intervention to improve colorectal cancer (CRC) screening and follow-up among patients 50-79 years-old. Other goals of the intervention include: (1) Achieving a high level of satisfaction with the intervention among patients, providers, and practice staff, (2) promoting patient-centered care through the intervention, (3) being a cost-effective intervention, and (4) demonstrating the benefits to businesses for implementing the intervention. The research is sponsored by AHRQ under its ACTION (Accelerating Change and Transformation in Organizations and Networks) program, and will be conducted for AHRQ by The CNA Corporation (CNA) and its partners Thomas Jefferson University (TJU) and Lehigh Valley Physician Hospital Organization (LVPHO).

Colorectal cancer screening is recommended as routine preventive care and this intervention, which is consistent with current CRC screening guidelines, carries no greater risk than that which occurs in usual delivery of healthcare (i.e., screening and follow up done without benefit of this intervention).

Nevertheless, as part of standard research practice, the intervention and assessment protocol will be submitted to the Institutional Review Boards (IRB) at both LVPHO and TJU so that they can review the protocols to ensure that they are consistent with the requirements of human subjects protection as outlined in federal statute, regulations, and guidelines. These approvals will be obtained before the study begins. Additionally, CNA and LVPHO have a business associate agreement, and all parties involved with the study (CNA, LVPHO, and TJU) will comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule, 45 CFR Parts 160 and 164. To further protect patient privacy, neither CNA nor TJU will have access to any personally-identifiable data. Only PHO personnel will have access to