

helps fulfill the Department of Health and Human Services' and FDA's important mission to protect the public health by educating regulated industry on FDA requirements to produce safe and effective drug products. FDA has made assurance of safe and effective drug products a high priority.

The workshop helps to implement the objectives of section 406 of the FDA Modernization Act (21 U.S.C. 393) and the FDA Plan for Statutory Compliance, which includes working more closely with stakeholders and ensuring access to needed scientific and technical expertise. The workshop also furthers the goals of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (Public Law 104-121) by providing outreach activities by Government agencies directed to small businesses.

Dated: January 28, 2003.

Margaret M. Dotzel,

Assistant Commissioner for Policy.

[FR Doc. 03-2603 Filed 2-3-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-01-S

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 00D-1540]

Withdrawal of Draft Guidance for Industry on Electronic Records; Electronic Signatures, Electronic Copies of Electronic Records

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice; withdrawal.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing the withdrawal of a draft guidance entitled "Guidance for Industry, 21 CFR Part 11; Electronic Records; Electronic Signatures, Electronic Copies of Electronic Records."

DATES: February 4, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Randall L. Woods, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (HFD-324), Food and Drug Administration, Metro Park North I, 7520 Standish Pl., rm. 265, Rockville, MD 20855, 301-827-0065.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

On August 21, 2002, FDA announced that it was undertaking a new initiative to enhance FDA's current good manufacturing practice program (the CGMP initiative). This new initiative will focus FDA's resources and regulatory attention on those aspects of manufacturing that pose the greatest

risk, ensure that FDA's work does not impede innovation, and enhance the consistency of FDA's regulatory approach among the various components. More information on FDA's announcement of this new initiative can be found on FDA's Web site at www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2002/NEW00829.html, or a copy of the press release (Ref. 1) may be seen in the Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852. Please reference the docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document.

Under the new initiative, primary responsibility for implementing part 11 (21 CFR Part 11); Electronic Records; Electronic Signatures has shifted to the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, with continued involvement from other Centers and the Office of Regulatory Affairs.

On November 12, 2002 (67 FR 68674), the agency issued a draft guidance for industry entitled "Guidance for Industry, 21 CFR Part 11; Electronic Records; Electronic Signatures, Electronic Copies of Electronic Records." The agency wishes to limit the time spent by industry reviewing and commenting on the guidance, which may no longer represent FDA's approach under the CGMP initiative. The agency may decide to reissue the draft guidance once it has reviewed it under the CGMP initiative.

II. Reference

The following reference is on display at the Dockets Management Branch (see section I of this document) and may be seen by interested parties between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

1. U.S. Food and Drug Administration press release, "FDA Unveils New Initiative To Enhance Pharmaceutical Good Manufacturing Practices," August 21, 2002.

Dated: January 28, 2003.

Margaret M. Dotzel,

Assistant Commissioner for Policy.

[FR Doc. 03-2602 Filed 2-3-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-01-S

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 03D-0023]

Guidance for Industry on Prussian Blue for Treatment of Internal Contamination With Thallium or Radioactive Cesium; Availability

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing that we have concluded that prussian blue, when produced under conditions specified in approved new drug applications (NDAs), can be found to be safe and effective for the treatment of internal contamination with radioactive thallium, nonradioactive thallium, or radioactive cesium. We encourage the submission of NDAs for prussian blue drug products. We are also announcing the availability of a guidance for industry entitled "Prussian Blue Drug Products—Submitting a New Drug Application." This guidance is intended to assist manufacturers who plan to submit NDAs for prussian blue.

DATES: Submit written or electronic comments on agency guidances at any time.

