

Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including any of the following subjects: (1) The necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

Type of Information Collection

Request: New Collection;

Title of Information Collection: Study to Develop a Classification System for Patients in Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospitals and Exempt Rehabilitation Units;

Form No.: HCFA-R-279 (OMB# 0938-NEW);

Use: To conduct a study using patient and facility characteristics and resource utilization as determined by staff time measurement to develop a classification and payment system for Medicare beneficiaries. This information will be used to develop a classification system for Medicare patients using rehabilitation services in inpatient rehabilitation hospitals and exempt rehabilitation units. This classification system will be referred to as Rehabilitation Resources Groups, Version 2000 (R2G2).

The purpose of this study is to develop, assess, and test this classification system through a representative sample of inpatient rehabilitation hospitals and exempt units (note that throughout this request, we will refer to rehabilitation facilities; these include both freestanding rehabilitation hospitals and exempt rehabilitation units). The principal goal is to determine the extent to which measurable patient characteristics permit classifying patients into identifiable groups that accurately predict the use of resources in these facilities.

Patient characteristics will be collected using the Minimum Data Set for Post Acute Care (MDS-PAC) (previously approved; OMB No. 0938-0720). This instrument collects demographic and clinical information that will be used to develop the classification system. We are requesting utilization of this instrument, as revised and tested to include specific variables designed to collect information on patients using rehabilitation services. Secondary analysis of existing data has provided information used to develop

the sampling plan. Medicare administrative files (including the cost reports, OSCAR files, and the Standard Analytic National Claims History 100 percent file) were used to develop the sampling frame for this study.

We will be using a staff time measurement study to collect information within the sampled rehabilitation facilities to assess the resources utilized by Medicare beneficiaries. While the staff time measurement has been used in other studies to develop both resource utilization and payment methodologies (i.e., staff time measurement was used to develop the prospective payment system for skilled nursing homes), this is the first time that direct, on-site information will be collected regarding resource utilization in rehabilitation facilities.

The methodology is similar to the Resource Utilization Groups (RUG) methodology used by the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) to identify patient characteristics related to variance in patients' needs for resources in skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) and to develop the SNF prospective payment system (PPS).

HCFA is requesting clearance of the study, including the sample, sample selection methodology, and data collection plans, including staff time measurement and use of the revised MDS-PAC. This study will enable HCFA to develop, test, and assess a classification system for inpatient rehabilitation hospitals and exempt rehabilitation units:

Frequency: On occasion;

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit, and Not-for-profit institutions;

Number of Respondents: 4,000;

Total Annual Responses: 4,000;

Total Annual Hours: 6,800.

To obtain copies of the supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed paperwork collections referenced above, access HCFA's Web Site address at <http://www.hcfa.gov/regs/prdact95.htm>, or E-mail your request, including your address, phone number, OMB number, and HCFA document identifier, to Paperwork@hcfa.gov, or call the Reports Clearance Office on (410) 786-1326.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collections must be mailed within 60 days of this notice directly to the HCFA Paperwork Clearance Officer designated at the following address: HCFA, Office of Information Services, Security and Standards Group, Division of HCFA Enterprise Standards, Attention: Dawn Willingham, Room N2-

14-26, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

Dated: April 8, 1999.

John P. Burke III,

HCFA Reports Clearance Officer, HCFA Office of Information Services, Security and Standards Group, Division of HCFA Enterprise Standards.

[FR Doc. 99-9423 Filed 4-14-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4120-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Institute of Mental Health; Notice of 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 a meeting of the National Advisory Mental Health Council.

The meeting will be open to the public as indicated below, with attendance limited to space available. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodation, should notify the Contact Person listed below in advance of the meeting.

The 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., as amended. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Name of Committee: National Advisory Mental Health Council.

Date: May 6-7, 1999.

Closed: May 6, 1999, 10:30 a.m. to recess.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: National Institutes of Health, 9000 Rockville Pike, Building 31C, Conference Room 6, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Open: May 7, 1999, 8:00 a.m. to adjournment.

