

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, August 6, 2004.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

Notice of Interest Rate on Overdue Debts

Section 30.13 of the Department of Health and Human Services' claims collection regulations (45 CFR part 30) provides that the Secretary shall charge an annual rate of interest as fixed by the Secretary of the Treasury after taking into consideration private consumer rates of interest prevailing on the date that HHS becomes entitled to recovery. The rate generally cannot be lower than the Department of Treasury's current value of funds rate or the applicable rate determined from the "Schedule of Certified Interest Rates with Range of Maturities." This rate may be revised quarterly by the Secretary of the Treasury and shall be published quarterly by the Department of Health and Human Services in the **Federal Register**.

The Secretary of the Treasury has certified a rate of 11¾% for the quarter ended June 30, 2004. This interest rate will remain in effect until such time as the Secretary of the Treasury notifies HHS of any change.

Dated: August 4, 2004.

Shirl Ruffin,

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, Finance.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[30Day-04-0274]

Proposed Data Collections Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) publishes a list of information collection requests under review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). To request a copy of these requests, call the CDC Reports Clearance Officer at (404) 498-1210 or send an e-mail to omb@cdc.gov. Send written comments to CDC Desk Officer, Human Resources and Housing Branch, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503 or by fax to (202) 395-6974. Written comments should be received within 30 days of this notice.

Proposed Project

CDC Model Performance Evaluation Program (MPEP) for Retroviral and AIDS-Related Testing, OMB No. 0920-0274—Revision—Public Health Practice Program Office (PHPPO), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

In 1986, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) implemented the Model Performance Evaluation Program (MPEP) to evaluate the performance of laboratories conducting testing to detect human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) antibody (Ab), and to support CDC's mission of improving public health and preventing disease through continuously improving laboratory practices.

High-quality HIV-1 antibody testing is essential to meeting the public health objectives for the prevention and control of this retrovirus infection. High-quality CD4+ T-cell determinations and HIV-1 viral RNA (viral load) determinations are essential to HIV-infected patient care and management, and the mission of

reducing retrovirus-associated morbidity and mortality. Prevention programs, diagnostic clinics, and seroprevalence studies rely not only on accurate antibody testing results to document HIV infection but also accurate CD4+ T-cell determinations and HIV-1 viral RNA determinations. The impetus for developing this program came from the recognized need to assess the quality of retroviral and AIDS-related laboratory testing and to ensure that the quality of testing was adequate to meet medical and public health needs. The objectives of the MPEP are to: (1) Develop appropriate methods for evaluating quality in laboratory testing systems (including test selection, sample collection, and reporting and interpreting test results); (2) develop strategies for identifying and correcting testing quality failures; and (3) evaluate the effect of testing quality on public health.

This external quality assessment program will be made available at *no cost* (for receipt of sample panels) to sites conducting testing to detect human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) antibody (Ab), CD4+ T-cell determinations, and HIV-1 viral RNA determinations. This program will offer laboratories/testing sites an opportunity for:

- Assuring accurate tests are being provided by the laboratory/testing site through external quality assessment;
- Improving testing quality through self-evaluation in a non-regulatory environment;
- Testing well-characterized samples from a source outside the test kit manufacturer;
- Discovering potential testing problems so that procedures can be adjusted to eliminate them;
- Comparison of testing results with others at a national and international level; and
- Ability to consult with CDC staff to discuss testing issues.

The burden is estimated to be approximately 1057 hours.

Form name	Number of respondents	Number of responses per respondent	Average burden per response (in hrs.)
Enrollments (new)	100	1	3/60
HIV Testing Survey	1,000	1	* 1
CD4+ T-cell determinations Survey	325	1	*30/60
HIV-1 Ab PE Results Form	900	2	10/60
HIV-1 RNA PE Results Form	210	2	10/60
CD4+ T-cell determinations PE Results Form	300	2	10/60

* Both the HIV and the CD4+ T-cell determinations surveys are performed every other year; therefore, the total hour burden for these two surveys are divided by two.