

Dated: July 25, 2017.

Lorin S. Curit,

Director, Federal Acquisition Policy Division,
Office of Governmentwide Acquisition Policy,
Office of Acquisition Policy, Office of
Governmentwide Policy.

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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: “*Generic
Clearance for Questionnaire and Data
Collection Testing, Evaluation, and
Research for the Agency for Healthcare
Research and Quality.*”

This proposed information collection
was previously published in the **Federal
Register** on April 28, 2017, and allowed
60 days for public comment. No
substantive comments were received.
The purpose of this notice is to allow an
additional 30 days for public comment.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be
received by August 28, 2017.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should
be submitted to: AHRQ’s OMB Desk
Officer by fax at (202) 395-6974
(attention: AHRQ’s desk officer) or by
email at OIRA_submission@omb.eop.gov (attention: AHRQ’s desk
officer).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Doris Lefkowitz, AHRQ Reports
Clearance Officer, (301) 427-1477, or by
email at doris.lefkowitz@AHRQ.hhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Proposed Project

*Generic Clearance for Questionnaire
and Data Collection Testing, Evaluation,
and Research for the Agency for
Healthcare Research and Quality*

In accordance with the Paperwork
Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501-3520,
AHRQ invites the public to comment on
this proposed information collection.
The Agency for Healthcare Research and

Quality (AHRQ) requests that the Office
of Management and Budget (OMB)
reapprove generic pre-testing Clearance
0935-0124 for three years to facilitate
AHRQ’s efforts to (1) employ
evaluation-type methods and techniques
to improve AHRQ’s current data
collection and estimation procedures,
(2) develop new collections and
procedures, including toolkits, and (3)
revise existing collections and
procedures. AHRQ believes that
developing, testing, and evaluating data
collection and estimation procedures
using survey methods and other
techniques in anticipation of Agency-
sponsored studies can improve its
information collection efforts, and the
products it develops and allow AHRQ to
be more responsive to fast-changing
developments in the health care
research. AHRQ uses techniques to
simplify data collection and estimation
procedures, reduce respondent burden,
and improve efficiencies to meet the
needs of individuals and small business
respondents who may have reduced
budgets and staff.

This clearance request is limited to
research on data collection, toolkit
development, and estimation
procedures and reports and does not
extend to the collection of data for
public release or policy formation. The
current Clearance (0935-0124) was
granted on November 12, 2014, and
expires on November 30, 2017.

This generic clearance will allow
AHRQ to draft and test toolkits, survey
instruments and other data collection
and estimation procedures more quickly
and with greater lead time, thereby
managing project time more efficiently
and improving the quality of the data
AHRQ collects. In some instances, the
ability to test and evaluate toolkits, data
collection and estimation procedures in
anticipation of work or early in a project
may result in the decision not to
proceed with additional activities,
which could save both public and
private resources and eliminate
respondent burden.

This generic clearance will facilitate
AHRQ’s response to a changing
environment. Many of the tools AHRQ
develops are made available to the
private sector to assist in improving
health care quality. The health and
health care environment changes
rapidly and requires a quick response
from AHRQ to provide refined tools.

These preliminary research activities
will not be used by AHRQ to regulate
or sanction its customers. They will be
entirely voluntary and the

confidentiality of respondents and their
responses will be preserved. Proposed
information collections submitted under
this generic clearance will be submitted
for review by OMB with a response
expected in 14 days.

Method of Collection

The information collected through
preliminary research activities under
this generic clearance will be used by
AHRQ to employ techniques to (1)
improve AHRQ’s current data collection
and estimation procedures, (2) develop
new collections and procedures,
including toolkits, and (3) revise
existing collections and procedures in
anticipation or in response to changes in
the health or health care. The end result
will be improvement in AHRQ’s data
collections and procedures and the
quality of data collected, a reduction or
minimization of respondent burden,
increased agency efficiency, and
improved responsiveness to the public.