Agenda: Presentation of NIMH Director's Report and discussion of NIMH program and policy issues.

Place: National Institutes of Health, 9000 Rockville Pike, Building 31C, Conference Room 6, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Contact Person: Jane A. Steinberg, PhD, Executive Secretary, Director, Division of Extramural Activities, National Institute of Mental Health, NIH, Neuroscience Center, 6001 Executive Blvd., Room 6154, MSC 9609, Bethesda, MD 20892-9609, 301-443-3367.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.242, Mental Health Research Grants; 93.281, Scientist Development Award, Scientist Development Award for Clinicians, and Research Scientist Award; 93.282, Mental Health National Research Service Awards for Research Training, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: April 8, 1999.

LaVerne Y. Stringfield,

Committee Management Officer, NIH.

[FR Doc. 99-9367 Filed 4-14-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Institute of General Medical Sciences; Notice of Closed Meetings

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 meetings.

The meetings 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., as amended. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Name of Committee: National Institute of General Medical Sciences Special Emphasis Panel, Trauma and Burn.

Date: April 13, 1999.

Time: 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: National Institutes of Health, NIGMS, Office of Scientific Review, Natcher Building, Room 1AS19K, Bethesda MD 20892 (Telephone Conference Call).

Contact Person: Bruce K. Wetzel, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Office of Scientific Review, NIGMS, Natcher Building, Room 1AS-19, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 594-3907.

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

Name of Committee: National Institute of General Medical Sciences Special Emphasis Panel, Trauma and Burn.

Date: April 14, 1999.

Time: 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: National Institutes of Health, NIGMS, Office of Scientific Review, Natcher Building, Room 1AS19K, Bethesda, MD 20892 (Telephone Conference Call).

Contact Person: Bruce K. Wetzel, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Office of Scientific Review, NIGMS, Natcher Building, Room 1AS-19, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 594-3907.

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

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.375, Minority Biomedical Research Support; 93.821, Cell Biology and Biophysics Research; 93.859, Pharmacology, Physiology, and Biological Chemistry Research; 93.862, Genetics and Developmental Biology Research; 93.88, Minority Access to Research Careers; 93.96, Special Minority Initiatives, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: April 8, 1999.

LaVerne Y. Stringfield,

Committee Management Officer, NIH.

[FR Doc. 99-9368 Filed 4-14-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

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

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 meetings.

The meetings 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., as amended. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Name of Committee: National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Special Emphasis Panel.

Date: May 11-12, 1999.

Time: May 11, 1999, 8:00 am to 12:30 pm.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

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

Contact Person: Antonio Noronha, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Extramural Project Review Branch, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, Suite 409, 6000 Executive Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20892-7003, 301-443-7722, anoronha@willco.niaaa.nih.gov.

Name of Committee: National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Special Emphasis Panel.

Date: May 12-13, 1999.

Time: May 12, 1999, 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: Doubletree Hotel, Twinbrook Room, 1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852.

Contact Person: Antonio Noronha, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Extramural Project Review Branch, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, Suite 409, 6000 Executive Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20892-7003, 301-443-7722, anoronha@willco.niaaa.nih.gov.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.271, Alcohol Research Career Development Awards for Scientists and Clinicians; 93.272, Alcohol National Research Service Awards for Research Training; 93.273, Alcohol Research Programs; 93.891, Alcohol Research Center Grants, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: April 8, 1999.

LaVerne Y. Stringfield,

Director, Office of Federal Advisory

Committee Policy, NIH.

[FR Doc. 99-9369 Filed 4-14-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases; 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.

The 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., as amended. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Name of Committee: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Special Emphasis Panel, R13 Conference Grant.

Date: May 4, 1999.

Time: 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: Solar Building, Room 1A2, 6003 Executive Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20892 (Telephone Conference Call).

Contact Person: Janet T. Turner, Program Analyst, Scientific Review Program, Division of Extramural Activities, NIAID, NIH, Solar Building, Room 4C01, 6003 Executive Boulevard, MSC 7610, Bethesda, MD 20892-7610, 301-402-4598.