ADDRESSES: Submit NDAs to the Food and Drug Administration, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Central Document Room, 12229 Wilkins Ave., Rockville, MD 20852. Submit requests for copies of draft labeling to the Division of Medical Imaging and Radiopharmaceutical Drug Products, (HFD-160), Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, 301-827-7510. Copies of the reports referred to in this document will be on display at the Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852. Submit written requests for single copies of the guidance to the Division of Drug Information (HFD-240), Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857. Send one self-addressed adhesive label to assist that office in processing your requests. Submit written comments on the guidance to the Dockets Management Branch (address provided in third sentence of this paragraph). Submit electronic comments to <http://www.fda.gov/dockets/ecomments>. See

the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for electronic access to the guidance document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kyong Kang, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (HFD-160), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, 301-827-7510.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

A. Cesium

Cesium-137, a radioactive isotope of cesium, was discovered in 1941 by Glenn T. Seaborg and Margaret Melhase. Cesium-137 is a product of fusion and is found in the fallout from the detonation of nuclear weapons and the waste from nuclear power plants. Cesium-137 is one of the most common radioisotopes used in industry. It is used in various measuring devices, such as moisture-density gauges. Cesium-137 is also widely used as a source of gamma radiation for treatment of various forms of cancer. Cesium-137 has a half-life of 30.07 years.

Contamination with cesium-137 can cause serious illness or death, depending upon the dose, and has been associated with the development of cancer long after exposure. In addition to concerns about exposure to cesium-137 in industrial and medical environments, cesium-137 contamination is of particular concern because it has been mentioned as a potential component of a radiological dispersal device (RDD), commonly called a "dirty bomb." An RDD is a conventional explosive or bomb containing radioactive material. The conventional bomb is used as a means to spread radioactive material, such as cesium-137. An RDD is not a nuclear bomb and does not involve a nuclear explosion.

B. Thallium

Thallium occurs naturally in several minerals and ores. It was discovered independently by both William Crookes and Claude Auguste Lamy in the early 1860s. Thallium is very toxic, and thallium sulfate has been used as a rat and ant poison in the past. Other thallium compounds are used in the manufacture of semiconductors, photocells, optical glass, and other items. Thallium-201, a radioactive isotope of thallium, is widely used in very small doses as an approved radioimaging drug. Thallium-201 has a half-life of 72.912 hours.

Acute exposure to high dose radioactive or nonradioactive thallium is generally characterized by severe

gastrointestinal symptoms followed by neurological symptoms, which may lead to death. The toxicity resulting from chronic exposure to thallium is characterized by various neurological symptoms. Thallium-201 has also been mentioned as a potential component of a dirty bomb.

There are no approved treatments for internal contamination with thallium or radioactive cesium.

C. Prussian Blue

Prussian blue was first synthesized in 1704 by a Berlin color maker named Diesbach. It has been used as an industrial and artists' pigment ever since. The chemical name for prussian blue is ferric hexacyanoferrate(II).

Since the 1960s, prussian blue has been used investigatively as an orally ingested drug to enhance the excretion of isotopes of cesium and thallium from the body by means of ion exchange. However, there is currently no approved NDA for prussian blue. Prussian blue has a very high affinity for cesium and thallium. Cesium and thallium ions are ordinarily excreted into the intestine, reabsorbed from there into the bile, and then excreted again into the gastrointestinal tract. Orally administered prussian blue traps thallium or cesium in the intestine, interrupts its reabsorption from the gastrointestinal tract, and thereby increases fecal excretion of thallium and cesium. Prussian blue itself is not absorbed across the intestinal wall in significant amounts.

Prussian blue, in 500-milligram (mg) capsules, has been distributed by the Radiation Emergency Assistance Center/ Training Site (REAC/TS) under investigational new drug application (IND) number 51,700. REAC/TS is part of the Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU). ORAU operates the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) under a contract with the Department of Energy. ORISE owns the IND for prussian blue. The 500-mg capsules used under the IND are manufactured by HEYL Chemisch-pharmazeutische Fabrik GmbH & Co. KG (HEYL). HEYL uses the trade name Radiogardase-Cs for its 500-mg capsules of prussian blue.

II. Safety and Effectiveness of Prussian Blue Drug Products

We have concluded that prussian blue, when produced under conditions specified in approved NDAs, can be found to be safe and effective for the treatment of internal contamination with radioactive thallium, nonradioactive thallium, or radioactive cesium. As described in the following

paragraphs, our conclusion is based upon our review of published information.

