

Send comments to Susan G. Queen, Ph.D., HRSA Reports Clearance Officer, Room 14-33, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 208357. Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

Dated: February 23, 1999.

**Jane Harrison,**

*Director, Division of Policy Review and Coordination.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Health Resources And Services Administration**

**Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection: Comment Request**

In compliance with the requirement for opportunity for public comment on proposed data collection projects (section 3506(c)(2)(A) of Title 44, United States Code, as amended by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) publishes periodic summaries of

proposed projects being developed for submission to OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. To request more information on the proposed project or to obtain a copy of the data collection plans and draft instruments, call the HRSA Reports Clearance Officer on (301) 443-1891.

**Comments are Invited on**

(a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection 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 on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

**Proposed Project: Health Status, Behaviors, and Health Service Perceptions of Non-College Educated and College Educated African American Women—New**

The Office of Minority and Women's Health (OMWH) in the Bureau of

Primary Health Care (BPHC), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) awarded funding for a pilot study which will develop information about the design of a sample appropriate to determine the health status, behaviors, and health service perceptions of African American women who are: (1) college educated, and (2) low income, non-college educated. The pilot study will be used to evaluate the interview instrument and to discover the practical issues and feasibility of sampling low income African American women from the databases of community health centers in three test locations. The goal is to assess the instrument, the sample sources, the procedures, and the response rates and to determine the extent to which data can be collected in a systematic and comprehensive manner. The pilot study is the first step in a much larger nationwide effort to build a significant data set containing detailed information on health status, health indicators, and health behaviors of African American women.

The burden estimate for the pilot study is as follows:

Respondent	Number of respondents	Responses per respondent	Total responses	Hours per response (minutes)	Total hour burden
College Educated .....	60	1	60	40	40
Non-College Educated .....	180	1	180	40	120
Total .....	240	.....	240	.....	160

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**Jane Harrison,**

*Director, Division of Policy Review and Coordination.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Health Resources and Services Administration**

**National Practitioner Data Bank Announcement of Self-Query Fee**

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is

announcing a ten dollar fee for health care practitioners who request information about themselves (self-queries) from the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB).

The current fee structure for requests for information (queries) by authorized entities was announced in the **Federal Register** on January 29, 1998 (63 FR 4460).

In accordance with the Final Rule published elsewhere in this issue, the Department now is exercising its authority to impose a fee for self-queries.

The NPDB is authorized by the Health Care Quality Improvement Act of 1986 (the Act), title IV of Public Law 99-660, as amended (42 U.S.C. 11101 *et seq.*). Section 427(b)(4) of the Act authorizes the establishment of fees for the costs of processing requests for disclosure and for providing such information.

Final regulations at 45 CFR part 60 set forth the criteria and procedures for information to be reported to and

disclosed by the NPDB. Section 60.3 of these regulations defines the terms used in this announcement.

In determining any changes in the amount of the user fee, the Department uses the criteria set forth in § 60.12(b) of the regulations, as well as allowable costs pursuant to the DHHS Appropriations Act of 1999, Pub. L. 105-277, enacted October 19, 1998. This Act requires that the Department recover the full costs of operating the NPDB through user fees. Paragraph (b) of the regulations states:

The amount of each fee will be determined based on the following criteria:

- (1) Use of electronic data processing equipment to obtain information—the actual cost for the service, including computer search time, runs, printouts, and time of computer programmers and operators, or other employees,
- (2) Photocopying or other forms of reproduction, such as magnetic tapes—actual cost of the operator's time, plus the cost of the machine time and the materials used,
- (3) Postage—actual cost, and