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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
Scientific Information Request on Public Reporting of Cost
Measures in Health

AGENCY: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), HHS.

ACTION: Request for Scientific Information Submissions

SUMMARY: The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is seeking scientific information submissions from the public on public reporting of cost measures in health. Scientific information is being solicited to inform our technical brief on *Public Reporting of Cost Measures in Health*, which is currently being conducted by the Evidence-based Practice Centers for the AHRQ Effective Health Care Program. Access to published and unpublished pertinent scientific information on public reporting of cost measures in health will improve the quality of this technical brief. AHRQ is conducting this technical brief pursuant to Section 1013 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003, Public Law 108-173, and Section 902(a) of the Public Health Service Act, 42 U.S.C. 299a(a).

DATES: *Submission Deadline* on or before [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES:

Online submissions: <http://effectivehealthcare.AHRQ.gov/index.cfm/submit-scientific-information-packets/>. Please select the study for which you are submitting information from the list to upload your documents.

E-mail submissions: SIPS@epc-src.org.

Print submissions:

Mailing Address:

Portland VA Research Foundation

Scientific Resource Center

ATTN: Scientific Information Packet Coordinator

PO Box 69539

Portland, OR 97239

Shipping Address (FedEx, UPS, etc.):

Portland VA Research Foundation

Scientific Resource Center

ATTN: Scientific Information Packet Coordinator

3710 SW U.S. Veterans Hospital Road

Mail Code: R&D 71

Portland, OR 97239

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robin Paynter, Research Librarian, Telephone: 503-220-8262 ext. 58652
or Email: SIPS@epc-src.org.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality has commissioned the Effective Health Care (EHC) Program Evidence-based Practice Centers to

complete a technical brief of the evidence for Public Reporting of Cost Measures in Health.

The EHC Program is dedicated to identifying as many studies as possible that are relevant to the questions for each of its technical briefs. In order to do so, we are supplementing the usual manual and electronic database searches of the literature by requesting information from the public (e.g., details of studies conducted). We are looking for studies that report on public reporting of cost measures in health, including those that describe adverse events. The entire research protocol, including the key questions, is also available online at: <http://effectivehealthcare.AHRQ.gov/ehc/products/562/1838/public-reporting-cost-measures-protocol-140113.pdf>

This notice is to notify the public that the EHC program would find the following information on public reporting of cost measures in health helpful:

- A list of completed studies your organization has sponsored for this indication. In the list, *indicate whether results are available on ClinicalTrials.gov along with the ClinicalTrials.gov trial number.*
- *For completed studies that do not have results on ClinicalTrials.gov, a summary, including the following elements: study number, study period, design, methodology, indication and diagnosis, proper use instructions, inclusion and exclusion criteria, primary and secondary outcomes, baseline characteristics, number of patients screened /eligible /enrolled /lost to follow-up /withdrawn /analyzed, effectiveness/efficacy, and safety results.*

- *A list of ongoing studies your organization has sponsored for this indication.* In the list, please provide the ClinicalTrials.gov trial number or, if the trial is not registered, the protocol for the study including a study number, the study period, design, methodology, indication and diagnosis, proper use instructions, inclusion and exclusion criteria, and primary and secondary outcomes.
- Description of whether the above studies constitute *ALL Phase II and above clinical trials* sponsored by your organization for this indication and an index outlining the relevant information in each submitted file.

Your contribution is very beneficial to the Program. The contents of all submissions will be made available to the public upon request. Materials submitted must be publicly available or can be made public. Materials that are considered confidential; marketing materials; study types not included in the review; or information on indications not included in the review cannot be used by the Effective Health Care Program. This is a voluntary request for information and all costs for complying with this request must be borne by the submitter.

The draft of this review will be posted on AHRQ's EHC program website and available for public comment for a period of 4 weeks. If you would like to be notified when the draft is posted, please sign up for the e-mail list at: <http://effectivehealthcare.AHRQ.gov/index.cfm/join-the-email-list1/>.

The technical brief will answer the following questions. This information is provided as background. AHRQ is not requesting that the public provide answers to these questions. The entire research protocol, is also available online at:

<http://effectivehealthcare.AHRQ.gov/ehc/products/562/1838/public-reporting-cost-measures-protocol-140113.pdf>

1. What measures of costs about healthcare providers and facilities have been publicly reported?

- a. Who produces these reports and where are they available?
- b. For what facilities are costs reported?
- c. At what level are these data aggregated (e.g. provider, facility, etc.)?
- d. How are the cost data reported (e.g., dollar amounts, symbols, graphs etc.)?
- e. How are the costs of providers/facilities compared (e.g., how many facilities, regional verses national comparisons etc.)?

2. Are the measures of costs that are being reported consumer centered?

- a. How are consumers instructed to use the data?
- b. What techniques are used to guide consumers to interpret the data appropriately?
- c. Is there evidence that the data is used by consumers?
- d. Is the data relevant to consumers making healthcare decisions?
- e. Is the data easily accessible and presented in a consumer friendly way?

3. What are the intended and unintended consequences of consumers' use of public-reported cost data?

- a. Do consumers find the public reporting of cost measures relevant and are consumers satisfied with the experience?
- b. Does the public reporting of cost measures impact (or have the potential to impact) consumers' decisions or behaviors?

- c. What are the potential unintended consequences of public reporting of cost measures?
- d. Are there key research gaps and needs for future research?

Dated: January 24, 2014.

Richard Kronick,
AHRQ Director.

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