We encourage the submission of NDAs for prussian blue drug products. If you are interested in submitting an NDA for this product, please contact us. We also recommend that you consult the guidance "Prussian Blue Drug Products—Submitting a New Drug Application," which is being made available with this notice.

A. Basis for Finding of Safety and Effectiveness

We have reviewed the published literature and have determined that 500-mg prussian blue capsules, when produced under conditions specified in an approved NDA, can be found to be safe and effective for the treatment of patients with known or suspected internal contamination with radioactive thallium, nonradioactive thallium, or radioactive cesium. Prussian blue increases the rate of elimination of thallium or radioactive cesium. Administration of prussian blue decreases the risk of death and major morbidity after exposure to radioactive thallium, nonradioactive thallium, or radioactive cesium.

In reaching our determination on the effectiveness of prussian blue, we evaluated published reports of a 1987 incident in Goiânia, Brazil, where approximately 250 people were contaminated with cesium-137 that had been abandoned after use in a cancer clinic (see International Atomic Energy Agency, 1998). Forty-six patients with heavy internal contamination were treated with prussian blue. Data on the whole-body effective half-life of cesium-137 during treatment and after treatment with prussian blue was completed on 33 of the 46 patients. The untreated mean whole-body effective half-life of cesium-137 is 80 days in adults, 62 days in adolescents, and 42 days in children. Prussian blue reduced the mean whole-body effective half-life of cesium-137 by 69 per cent in adults, by 46 per cent in adolescents, and by 43 per cent in children (see International Atomic Energy Agency, 1998). Data from additional literature articles, including a study of 7 human volunteers contaminated with trace doses of cesium-137 and reports on 19 patients contaminated with cesium-137 in other incidents, show a similar reduction in whole-body effective half-life after administration of prussian blue (see Madhus, 1968 and National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurement, 1979).

We also evaluated reports in the literature that describe 33 patients who

were treated with prussian blue for nonradioactive thallium poisoning. Prussian blue treatment reduced the mean serum biologic half-life of thallium from 8 days to 3 days (see Barbier, 1974; De Groot, 1985; Van Kesteren, 1980; and Vrij, 1995).

The primary adverse effects of prussian blue are constipation and nonspecific gastrointestinal distress. These side effects are more troublesome at high doses and respond to treatment with orally administered fiber (see Farina, 1991). Other rare adverse events are discussed in the published literature and in the draft labeling we have prepared.

B. Labeling for Prussian Blue

We have prepared draft labeling for orally administered drug products containing 500-mg prussian blue capsules. You can submit this draft labeling as part of an application for 500-mg prussian blue capsules that relies on our findings of safety and effectiveness. The draft labeling reflects our conclusion on the potential safety and effectiveness of 500-mg prussian blue drug products for the treatment of internal contamination with radioactive thallium, nonradioactive thallium, or radioactive cesium. If you wish to change the labeling to include a different or broader indication, different dosage, or make any other significant changes to the draft labeling, you should provide, as part of your application, additional literature or other studies to support your requested changes. If you submit an application for a prussian blue drug product that is not based on FDA's findings of safety and effectiveness of prussian blue, you may not use the draft labeling because it is based on our review of the published literature. If you submit such an application, your labeling must be based on the safety and effectiveness data contained in your NDA.

The draft labeling for applications based on this finding of safety and effectiveness is available on the Internet at <http://www.fda.gov/cder/foi/label/2003/ind51700lbl.pdf>. You may also contact the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research's Division of Medical Imaging and Radiopharmaceutical Drug Products for a copy of the draft labeling (see ADDRESSES).

III. Conclusions

We have determined that 500-mg prussian blue capsules can be safe and effective for the treatment of patients with known or suspected internal contamination with radioactive thallium, nonradioactive thallium, or radioactive cesium. We encourage the

submission of NDAs for prussian blue drug products. The requirement under 21 U.S.C. 355(b)(1) for full reports of investigations to support these NDAs may be met by citing the published literature we relied on in preparing this notice. A list of the published literature and reprints of the reports will be available for public inspection in the Dockets Management Branch (see ADDRESSES). It is unnecessary to submit copies and reprints of the reports from the listed published literature. We invite applicants to submit any other pertinent studies and literature of which they are aware.

