

Estimated Annual Burden: 13,500 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 15 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 54,000.

By direction of the Secretary.

Dated: November 16, 2001.

Donald L. Neilson,

Director, Information Management Service.

[FR Doc. 01-29736 Filed 11-29-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Scientific Review and Evaluation Board for Health Services Research and Development Service, Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration, gives notice under Pub. L. 92-463, that a meeting of the Scientific Review and Evaluation Board for Health Services Research and Development Service, will be held at the Emily Morgan Hotel, 705 East Houston Street, San Antonio, Texas 78205, January 22-25, 2002. The meeting will convene from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. on January 22, 2002, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. on January 23 and 24, 2002, and from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. on January 25, 2002. The purpose of the meeting is to review research and development applications concerned with the measurement and evaluation of health care services and with testing new methods of health care delivery and management, and nursing research. Applications are reviewed for scientific and technical merit. Recommendations regarding funding are prepared for the Chief Research and Development Officer.

This meeting will be open to the public at the start of the January 22 session for approximately one half-hour to cover administrative matters and to discuss the general status of the program. The closed portion of the meeting involves discussion, examination, reference to, and oral review of staff and consultant critiques of research protocols and similar documents. During this portion of the meeting, discussion and recommendations will include qualifications of the personnel conducting the studies (the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy), as well as research information (the premature disclosure of which would be likely to frustrate significantly the implementation of proposed agency

action regarding such research projects). As provided by the subsection 10(d) of Pub. L. 92-463, as amended by Pub. L. 94-409, closing portions of these meetings is in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6) and (9)(B).

Those who plan to attend the open session should contact Mr. John G. Demakis, Director, Health Services Research and Development Service (124F), Department of Veterans Affairs, 1400 I Street, NW., Suite 780, Washington, DC, at least five days before the meeting. For further information, call (202) 408-3665.

Dated: November 20, 2001.

By Direction of the Secretary.

Nora E. Egan,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 01-29737 Filed 11-29-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

ACTION: Notice of new system of records—Compliance Records, Response, and Resolution of Reports of Persons Allegedly Involved in Compliance Violations—VA.

SUMMARY: As required by the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a(e), notice is hereby given that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is adding a new system of records, "Compliance Records, Response, and Resolution of Reports of Persons Allegedly Involved in Compliance Violations—VA" (106VA17).

DATES: Comments on the establishment of this system of records must be received no later than December 31, 2001. If no public comment is received during the period allowed for comment or unless otherwise published in the Federal Register by VA, the new system will become effective December 31, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Written comments concerning the proposed new system of records may be submitted to the Office of Regulations Management (02D), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420. Comments will be available for public inspection at the above address in the Office of Regulations Management, Room 1158, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (except holidays).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Privacy Act Officer, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, telephone (727) 320-1839.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Description of the Proposed Systems of Records

The Compliance and Business Integrity (CBI) Program, although originally modeled after Health and Human Services (HHS)—Office of Inspector General's (OIG) hospital compliance program, has evolved into a program that meets program requirements specific to VA. Management of the CBI Program falls under the direction of the VHA Chief Financial Officer (CFO). The CBI Program assures the organizational and business structure within which patient care takes place is in compliance with laws, regulations, policies and standards, which impact the business. It also reduces business risk and serves as a management function that is interdisciplinary in nature, focuses on business processes and acts as a fiduciary of public resources. An integral component of the Compliance and Business Integrity (CBI) Program is the establishment of a Confidential Disclosure Program (CDP) designed to ensure activities of VHA are conducted in compliance with public law, established regulations and recognized standards of business practice. The CDP assures integrity of business and operational processes within VHA by providing a mechanism for employees to raise questions and report concerns about potential non-compliance and is consistent with similar reporting and tracking mechanisms identified by HHS—OIG as integral to effective health care compliance programs. Two elements of the CDP are the CBI Helpline and the Compliance Reporting and Tracking System (CIRTS). Together, they comprise the core of the CDP. VHA has contracted for the CBI Helpline, which serves as an anonymous avenue for employees and others to access the CDP in an attempt to assure the integrity of VHA business and operational processes.

The CBI Helpline is established to control the receipt and disposition of reports and/or concerns related to the following VHA areas: Enrollment; Means Testing; Eligibility; Pre-certification and certification/utilization review; Standards pertaining to documentation, coding and billing; Audits, reviews, inquiries and remediation; Accounts receivable and