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*Name of Committee:* National Institute of Mental Health Special Emphasis Panel, Review of NIMH Research Education Applications.

*Date:* March 2, 2010.

*Time:* 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate grant applications.

*Place:* The Dupont Hotel, 1500 New Hampshire Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20036.

*Contact Person:* Rebecca C. Steiner, PhD, Scientific Review Officer, Division of Extramural Activities, National Institute of Mental Health, NIH, Neuroscience Center, 6001 Executive Blvd., Room 6149, MSC 9608, Bethesda, MD 20892-9608, 301-443-4525, [steinerr@mail.nih.gov](mailto:steinerr@mail.nih.gov).

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.242, Mental Health Research Grants; 93.281, Scientist Development Award, Scientist Development Award for Clinicians, and Research Scientist Award; 93.282, Mental Health National Research Service Awards for Research Training, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: January 11, 2010.

**Jennifer Spaeth,**

*Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.*

[FR Doc. 2010-677 Filed 1-14-10; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4140-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Health Resources and Services Administration

#### National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program: Revised Amount of the Average Cost of a Health Insurance Policy

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is publishing an updated monetary amount of the average cost of a health insurance policy as it relates to the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP).

Section 100.2 of the VICP's implementing regulation (42 CFR Part 100) states that the revised amounts of an average cost of a health insurance policy, as determined by the Secretary, are to be published periodically in a notice in the **Federal Register**. This figure is calculated using the most recent Medical Expenditure Panel Survey-Insurance Component (MEPS-IC) data available as the baseline for the average monthly cost of a health insurance policy. This baseline is adjusted by the annual percentage increase/decrease obtained from the most recent annual Kaiser Family

Foundation and Health Research and Educational Trust (KFF/HRET) Employer Health Benefits survey or other authoritative source that may be more accurate or appropriate.

In 2009, MEPS-IC, available at <http://www.meps.ahrq.gov>, published the annual 2008 average total single premium per enrolled employee at private-sector establishments that provide health insurance. The figure published was \$4,386. This figure is divided by 12-months to determine the cost per month of \$365.50. The \$365.50 shall be increased or decreased by the percentage change reported by the most recent KFF/HRET, available at <http://www.kff.org>. The percentage increase was published at 5 percent. By adding this percentage increase, the calculated average monthly cost of a health insurance policy for 12-month period is \$383.78.

The Department will periodically (generally on an annual basis) recalculate the average cost of a health insurance policy by obtaining a new figure from the latest MEPS-IC data and updating this figure using the percentage change(s) reported by the most recent data from KFF/HRET or other authoritative source that may be more accurate or appropriate in the future. The updated calculation will be published as a notice in the **Federal Register** and filed with the Court.

Therefore, the Secretary announces that the revised average cost of a health insurance policy under the VICP is \$383.78 per month. In accordance with § 100.2, the revised amount was effective upon its delivery by the Secretary to the United States Court of Federal Claims. Such notice was delivered to the Court on January 4, 2010.

Dated: January 11, 2010.

**Mary K. Wakefield,**  
*Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 2010-675 Filed 1-14-10; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4165-15-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Institutes of Health

#### NIH Consensus Development Conference: Lactose Intolerance and Health; Notice

Notice is hereby given by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) of the "NIH Consensus Development Conference: Lactose Intolerance and Health" to be held February 22-24, 2010, in the NIH Natcher Conference Center, 45 Center Drive, Bethesda, Maryland 20892. The

conference will begin at 8:30 a.m. on February 22 and 23 and at 9 a.m. on February 24, and it will be open to the public.

Lactose intolerance is the inability to digest significant amounts of lactose, a sugar found in milk and other dairy products. Lactose intolerance is caused by a shortage of the enzyme lactase, which is produced by expression of the lactase-phlorizin hydrolase gene by the cells that line the small intestine. Lactase breaks milk sugar down into two simpler forms of sugar called glucose and galactose, which are then absorbed into the bloodstream. Infants of every racial and ethnic group worldwide produce lactase and successfully digest lactose provided by human milk or by infant formulas. However, by the time many of the world's children reach the age of 3-4 years, expression of intestinal lactase ceases. Most affected individuals, referred to as lactase nonpersisters, in the United States belong to minority groups, especially Asians, African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Alaskan Natives, and Pacific Islanders.

Consumption of lactose-containing products by lactase nonpersisters may cause gas production, bloating, abdominal pain, and diarrhea. These symptoms of lactose intolerance are caused by intestinal bacteria's fermentation of undigested lactose and often cause individuals to avoid lactose-containing products. Lactose intolerance can be diagnosed by drinking one to two large glasses of milk after fasting and measuring breath hydrogen levels a few hours later. Other diagnostic tools include analyzing an intestinal biopsy sample or determining the genetic makeup of the chromosomal region coding for lactase. However, many individuals mistakenly ascribe symptoms of a variety of intestinal disorders to lactose intolerance without undergoing testing. This becomes intergenerational when self-diagnosed lactose-intolerant parents place their children on lactose-restricted diets in the belief that the condition is hereditary.

Healthcare providers are concerned that many lactose-intolerant individuals are avoiding dairy products, which constitute a readily accessible source of calcium and are fortified with vitamin D and other nutrients. Therefore, these individuals may not be meeting recommended intakes of these essential nutrients. Insufficient intakes of calcium carry a risk of decreased bone mineral density. This may have effects on bone health and increase the risk of fracture throughout the lifecycle, especially in