



OFFICES AND CENTERS

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality • 540 Gaither Road • Rockville, MD 20850

Director

Carolyn M. Clancy, M.D.
Phone: 301-427-1200
Fax: 301-427-1201
E-mail: carolyn.clancy@ahrq.hhs.gov

Deputy Director

Kathie Kendrick, R.N., M.S., C.S.,
Phone: 301-427-1200
Fax: 301-427-1201
E-mail: kathleen.kendrick@ahrq.hhs.gov

Center for Delivery, Organization, and Markets

Irene Fraser, Ph.D., Director
Phone: 301-427-1410
Fax: 301-427-1430
E-mail: irene.fraser@ahrq.hhs.gov

Center for Financing, Access, and Cost Trends

Steven B. Cohen, Ph.D., Director
Phone: 301-427-1406
Fax: 301-427-1276
E-mail: steven.cohen@ahrq.hhs.gov

Center for Outcomes and Evidence

Jean R. Slutsky, P.A., M.S.P.H., Director
Phone: 301-427-1600
Fax: 301-427-1639
E-mail: jean.slutsky@ahrq.hhs.gov

Center for Primary Care, Prevention, and Clinical Partnerships

David Meyers, M.D., Director
Phone: 301-427-1500
Fax: 301-427-1595
E-mail: david.meyers@ahrq.hhs.gov

Center for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety

William B. Munier, M.D., Director
Phone: 301-427-1349
Fax: 301-427-1341
E-mail: william.munier@ahrq.hhs.gov

Office of Communications and Knowledge Transfer

Allan J. Lazar, M.B.A., Director
Phone: 301-427-1364
Fax: 301-427-1873
E-mail: allan.lazar@ahrq.hhs.gov

Office of Extramural Research, Education, and Priority Populations

Francis D. Chesley, Jr., M.D., Director
Phone: 301-427-1449
Fax: 301-426-1562
E-mail: francis.chesley@ahrq.hhs.gov

Office of Performance, Accountability, Resources, and Technology

Jeffrey Toven, Director
Phone: 301-427-1700
Fax: 301-427-1792
E-mail: jay.toven@ahrq.hhs.gov

Other Important Contacts

Conference Center	301-427-1800
Budget	301-427-1774
Contract Information	301-427-1783
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AHRQ is the lead Federal agency charged with supporting research designed to improve the quality of health care, reduce its cost, address patient safety and medical errors, and broaden access to essential services. AHRQ sponsors and conducts research that provides evidence-based information on health care outcomes; quality; and cost, use, and access. The information helps health care decisionmakers—patients and clinicians, health system leaders, and policymakers—make more informed decisions and improve the quality of health care services.