Payment Structure

Summary of Comments

Most commenters agreed with the tiered payment method but highlighted the importance of clearly messaging that funding tiers are not indicative of different levels of quality or engagement for the first phase of the CHGME QBS. One commenter offered, “the bonus payments would have a more significant effect in transforming the quality of CHGME programs if the payments were funded at a level larger than $3 million and were in excess of current program funding.”

Response

HRSA will continue to message clearly that the FY 2019 CHGME QBS payment tiers are not reflective of the quality of the initiatives. The payment tiers were developed taking into account the size of the training programs and CHGME payments typically awarded. In future years, once the data sources were better developed HRSA would work to develop a payment structure that takes into account both the size of the program and quality. As noted earlier, the amount of funding available for the QBS is provided for in statute and the $3 million funding amount is an estimation, assuming funding levels and mechanisms remain constant.

For FY 2019, QBS payments will be disbursed with the CHGME FY 2019 reconciliation payments. CHGME hospitals that submit the required documentation with the FY 2019 reconciliation application will receive a portion of the available funds for the CHGME QBS payment. Amounts will be distributed according to a three-tiered payment structure detailed in the Federal Register, 82 FR 48102. HRSA expects that future quality measures will likely be a combination of both quantitative and qualitative measures, where payment will be directly linked to the level of achievement of an individual hospital. We will continue to seek additional input from stakeholders and experts on the appropriate measures and metrics for future iterations of the CHGME QBS.

Documentation, Reporting Requirements and Reducing Reporting Burden

Summary of Comments

Several commenters indicated that HRSA already collects quite a bit of information through the annual report and recommended that HRSA build on its existing reporting requirements to minimize reporting burden. These commenters suggested that new reporting requirements would add an administrative burden and deter maximum participation in the QBS. One commenter questioned whether HRSA would publicly share the QBS data.

Response

HRSA agrees that participation in the QBS should not be overly burdensome and will work to create reasonable documentation requirements. HRSA acknowledges that it is already collecting some quality-related data in the annual CHGME performance measures and is developing ways to improve these fields. In addition, as part of the further development of the QBS, HRSA will be reviewing the different sets of data that children’s hospitals already report to identify if any of the measures could be used as part of the QBS. A long-term goal would be to have transparency regarding the QBS data and HRSA will make sure to include that topic in stakeholder discussions. Any new data collection form(s) that are developed will require Office and Management and Budget (OMB) approval. Stakeholders will be able to provide public comments on any new data collection form(s) developed.

Implementation Timeline for FY 2020 and Beyond

Summary of Comments

Half of commenters recommended a longer timeline to phase in the full FY 2020 and beyond QBS proposed framework, in order to ensure a thorough stakeholder engagement process in which pediatric experts are adequately involved in establishing metrics and measures, identifying quality outcomes, and evaluating QBS standards.

Response

HRSA recognizes concerns about the QBS implementation timeline. We understand that there are many important factors that must be taken into account when implementing the QBS, and each requires thorough and well-informed consideration. In addition, QBS-related data collection must align with existing reporting and payment schedules for the CHGME Payment Program. The first phase of the CHGME QBS is planned to start in FY 2019, and we have taken into consideration feedback collected through this FRN. The data collected during the FY 2019 QBS will give HRSA an indication of the current experiences across our children’s hospitals so that we can establish reasonable parameters and measures moving forward. In addition, HRSA is examining using existing reporting requirements to establish components of the QBS for FY 2020 and beyond. HRSA will continue collaborating with stakeholders and experts to inform future phases and measures for the CHGME QBS. As new QBS measures will affect a fiscal year payment, any updates or changes will be included in that year’s NOFO.

Conclusion

HRSA appreciates the comments and recommendations received and has used them to guide the development of the FY 2019 CHGME QBS and inform future iterations of the CHGME QBS. Final guidance for the FY 2019 CHGME QBS will be published in the FY 2019 CHGME NOFO. If you have questions or concerns about comments that were not addressed in this notice, please contact MCrawford@hrsa.gov.

Dated: June 19, 2018.

George Sigounas,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2018–13592 Filed 6–25–18; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4165–15–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Health Resources and Services Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission to OMB for Review and Approval; Public Comment Request; National Survey of Organ Donation Attitudes and Practices, OMB No. 0915–0290—Reinstatement With Change

AGENCY: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Department of Health and Human Services.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, HRSA has submitted an Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. The ICR is for reinstatement with change of a previously approved information collection, assigned OMB control number 0915–0290, which expired on March 31, 2015. Comments submitted during the first public review of this ICR will be provided to OMB. OMB will accept further comments from the public during the review and approval period.

DATES: Comments on this ICR should be received no later than July 26, 2018.
The National Survey of Organ Donation Attitudes and Practices (NSODAP) is conducted approximately every 6–7 years and serves a critical role in providing HRSA and the donation community with data regarding why Americans choose to donate organ, current barriers to donation, and potential new approaches to increasing donations. Survey data and derived analytic insights inform HRSA’s public outreach and educational initiatives. HRSA is improving the quality and relevance of the data collected by making the following changes:

(1) HRSA is increasing the ability to produce more precise results by targeting 10,000 completed surveys (increased from 3,250 in 2012). This increase will allow for a more accurate and robust analysis of the attitudes and donation practices of important subgroups such as Americans over the age of 50 and various minority populations. Although the precision of the results from the survey will increase, the respondent burden will be reduced, and survey completion costs will be lower resulting in a cost-neutral change.

