4160-90-P

**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 (AHRQ), 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 renewal of the information collection project "**Nursing Home Survey on Patient Safety Culture Database**." This proposed information collection was previously published in the Federal Register on June 23rd, 2021 and allowed 60 days for public comment. AHRQ did not receive substantive comments from members of the public The purpose of this notice is to allow an additional 30 days for public comment.

**DATES**: Comments on this notice must be received by **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

**ADDRESSES**: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain . Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review - Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function.

**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**

**Nursing Home Survey on Patient Safety Culture Database**

In 1999, the Institute of Medicine called for health care organizations to develop a "culture of safety" such that their workforce and processes focus on improving the reliability and safety of

care for patients (IOM, 1999; *To Err is Human: Building a Safer Health System*). To respond to the need for tools to assess patient safety culture in health care, AHRQ developed and pilot tested the Nursing Home Survey on Patient Safety Culture with OMB approval (OMB NO. 0935-0132; Approved July 5, 2007).

The survey is designed to enable nursing homes to assess provider and staff perspectives about patient safety issues, medical error, and error reporting and includes 42 items that measure 12 composites of patient safety culture. AHRQ made the survey publicly available along with a Survey User's Guide and other toolkit materials in November 2008 on the AHRQ website.

The AHRQ Nursing Home SOPS Database consists of data from the AHRQ Nursing Home Survey on Patient Safety Culture. Nursing homes in the U.S. can voluntarily submit data from the survey to AHRQ through its contractor, Westat. The Nursing Home SOPS Database (OMB NO. 0935-0195, last approved on November 5, 2018) was developed by AHRQ in 2011 in response to requests from nursing homes interested in viewing their organizations' patient safety culture survey results. Those organizations submitting data receive a feedback report, as well as a report on the aggregated de-identified findings of the other nursing homes submitting data. These reports are used to assist nursing home staff in their efforts to improve patient safety culture in their organizations.

**Rationale for the information collection.** The Nursing Home SOPS and Nursing Home SOPS Database support AHRQ's goals of promoting improvements in the quality and safety of health care in nursing home settings. The survey, toolkit materials, and database results are all made publicly available on AHRQ's website. Technical assistance is provided by AHRQ through its contractor at no charge to nursing homes, to facilitate the use of these materials for nursing home patient safety and quality improvement.

This database:

1)  Presents results from nursing homes that voluntarily submit their data,

2) Provides data to nursing homes to facilitate internal assessment and learning in the patient safety improvement process, and

3) Provides supplemental information to help nursing homes identify their strengths and areas with potential for improvement in patient safety culture.

This study is being conducted by AHRQ through its contractor, Westat, pursuant to AHRQ's statutory authority to conduct and support research on health care and on systems for the delivery of such care, including activities with respect to the quality, effectiveness, efficiency, appropriateness and value of healthcare services and with respect to surveys and database development.  42 U.S.C 299a(a)(1) and (8).

**Method of Collection**

To achieve the goal of this project the following activities and data collections will be implemented:

1)      **Eligibility and Registration Form** –The nursing home (or parent organization) point–of-contact (POC) completes a number of data submission steps and forms, beginning with the completion of an online Eligibility and Registration Form. The purpose of this form is to collect basic demographic information about the nursing home and initiate the registration process.

 2)      **Data Use Agreement** – The purpose of the data use agreement, completed by the nursing home POC, is to state how data submitted by nursing homes will be used and provides privacy assurances.

3)      **Nursing Home Site Information Form** – The purpose of the site information form, completed by the nursing home POC, is to collect background characteristics of the nursing

home. This information will be used to analyze data collected with the Nursing Home SOPS survey.

4)      **Data File(s) Submission** – POCs upload their data file(s) using the data file specifications, to ensure that users submit standardized and consistent data in the way variables are named, coded and formatted. The number of submissions to the database is likely to vary each year because nursing homes do not administer the survey and submit data every year. Data submission is typically handled by one POC who is either a corporate level health care manager for a Quality Improvement Organization (QIO), a survey vendor who contracts with a nursing home to collect their data, or a nursing home Director of Nursing or nurse manager. POCs submit data on behalf of  3 nursing homes, on average, because many nursing homes are part of a QIO or larger nursing home or health system that includes many nursing home sites, or the POC is a vendor that is submitting data for multiple nursing homes.

**Estimated Annual Respondent Burden**

Exhibit 1 shows the estimated annualized burden hours for the respondents' time to participate in the database. An estimated 40 POCs, each representing an average of 3 individual nursing homes each, will complete the database submission steps and forms. Each POC will submit the following:

- Eligibility and registration form (completion is estimated to take about 3 minutes).

- Data Use Agreement (completion is estimated to take about 3 minutes).

- Nursing Home Site Information Form (completion is estimated to take about 5 minutes).

- Survey data submission will take an average of one hour.

The total annual burden hours are estimated to be 54 hours.

Exhibit 2 shows the estimated annualized cost burden based on the respondents' time to submit their data.  The cost burden is estimated to be $2,509 annually.

**Exhibit 1.  Estimated annualized burden hours**

| Form Name | Number of respondents/ POCs | Number of responses per POC | Hours per response | Total burden hours |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Eligibility/Registration Form | 40 | 1 | 3/60 | 2 |
| Data Use Agreement | 40 | 1 | 3/60 | 2 |
| Nursing Home Site Information Form | 40 | 3 | 5/60 | 10 |
| Data Files Submission | 40 | 1 | 1 | 40 |
| Total | NA | NA | NA | 54 |

**Exhibit 2.  Estimated annualized cost burden**

| Form Name | Number of respondents/ POCs | Total burden hours | Average hourly wage rate* | Total cost burden |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Eligibility/Registration Forms | 40 | 2 | $46.45 | $93 |
| Data Use Agreement | 40 | 2 | $46.45 | $93 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nursing Home Site Information Form | 40 | 10 | $46.45 | $465 |
| Data Files Submission | 40 | 40 | $46.45 | $1,858 |
| Total | NA | 54 | NA | $,2509 |

*The wage rate in Exhibit 2 is based on May 2019 National Industry-Specific Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Dept. of Labor. Mean hourly wages for nursing home POCs are located at https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/naics3_623000.htm. The hourly wage of $46.45 is the weighted mean of $47.32 (General and Operations Managers 11-1021; N = 26) and $44.82 (Medical and Health Services Managers 11-9111; N = 14).

**Request for Comments**

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501-3520, 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's 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.

Dated: September 16, 2021.

**Marquita Cullom,**

*Associate Director.*

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