IV. Availability of a Guidance

A. Notice of Availability

In this notice, we are also announcing the availability of a guidance for industry entitled, "Prussian Blue Drug Products—Submitting a New Drug Application." The guidance is intended to assist manufacturers who plan to submit NDAs for prussian blue.

This guidance is being issued as a level 1 guidance consistent with FDA's good guidance practices regulation (21 CFR 10.115). It is being implemented immediately without prior public comment because the agency believes it is in the interest of the public health to communicate this information to the public as quickly as possible. However, the agency welcomes comments on the guidance and, if comments are submitted, the agency will review them and revise the guidance if appropriate. The guidance represents the agency's current thinking on issues associated with the submission of NDAs for prussian blue. It does not create or confer any rights for or on any person and does not operate to bind FDA or the public. An alternative approach may be used if such approach satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations.

B. Comments

Interested persons may, at any time, submit written or electronic comments on the guidance to the Dockets Management Branch (see ADDRESSES). Two copies of any mailed comments are to be submitted except that individuals may submit one copy. Comments are to be identified with the docket number found in the brackets in the heading of this document. The document and received comments are available for public examination in the Dockets Management Branch between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

C. Electronic Access

Persons with access to the Internet may obtain the guidance at either <http://www.fda.gov/cder/guidance/index.htm> or <http://www.fda.gov/ohrms/dockets/default.htm>.

V. Published Literature on the Safety and Effectiveness of Prussian Blue

The published literature we have relied on in making the determinations regarding prussian blue contained in this notice is listed in this section of this document. Copies of the published literature will be on display in the Dockets Management Branch (see ADDRESSES) and can be seen by interested persons between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

1. Atsmon, J. et al., "Thallium Poisoning in Israel," *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*, 320:327–330, 2000.
2. Barbier, F., "Treatment of Thallium Poisoning," *Lancet*, 7886(II):965, 1974.
3. British Industrial Biological Research Association, "Short-Term Feeding Study of Sodium Ferrocyanide in Rats," *Food and Cosmetics Toxicology*, 7:409–410, 1969.
4. Brandao-Mello, C. E. et al., "Clinical Hematological Aspects of ¹³⁷Cs: The Goiania Radiation Accident," *Health Physics*, 60:31–39, 1991.
5. Buser, H. J. et al., "The Crystal Structure of Prussian Blue: Fe₄[Fe(CN)₆]₃•xH₂O," *Inorganic Chemistry*, 16:2704–2709, 1977.
6. Dresow, B. et al., "In Vivo Binding of Radiocesium by Two Forms of Prussian Blue and by Ammonium Iron Hexacyanoferrate (II)," *Clinical Toxicology*, 31:563–569, 1993.
7. De Groot, G. et al., "An Evaluation of the Efficacy of Charcoal Haemoperfusion in the Treatment of Three Cases of Acute Thallium Poisoning," *Archives of Toxicology*, 57:61–66, 1985.
8. De Groot, G., and A. N. P. Van Heijst, "Toxicokinetic Aspects of Thallium Poisoning. Methods of Treatment by Toxin Elimination," *The Science of the Total Environment*, 71:411–418, 1988.
9. Farina, R., C. E. Brandao-Mello, and A. R. Oliveira, "Medical Aspects of ¹³⁷Cs Decorporation: The Goiania Radiological Accident," *Health Physics*, 60:63–66, 1991.
10. Giambarresi, L., "Radioprotectants," in *Military Radiobiology*, Orlando, Academic Press, 1987.
11. Heydlauf, H., "Ferric-Cyanoferrate (II): An Effective Antidote in Thallium Poisoning," *European Journal of Pharmacology*, 6:340–344, 1969.
12. Hoffman, R. et al., "Comparative Efficacy of Thallium Absorption by Activated Charcoal, Prussian Blue, and Sodium Polystyrene," *Journal of Toxicology-Clinical Toxicology*, 37:833–837, 1999.
13. Hoffman, R., "The Toxic Emergency," *Emergency Medicine*, June:127–128, 1994.
14. International Atomic Energy Agency, *The Radiological Accident in Goiania*, Vienna, IAEA, 1988.
15. International Atomic Energy Agency, *Dosimetric and Medical Aspects of the Radiological Accident in Goiania in 1987*, Vienna, IAEA-TECDOC-1009, 1998.