(2) HRSA is streamlining the data collection process to minimize respondent burden. Of the 10,000 targeted completed surveys, 8,000 will be completed online by a nationally representative web panel composed of Americans over the age of 18 who have already agreed to participate in a survey. Web panels target a representative section of a population used by other approved surveys. HRSA will complete the remaining 2,000 surveys by telephone. In 2012, all 3,250 surveys were conducted by telephone and respondents were contacted using random-digit dialing, a process that yielded a low response rate. Contacting respondents by telephone will remain a part of the survey protocol to compare current data to the 2012 data. However, for this survey, identification of a sample of adults over the age of 18 for a telephone survey will be from a national list of home addresses. Before contact, those selected for the telephone survey will receive a mailed pre-notification letter with information about the survey. This mailing will improve survey cooperation and reduce the number of people contacted for the survey. Additionally, it is more time and cost effective to take the survey online than taking the survey by phone as the average response will be 0.1 hour shorter, and the cost of an online survey can range $3–$4 per survey compared to $50–$100 for a high-quality phone survey.

(3) To improve the relevance of the data collected and in response to the comments received during the 60-day public comment period, HRSA revised the instrument to add, remove, or edit a few questions. Example changes include removing certain questions that were only relevant for a random-digit-dialing sample design, editing certain questions to add clarity, and adding questions to highlight emerging topics such as receiving organ donation information through a hand-held device or mobile apps.

Need and Proposed Use of the Information: HRSA is the primary federal entity responsible for oversight of organ and blood stem cell transplant systems and initiatives to increase organ donor registration and donation in the United States. This survey is the primary method by which HRSA can obtain information from Americans about organ donation attitudes and beliefs. OMB previously approved this survey, and HRSA fielded it during 2005 and 2012. HRSA uses the resulting information from the survey to inform practice, policy, and other public awareness and education activities related to organ donation and transplantation. This type of information is essential for planning, targeting, and implementing outreach efforts to increase public donation commitment as well as for tracking the results of such efforts over time.

Members of the donation and transplantation community also make use of the findings of the survey in their outreach efforts and research efforts. Increasing the number of completed cases via a web panel for online survey completion and modifying the survey instrument without increasing the survey length will dramatically improve the quality and precision of the results while minimizing respondent burden as much as possible. The modified instrument and survey fielding methods will allow research on the attitudes and behaviors of important subgroups of Americans as well as research on emerging topics related to organ donation.

Likely Respondents: A nationally representative sample of adults over the age of 18 with a high number of responses from populations of interest such as racial-ethnic minorities, including African American, Asian, Native American, and Hispanic respondents, as well as respondents of all age groups and education levels.

Burden Statement: Burden in this context means the time expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, disclose or provide the information requested. This includes the time needed to review instructions; to develop, acquire, install and utilize technology and systems for the purpose of collecting, validating and verifying information, processing and maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information; to train personnel and to be able to respond to a collection of information; to search data sources; to complete and review the collection of information; and to transmit or otherwise disclose the information. The total annual burden hours estimated for this ICR are summarized in the table below.
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Resources and Services Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection: Public Comment Request Information Collection Request Title: Health Resources and Service Administration Uniform Data System, OMB No. 0915–0193—Revision

AGENCY: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Department of Health and Human Services.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirement for opportunity for public comment on proposed data collection projects of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, HRSA announces plans to submit an Information Collection Request (ICR), described below, to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Prior to submitting the ICR to OMB, HRSA seeks comments from the public regarding the burden estimate, below, or any other aspect of the ICR.

DATES: Comments on this ICR must be received no later than August 27, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments to paperwork@hrsa.gov or mail the HRSA Information Collection Clearance Officer, Room 14N39, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on the proposed project or to obtain a copy of the data collection plans and draft instruments, email paperwork@hrsa.gov or call Lisa Wright-Solomon, HRSA Information Collection Clearance Officer at (301) 443–1984.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: When submitting comments or requesting information, please include the information request collection title for reference.

Information Collection Request Title: HRSA Uniform Data System (UDS), OMB No. 0915–0193—Revision.

Abstract: HRSA utilizes the UDS for annual reporting by certain HRSA award recipients, including Health Center Program awardees (those funded under section 330 of the Public Health Service Act), Health Center Program look-alikes, and Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention (NEPQR) Program awardees (specifically those funded under the practice priority areas of section 831(b) of the PHS Act).

Need and Proposed Use of the Information: HRSA collects UDS data annually to ensure compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements, improve clinical and operational performance, and report overall program accomplishments. These data help to identify trends over time, enabling HRSA to establish or expand targeted programs and to identify effective services and interventions that will improve the health of medically underserved communities. HRSA compares UDS data with other national health-related data sets to compare HRSA award recipient patient populations and the overall U.S. population.

HRSA is considering several changes for 2019 UDS data collection:

- Substance Use Disorder and Mental Health Services: Collect substance use disorder and mental health services by provider specialty to better assess which providers are delivering behavioral health services; support investments in these priority areas; and better describe comprehensive, integrated models of care.
- Telemedicine and Virtual Visits: Collect information on services provided via telemedicine or virtual visits by provider in order to capture the changing health care delivery landscape.
- Tenure for Health Center Staff: Retire Table 5A related to the tenure for staff.
- Workforce: Collect workforce related information, including workforce satisfaction and health professional training.

Likely Respondents: The respondents will include Health Center Program awardees, Health Center Program look-alikes, and NEPQR Program awardees funded under the practice priority areas of section 831(b) of the PHS Act.

Burden Statement: Burden includes the time expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, disclose or provide the information requested. This includes the time needed to review instructions; to develop, acquire, install, and utilize technology and systems for the purpose of: Collecting, validating and verifying information, processing and maintaining information, disclosing and providing information. It also accounts for time to train personnel, respond to a collection of information, search data sources, complete and review the collection of information, and transmit or otherwise disclose the information. The total annual burden hours estimated for this ICR are summarized in the table below.

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<th>Average burden per response (in hours)</th>
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