

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Resources and Services Administration

National Practitioner Data Bank; Change in User Fee and Elimination of Diskette Queries

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is announcing a one dollar increase in the fee charged to entities authorized to request information from the National Practitioner Data Bank (Data Bank) for all queries. Concurrently, HRSA is announcing that the Data Bank will no longer accept queries submitted via diskette.

The current fee structure was announced in the **Federal Register** on January 21, 1997 (62 FR 3048). The user fee is \$3.00 per name per query fee for queries submitted via telecommunications network and paid via an electronic funds transfer or credit card, with query response sent via the telecommunications network. A three dollar surcharge is applied when queries are submitted electronically on a diskette to pay for the extra handling and mailing costs for these queries. An additional \$4.00 is charged for all queries which are paid for by check or money order rather than by electronic funds transfer or credit card to cover the cost of debt management.

The Data Bank 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 of 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 Data Bank. 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 1998, Public Law 105-78, enacted November 13, 1997. This Act requires that the Department recover the full costs of operating the Data Bank 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
- (4) Sending information by special methods requested by the applicant, such as express mail or electronic transfer—the actual cost of the special service.

Based on analysis of the comparative costs of the various methods for filing and paying for queries, the Department is raising all query fees by \$1.00 per name. This price increase is necessitated by increased labor costs and escalating costs for the Data Bank's telecommunications network and data transmission services.

Despite the one dollar increase, electronic querying (telecommunications network) and electronic payment continue to be the most cost-effective methods for

requesting information from the Data Bank. The new fee for electronic queries (telecommunications network) with electronic payment will be \$4.00. The fee for querying the Data Bank by telecommunications network and non-electronic payment will be \$8.00. This change is effective March 2, 1998.

When a query is for information on one or more physicians, dentists, or other health care practitioners, the appropriate total fee will be \$4.00 (plus a \$4.00 surcharge for submission and payment as described above) multiplied by the number of individuals about whom information is being requested. For examples, see the table below.

Additionally, due to the continuing decrease in the number of queries submitted via diskette and the wider availability of the telecommunications network, the Department is discontinuing its support for the diskette option. Fewer than 2% of queries are currently submitted via diskette. Therefore, the Department has determined that it is no longer cost-efficient for the Data Bank to accept for processing queries submitted via diskette. The Department recognizes that a few entities may have technical difficulties, the remedies for which may be beyond their control, that preclude successful transmission via the telecommunications network. The Data Bank will attempt to work out appropriate accommodations with these entities. Entities experiencing difficulties submitting queries via the telecommunications network should contact the Data Bank Helpline at 1-800-767-6732 for assistance.

The Department will continue to review the user fee periodically, and will revise it as necessary. Any changes in the fee and their effective date will be announced in the **Federal Register**.

Query method	Fee per name in query, by method of payment	Examples
Electronic query (Telecommunications network) with electronic payment.	\$4.00 (if paid electronically via credit card or other electronic means and response received electronically).	10 names in query. 10x\$4=\$40.00.
Electronic query (Telecommunications network) with non-electronic payment.	\$8.00 (if not paid via credit card or other electronic means) (\$4.00 fee plus \$4.00 surcharge).	10 names in query. 10x\$8=\$80.00.

Dated: January 23, 1998.
Claude Earl Fox,
Acting Administrator.
 [FR Doc. 98-2116 Filed 1-28-98; 8:45 am]
 BILLING CODE 4160-15-U

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Cancer Institute; Notice of Meeting of the National Cancer Advisory Board and Its Subcommittees

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, notice is hereby given of the meeting of the

National Cancer Advisory Board (Board), National Cancer Institute (NCI), and its Subcommittees on February 2-4, 1998. The meetings of the Board and its Subcommittees will be open to the public as indicated below. Attendance by the public will be limited to space available.

A portion of the Board meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections

552b (c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C. and section 10(d) of Public Law 92-463, for the review, discussion and evaluation of individual grant applications and for discussion of issues pertaining to programmatic areas and/or NCI personnel. These applications and discussions could reveal confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning the individuals associated with the applications or programs, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

The Committee Management Office, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Executive Plaza North, Room 609, 6130 Executive Boulevard, MSC 7410, Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7410, (301) 496-5708 will provide summaries of the meetings and rosters of the Board members, upon request.

Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, should contact Mrs. Linda Quick-Cameron, Committee Management Officer, at (301) 496-5708 in advance of the meeting.

Name of Committee: Subcommittee on Cancer Centers.

Contact Person: Dr. Brian Kimes, Executive Secretary, National Cancer Institute, NIH, Executive Plaza North, Room 502, 6130 Executive Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 496-8537.

Date of Meeting: February 2, 1998.