Estimated Annual Respondent Burden

Exhibit 1 shows the estimated burden
hours, over the full 3 years of this
clearance, for the respondents’ time to
participate in the research activities that
may be conducted under this generic
clearance. Mail surveys will be
conducted with about 6,000 persons
(2,000 per year for 3 years) and are
estimated to average 20 minutes. Mail
surveys may also be sent to respondents
via email, and may include a telephone
non-response follow-up. Telephone
non-response follow-up for mailed
surveys is not counted as a telephone
survey in Exhibit 1. Not more than 600
persons, over 3 years, will participate in
telephone surveys that will take about
40 minutes. Web-based surveys will be
conducted with no more than 3,000
persons and will require no more than
10 minutes to complete. About 1,500
persons will participate in focus groups
which may last up to two hours, while
in-person interviews will be conducted
with 600 persons and will take about 50
minutes. Automated data collection will
be conducted for about 1,500 persons
and could take up to 1 hour. Cognitive
testing will be conducted with about
600 persons and is estimated to take 1½
hours to complete. The total burden
over 3 years is estimated to be 8,900
hours (about 2,967 hours per year).

Exhibit 2 shows the estimated cost
burden over 3 years, based on the
respondent’s time to participate in these
research activities. The total cost burden
is estimated to be \$338,734.

EXHIBIT 1—ESTIMATED BURDEN HOURS OVER 3 YEARS

Type of information collection	Number of respondents	Number of responses per respondent	Hours per response	Total burden hours
Mail/email *	6,000	1	20/60	2,000
Telephone	600	1	40/60	400
Web-based	3,000	1	10/60	500
Focus Groups	1,500	1	2.0	3,000
In-person	600	1	1.0	600
Automated **	1,500	1	1.0	1,500
Cognitive Testing ***	600	1	1.5	900
Totals	13,800	na	na	8,900

* May include telephone non-response follow-up in which case the burden will not change.

** May include testing of database software, CAPI software or other automated technologies.

*** May include cognitive interviews for questionnaire or toolkit development, or “think aloud” testing of prototype Web sites.

EXHIBIT 2—ESTIMATED COST BURDEN OVER 3 YEARS

Type of information collection	Number of respondents	Total burden hours	Average hourly wage rate *	Total cost burden
Mail/email	6,000	2,000	\$38.06	\$76,120
Telephone	600	400	38.06	15,224
Web-based	3,000	500	38.06	19,030
Focus Groups	1,500	3,000	38.06	114,180
In-person	600	600	38.06	22,836
Automated	1,500	1,500	38.06	57,090
Cognitive Testing	600	900	38.06	34,254
Totals	13,800	8,900	na	338,734

* Based upon the average wages for 29-000 (Healthcare Practitioner and Technical Occupations), “National Compensation Survey: Occupational Wages in the United States, May 2016,” U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_nat.htm#29-0000.

Request for Comments

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, comments on AHRQ’s information collection are requested with regard to any of the following: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of AHRQ health care research and health care information dissemination functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of AHRQ’s estimate of burden (including hours and costs) of the proposed collection(s) of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information upon the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and included in the Agency’s subsequent request for OMB approval of the proposed information collection. All

comments will become a matter of public record.

Sharon B. Arnold,
Deputy Director.

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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) reapprove the proposed information collection project: “Medical Expenditure Panel Survey—Insurance Component.”

This proposed information collection was previously published in the **Federal Register** on April 28, 2017, and allowed

60 days for public comment. No substantive comments were received; however changes have been made to the burden estimates in Exhibit 1, resulting in an increase of 1,316 burden hours. The purpose of this notice is to allow an additional 30 days for public comment.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by August 28, 2017.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be submitted to: AHRQ’s OMB Desk Officer by fax at (202) 395-6974 (attention: AHRQ’s desk officer) or by email at OIRA_submission@omb.eop.gov (attention: AHRQ’s desk officer).

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 email at doris.lefkowitz@AHRQ.hhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: