

engage in any action prohibited by Paragraph II.A. through II.C.

Paragraph II. also contains two provisos intended to clarify certain types of agreements that Paragraph II. does not prohibit. The first proviso applies to RTWA and Mr. Welter, and the second to the Respondent Practice Groups. Each provides that nothing in Paragraph II. prohibits the applicable Respondent from engaging in conduct that is reasonably necessary to form, participate in, or act in furtherance of, a "qualified risk-sharing joint arrangement" or a "qualified clinically-integrated joint arrangement."

As defined in the proposed order, a "qualified risk-sharing joint arrangement" must satisfy two conditions. First, all physician participants must share substantial financial risk through the arrangement and thereby create incentives for the physician participants jointly to control costs and improve quality by managing the provision of services. Second, any agreement concerning reimbursement or other terms or conditions of dealing must be reasonably necessary to obtain significant efficiencies through the joint arrangement. The definition of financial risk-sharing tracks the discussion of that term contained in the Health Care Statements.

As defined in the proposed order, a "qualified clinically-integrated joint arrangement" also must satisfy two conditions. First, all physician participants must participate in active and ongoing programs to evaluate and modify their clinical practice patterns, creating a high degree of interdependence and cooperation among physicians, in order to control costs and ensure the quality of services provided. Second, any agreement concerning reimbursement or other terms or conditions of dealing must be reasonably necessary to obtain significant efficiencies through the joint arrangement. This definition also reflects the analysis contained in the Health Care Statements.

Paragraph II.'s provisos also provide that Paragraph II. does not prohibit the Respondents from facilitating an agreement solely between physicians who are part of the same medical group practice. The proposed order defines such a practice as a bona fide, integrated firm in which physicians practice medicine together as partners, shareholders, owners, members, or employees or in which only one physician practices medicine.

Paragraph III. prohibits RTWA and Mr. Welter, for a period of three years, from negotiating with any payor on behalf of any PIWC physician, and from

advising any PIWC physician to accept or reject any term, condition, or requirement of dealing with any payor.

Mr. Welter is not prohibited from performing legitimate "messenger" services, including with respect to PIWC physicians. As noted above, a properly constituted messenger can efficiently facilitate the establishment of physician-payor contracts and avoid fostering unlawful agreements among the participating physicians. As set forth in the proposed complaint, however, while Mr. Welter purported to operate as a legitimate messenger, in practice he fostered anticompetitive physician agreements by negotiating directly with payors for higher fees on behalf of all PIWC participants, and by advising the PIWC participants collectively to reject various payor offers and to engage in concerted refusals to deal. For this reason, Paragraph III. is a necessary and appropriate supplement to Paragraph II.'s provisions. Under the proposed order, Mr. Welter may serve as a messenger for PIWC physicians, but, pursuant to Paragraph III., may not negotiate for or advise any PIWC physician with respect to payor contracts.

Paragraphs IV.A. and IV.B. require RTWA to distribute the complaint and order to all physicians who participated in PIWC and to the payors that negotiated contracts with RTWA or Mr. Welter on behalf of any Respondent Practice Group. Paragraph VI.A. requires Respondent Practice Groups to terminate, without penalty, at any payor's request, current contracts, with respect to providing physician services, negotiated by Mr. Welter with payors. This provision is intended to eliminate the effects of Respondents' anticompetitive concerted actions.

The remaining provisions of Paragraphs IV. through VIII. of the proposed order impose obligations on Respondents with respect to distributing the proposed complaint and order to various persons and reporting information to the Commission. For example, Paragraph IV.C. and V.A. require RTWA and Mr. Welter, respectively, to distribute copies of the complaint and order to the physicians on whose behalf they negotiate payor contracts, and to those payors. Paragraphs IV.E., V.B., and VI.B. require the Respondents to file periodic reports with the Commission detailing how the Respondents have complied with the order. Paragraph VIII. authorizes Commission staff to obtain access to Respondents' records and officers, directors, partners, and employees for the purpose of determining or securing compliance with the order.

The proposed order will expire in 20 years.

By direction of the Commission.

Donald S. Clark,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

Public Meeting/Opportunity for Public Comment: Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)

AGENCY: Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Secretary, Office of Public Health and Science/ Office of Global Health Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is soliciting comments on the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), a proposed international legal instrument intended to address the global problem of tobacco use. Individuals and organizations are encouraged to comment on the FCTC in one or both of the following ways: (1) In writing, by submission through the mails, or e-mail; (2) in person, at a public meeting that will be convened in Nashville, TN.

DATES: Written comments may be submitted until September 27, 2002. Comments can be submitted by mail or electronically (electronic submissions are encouraged).

ADDRESSES: To submit electronic comments, send via e-mail to FCTC.OGHA@osophs.dhhs.gov. To submit comments by mail, send to: FCTC Comments (Attn: Ms. Gail Zaslow), Office of Global Health Affairs, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 18-105, Rockville, MD 20857.