16. Ioannides, K. G., A. A. Mantzios, and C. P. Pappas, "Influence of Prussian Blue in Reducing Transfer of Radiocesium Into Ovine Milk," *Health Physics*, 60:261–264, 1991.

17. Kargacin, B., and K. Kostial, "Reduction of ^{85}Sr , ^{137}Cs , ^{131}I and ^{141}Ce Retention in Rats by Simultaneous Oral Administration of Calcium Alginate, Ferrihexacyanoferrate(II) Ki and Zn-Dtpa," *Health Physics*, 5:859–864, 1985.

18. Kargacin, B. et al., "The Influence of a Composite Treatment for Internal Contamination by Several Radionuclides on Certain Health Parameters in Rats," *Arhiv za Higijenu Rada i Toksikologiju*, 36:165–172, 1985.

19. Kostial, K. et al., "Simultaneous Reduction of Radioactive Strontium, Caesium, and Iodine Retention by Single Treatment in Rats," *The Science of the Total Environment*, 22:1–10, 1981.

20. Kostial, K. et al., "A Method for Simultaneous Decrease of Strontium, Caesium, and Iodine Retention After Oral Exposure in Rats," *International Journal of Radiation Biology*, 37:347–350, 1980.

21. Kostial, K., B. Kargacin, and I. Simonovic, "Efficacy of a Composite Treatment for Mixed Fission Products in Rats," *Journal of Applied Toxicology*, 3:291–296, 1983.

22. Kravzov, J. et al., "Relationship Between Physiological Properties of Prussian Blue and Its Efficacy as Antidote Against Thallium Poisoning," *Journal of Applied Toxicology*, 13:213–216, 1993.

23. Lehmann, P. A., and L. Favari, "Acute Thallium Intoxication: Kinetic Study of the Relative Efficacy of Several Antidotal Treatments in Rats," *Archives of Toxicology*, 57:56–60, 1985.

24. Lipsztein, J. L. et al., "Studies of Cs Retention in the Human Body Related to Body Parameters and Prussian Blue Administration," *Health Physics*, 60:57–61, 1991.

25. Lipsztein, J. L. et al., "Application of In-Vitro Bioassay for ^{137}Cs During the Emergency Phase of the Goiania Accident," *Health Physics*, 60:43–49, 1991.

26. Madhus, K., and A. Stromme, "Increased Excretion of Cs-137 in Humans by Prussian Blue," *Zeitschrift für Naturforschung. Teil B: Chemie, Biochemie, Biophysik, Biologie*, 23b:391–393, 1968.

27. Melo, D. R. et al., " ^{137}Cs Internal Contamination Involving a Brazilian Accident, and the Efficacy of Prussian Blue Treatment," *Health Physics*, 66:245–252, 1994.

28. Moore, D., I. House, and A. Dixon, "Thallium Poisoning. Diagnosis May Be Elusive But Alopecia Is the Clue," *British Medical Journal*, 306:1527–1529, 1993.

29. Moore, Jr. W., and C. L. Comar, "Absorption of Caesium 137 From the Gastro-Intestinal Tract of the Rat," *International Journal of Radiation Biology*, 5:247–254, 1962.

30. National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurement, *Management of Persons Accidentally Contaminated With Radionuclides: Recommendations of the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurement*, Washington, DC, NCRPM, 1979, pp. 77–79.

31. Nielson, P. et al., "Intestinal Absorption of Iron from ^{59}Fe -Labelled Hexacyanoferrates (II) in Piglets," *Arzneimittel Forschung (Aulendorf)*, 38:1469–1471, 1988.