Place of Meeting: Hyatt Regency Bethesda, One Bethesda Metro, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Open: 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Agenda: To Discuss Policies and Procedures of Cancer Programs.

Name of Committee: Subcommittee on Planning and Budget.

Contact Person: Ms. Cherie Nichols, Executive Secretary, National Cancer Institute, NIH, 7550 Wisconsin Avenue, Room 312, MSC 9010, Bethesda, MD 20892-9010, (301) 496-5515.

Date of Meeting: February 3, 1998.

Place of Meeting: Natcher Building, Atlanta Room, National Institutes of Health, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Agenda: To Discuss the NCI Budget and Various Planning Issues.

Name of Committee: Subcommittee on Clinical Investigations.

Contact Person: Dr. Philip Shein, Executive Secretary, National Cancer Institute, NIH, Building 31, Room 3A44, MSC 2440, 9000 Rockville Pike, (301) 496-4291.

Date of Meeting: February 3, 1998.

Place of Meeting: Natcher Building, Conference Room F, National Institutes of Health, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Open: Approximately 5:15 p.m. to Adjournment.

Agenda: To Discuss the Design of Prospective Studies of the Impact of Managed Care on Cancer Clinical Investigations, Education and Training.

Name of Committee: National Cancer Advisory Board.

Contact Person: Dr. Marvin R. Kalt, Executive Secretary, National Cancer Institute, NIH, Executive Plaza North, Room 600, 6130 Executive Blvd., MSC 7405, Bethesda, MD 20892-7405, (301) 496-5147.

Dates of Meeting: February 3-4, 1998.

Place of Meeting: Natcher Building, Conference Room E1 & E2, National Institutes of Health, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Open: February 3—9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; February 4—9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

Agenda: Report of the Deputy Director, National Cancer Institute; Legislative Update; Report of the President's Cancer Panel; Remarks by the President, American Association for Cancer Research; Updates, Bishop/Calabresi; Closure; NCI Office of Special Populations Research; Status Report: Director, Center for Scientific Review; Mini Symposium; Evidence/Based Medicine & The Cochran Collaboration; Implementation of Program Review Group Recommendations; Director's Consumer Liaison Group; Subcommittee Reports; Annual Delegations of Authority; Extramural Reports and Other NCAB Business.

Closed: February 3—4:15 p.m. to Approximately 5:15 p.m.

Agenda: Review and Discussion of Grant Applications and Extramural/Intramural, Programmatic and Personnel Policies.

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the meeting due to the urgent need to meet timing limitations imposed by the review and funding cycle.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Numbers (93.393, Cancer Cause and Prevention Research; 93.392, Cancer Detection and Diagnosis Research; 93.394, Cancer Treatment Research; 93.396, Cancer Biology Research; 93.397, Cancer Centers Support; 93.398, Cancer Research Manpower; 93.399, Cancer Control)

Dated: January 23, 1998.

LaVerne Y. Stringfield,

Committee Management Officer, NIH

[FR Doc. 98-2171 Filed 1-28-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Center for Research Resources; Notice of Closed Meeting

Pursuant to Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is hereby given of the following National Center for Research Resources Special Emphasis Panel (SEP) meeting:

Name of SEP: Biomedical Research Technology, Small Business Innovation Research (Telephone Conference Call).

Date: February 2, 1998.

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Place: National Institutes of Health, 6507 Rockledge Drive, MSC 7965, Room 6018, Bethesda, MD 20892-7965.

Contact Person: Dr. D.G. Patel, Scientific Review Administrator, 6705 Rockledge Drive, MSC 7965, Room 6018, Bethesda, MD 20892-7965, (301) 435-0822.

Purpose/Agenda: To evaluate and review grant applications. This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the above meeting due to the urgent need to meet timing limitations imposed by the review and funding cycle.

This meeting will be closed in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5, U.S.C. Applications and/or proposals and the discussions could reveal confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material and personal information concerning individuals associated with applications and/or proposals, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.371, Biomedical Research Technology, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: January 23, 1998.

LaVerne Y. Stringfield,

Committee Management Officer, NIH

[FR Doc. 98-2177 Filed 1-28-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism; Notice of Closed Meeting

Pursuant to Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is hereby given of the following meeting of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Initial Review Group:

Purpose/Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Name of Committee: Clinical and Treatment Subcommittee.

Dates of Meeting: February 26-27, 1998.

Time: February 26, 8:30 a.m. to recess.

February 27, 8:30 a.m. to adjournment.

Place of Meeting: Double Tree Hotel, 1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852.

Contact Person: Elsie D. Taylor, 6000 Executive Blvd, Suite 409, Bethesda, MD 20892-7003, 301-443-9787.

The meeting will be closed in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5, U.S.C. Applications and/or proposals and the discussions could reveal confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as