The public meeting will be held on September 20, 2002, from 9:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Nashville Public Library, 615 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37219. Seating capacity is 125 people. Comments also will be accepted during the public meeting. Those who wish to attend are encouraged to register early with the contact person listed below. If you will require a sign language interpreter, or have other special needs, please notify the contact person by 4:30 E.D.T. on September 5, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Joy Epstein, Office of Global Health Affairs, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 18-105, Rockville, MD 20857, 301-443-

1774 (telephone) or 301-443-6822 (facsimile) or
 FCTC.OGHA@osophs.dhhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In May 1999, the World Health Assembly, the governing body of the World Health Organization, unanimously adopted resolution WHA 52.18 calling for negotiation of a Framework Convention on Tobacco Control support (FCTC). The United States joined other countries in voicing support for negotiation of the convention, which is intended to address the global problem of tobacco use. Following two meetings of an FCTC working group held in Geneva in October 1999 and March 2000, an Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) was established to negotiate the text of the FCTC and related protocols. Four meetings of the INB have been conducted, in October 2000, April and November 2001, and March 2002. A negotiating team headed by staff of the Office of Global Health Affairs (DHHS) represented the United States. Other members of the negotiating team represented HHS, the Departments of State, Treasury, Justice, Agriculture, and the U.S. Trade Representative. An interagency working group developed the guidance for the negotiating team.

The fifth INB session is scheduled for October 14-25, 2002.

(Background documents on the FCTC are available on the World Health Organization's Web site at <http://tobacco.who.int/en/fctc/index.html>.)

Written Comments: In preparation for the fifth INB session, the U.S. negotiating delegation is seeking comments from the public on the FCTC. A new draft of the FCTC was released by the chairman of the INB on July 16, 2002. It is available at <http://www.who.int/gb/fctc/PDF/inb5/einb52.doc>. Comments should be based on this version of the draft convention.

Announcement of Meeting: The U.S. Government is seeking to understand the perspectives of various organizations and individuals on the FCTC. The comment period and public meeting are intended to give interested persons, including public health and medical professionals, state and local officials, farmers, retailers, manufacturers, and others an opportunity to comment on the FCTC. Respondents to this notice will have the opportunity to speak to representatives of the government.

Meeting Location and Registration: The public meeting will be held on September 20, 2002, from 9:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Nashville Public Library, 615 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37219.

If you would like to attend the public meeting, you are encouraged to register early by providing your name, title, firm name, address, and telephone number to Gail Zaslow (contact information above). The U.S. Government encourages individuals to submit written comments, either electronically or by mail. Comments also will be accepted during the meeting. If you would like to speak at the meeting, please notify Gail Zaslow (address above) when you register.

The transcript of the public meeting and submitted comments will be posted on the Internet at <http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/global/framework.htm>.

Dated: August 21, 2002.

William R. Steiger,

Special Assistant to the Secretary for International Affairs and Director, Office of Global Health Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[60Day-02-69]

Proposed Data Collections Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 for opportunity for public comment on proposed data collection projects, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will publish periodic summaries of proposed projects. To request more information on the proposed projects or to obtain a copy of the data collection plans and instruments, call the CDC Reports Clearance Officer on (404) 639-7090.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is 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. Send comments to Anne O'Connor, CDC Assistant Reports Clearance Officer, 1600 Clifton Road, MS-D24, Atlanta, GA 30333. Written

comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

Proposed Project

Work Organization Predictors of Depression in Women—NEW—The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Background

Depression is a costly and debilitating occupational health problem. Research has indicated that the costs to an organization of treatment for depression can rival those for heart disease, and both major depressive disorder and forms of minor depression have been found to be associated with more disability days than other types of health diagnoses. This may be of particular relevance for working women. Various national and international studies indicate that women in developed countries experience depression at up to twice the rate of men. Studies that have examined this gender difference have focused on social, personality, and genetic explanations while few have explored factors in the workplace that may contribute to the gender differential. Examples of workplace factors that may contribute to depression among women include: additive workplace and home responsibilities, lack of control and authority, and low paying and low status jobs. Additionally, women are much more likely to face various types of discrimination in the workplace than men, ranging from harassment to inequalities in hiring and promotional opportunities, and these types of stressors have been strongly linked with psychological distress and other negative health outcomes. On the positive side, organizations that are judged by their employees to value diversity and employee development engender lower levels of employee stress, and those that enforce policies against discrimination have more committed employees. Such organizational practices and policies may be beneficial for employee mental health, particularly the mental health of women.

This research will focus on the following questions: (1) Which work organization factors are most predictive of depression in women, and (2) are there measurable work organization factors that confer protection against depression in women employees.

The research will use a repeated measures, prospective design with data collection at three points (baseline and 1-year and 2-year follow-ups). A 30-40 minute survey will be administered by