32. Nigrovic, V., "Enhancement of the Excretion of Radiocaesium in Rats by Ferric Cyanoferrate (II)," *International Journal of Radiation Biology*, 7:307–309, 1963.

33. Nigrovic, V., "Retention of Radiocaesium by the Rat as Influenced by Prussian Blue and Other Compounds," *Physics in Medicine and Biology*, 10:81–91, 1965.

34. Pau, P. W. I., "Management of Thallium Poisoning," *Hong Kong Medical Journal*, 6:316–318, 2000.

35. Pearce, J., "Studies of Any Toxicological Effects of Prussian Blue Compounds in Mammals-A Review," *Food and Chemical Toxicology*, 32:577–582, 1994.

36. "Prussian Blue," in the Extra Pharmacopeia, ed. J. E. F. Reynolds, 28th ed., London, Pharmaceutical Press, 1982, p. 1749.

37. Richmond, C. R., "Accelerating the Turnover of Internally Deposited Radiocesium," *Symposium on Diagnosis and Treatment of Deposited Radionuclides; proceedings*, pp. 315–327, 1968.

38. Richmond, C. R., and D. E. Bunde, "Enhancement of Cesium-137 Excretion by Rats Maintained Chronically on Ferric Ferrocyanide," *Proceedings of the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine*, 121:664–670, 1966.

39. Rosoff, B., S. H. Cohn, and H. Spencer, "Cesium-137 Metabolism in Man," *Radiation Research*, 19:643–654, 1963.

40. Rundo, J., and F. M. Turner, "On the Biological Half-Life of Caesium in Pregnant Women and in Infants," *Radiation Protection Dosimetry*, 41:211–216, 1992.

41. Stromme, A., "Increased Excretion of ^{137}Cs in Humans by Prussian Blue," *Symposium on Diagnosis and Treatment of Deposited Radionuclides; proceedings*, pp. 329–332, 1968.

42. Van Kesteren, R. G. et al., "Thallium Intoxication. An Evaluation of Therapy," *Intensivmedizin*, 17:293–297, 1980.

43. Verzijl, J. M. et al., "Hemodialysis as a Potential Method for the Decontamination of Persons Exposed to Radiocesium," *Health Physics*, 69:543–548, 1995.

44. Verzijl, J. M. et al., "The Influence of Extracorporeal Clearance Techniques on Elimination of Radiocesium After Internal Contamination," *Health Physics*, 69:521–529, 1995.

45. Vrij, A., H. M. Cremers, and F. A. Lustermaans, "Successful Recovery of a Patient With Thallium Poisoning," *Netherlands Journal of Medicine*, 47:121–126, 1995.

46. World Health Organization, *Health Consequences of the Chernobyl Accident: Results of the IPHECA Pilot Projects and Related National Programmes: Summary Report*, Geneva, WHO, 1995.

Dated: January 28, 2003.

Margaret M. Dotzel,

Assistant Commissioner for Policy.

[FR Doc. 03–2597 Filed 1–31–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-01-S

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

In compliance with section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 concerning opportunity for public comment on proposed collections of information, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration will publish periodic summaries of proposed projects. To request more information on the proposed projects or to obtain a copy of the information collection plans, call the SAMHSA Reports Clearance Officer on (301) 443–7978.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collections of information are necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Proposed Project: Opioid Treatment Program Accreditation Evaluation—New—The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), Division of Pharmacologic Therapies (DPT), is evaluating the new system of opioid treatment program (OTP) regulation, which relies on accreditation by independent organizations approved by CSAT. This replaces the former system of regulation by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Effective May 18, 2001, SAMHSA and CSAT, in conjunction with the FDA and other Federal agencies, issued "final regulations for the use of narcotic drugs in maintenance and detoxification treatment of opioid addiction," 42 CFR part 8. To date, SAMHSA has approved four organizations to provide accreditation to or conduct accreditation surveys of programs that use methadone and other approved medications to treat opioid addiction: (1) The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), (2) the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), (3)