



Committee on Economic Statistics

Federal Data Collection Comment Opportunity for AEA Members

**Medical Expenditure Panel Survey – Household and Medical Provider Components, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality**

Comments Due February 20, 2018

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) plans to ask OMB to approve the Household and Medical Provider Components of the [Medical Expenditure Panel Survey](#) (MEPS). The MEPS permits annual estimates of use of health care and expenditures and sources of payment for that health care. It also permits tracking individual change in employment, income, health insurance and health status over two years.

The MEPS Household Component (HC) aims to provide nationally representative estimates for the U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population for health care use, expenditures, sources of payment, and health insurance coverage. AHRQ proposes an update to the existing Adult Self-Administered Questionnaire (SAQ).

The MEPS Medical Provider Component (MPC) collects event level data about medical care received by sampled persons during the relevant time period from medical providers (hospitals, physicians, home health agencies and institutions) and pharmacies providing prescription drugs to household members. There are no changes to the MEPS–MPC from the previous OMB clearance.

AEA members are encouraged to:

- provide opinions on the value of MEPS-HC and MEPS-MPC for economic research;
- comment on the data collection instruments and methods; and
- suggest changes that would enhance data quality, value, and accessibility and lower respondent burden and federal cost.

*Federal Register* notice: [December 22, 2018](#) (includes detailed information on data collection and instructions for submitting comments)

- Draft additions to MEPS-HC SAQ (attached)
  - Due date for comments: February 20, 2018
  - More information: Doris Lefkowitz, AHRQ Reports Clearance Officer, (301) 427–1477, [doris.lefkowitz@AHRQ.hhs.gov](mailto:doris.lefkowitz@AHRQ.hhs.gov)
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#### Information on Information Collection Request (ICR) Process:

- By law, each data collection carried out by a federal agency must be cleared by OMB. Through this *Federal Register* notice, AHRQ is announcing that it intends to submit a request to OMB for clearance to conduct the MEPS-HC and MEPS-MPC and offers the public a 60-day opportunity to submit comments.
- After the close of the 60-day comment period, AHRQ will prepare and submit its request to OMB. That request will summarize and respond to each of the public comments it received.

#### Guidance to AEA Members on Preparing Comments:

- Can comment on any aspect of the proposed data collection. Possible topics, for instance, include needs, uses, methodology, design, cost, schedule, and consultation with data users.
- May frame comments on specific topics in any way, such as:
  - assessments – identifying what you do and do not like and support
  - suggestions – for how AHRQ might proceed in this or future collections
  - requests – for example, for a change in the design of the survey instrument, to be consulted in the future, to carry out research on an alternative approach
  - observations – for example, implications of the sample size for statistical reliability
- May propose that OMB incorporate a request in its “terms of clearance.” For instance, you could suggest as a term of clearance that AHRQ research the efficacy of an alternative set of questions and report back to OMB in a year on the results.

#### Additional AEA Resources:

- [A Primer on How to Respond to Calls for Comment on Federal Data Collections](#)
- After reviewing materials, you may provide your observations, critiques, and requests to AEASTat staff Andrew Reamer at [areamer@gwu.edu](mailto:areamer@gwu.edu) and he will organize them into a draft letter for your review. Prof. Reamer is experienced in crafting comment letters for impact.

## Attachment 1 – MEPS-HC SAQ Summary and Changes

### Questions added to the Adult Self-Administered Questionnaire (Adult SAQ)

A brief self-administered questionnaire (SAQ) will be used to collect self-reported (rather than through household proxy) information on health status, health opinions and preventive care services for adults 18 and older.

#### SAQ, Male and Female

Are you male or female? (age 18+)

- Male
- Female

What is your age? (age 18+)

- Under 18
- 18 to 34
- 35 to 49
- 50 or older

In the past 12 months, has a doctor, nurse, or other health care professional given you advice about how to manage your weight, discussed weight loss goals with you, or referred you to a weight loss program to help with your diet and exercise? (age 35+)

- Yes
- No

In the last 12 months, has a doctor, nurse, or other health professional asked you how much and how often you drink alcohol? You may have answered in person, on paper, or on a computer? (age 35+)

- Yes
- No

In the last 12 months, have you had 5 or more drinks in one day? (A drink refers to one 12 oz. beer, 5 oz. glass of wine, or 1.5 oz. shot of hard liquor.) (age 35+)

- Yes
- No

In the last 12 months, has a doctor, nurse, or other health care professional advised you to cut back or stop drinking alcohol? (age 35+)

- Yes
- No

Has a doctor, nurse, or other health care professional ever asked you if you smoke or use tobacco? You may have answered in person, on paper, or on a computer. (age 35+)

- Yes
- No

In the last 12 months, on average, would you say you smoked cigarettes or used tobacco every day, some days, or not at all? (age 35+)

- Every day
- Some days
- Not at all → If Not at all, go to

In the past 12 months, were you advised by a doctor, nurse, or other health care professional to quit smoking or quit using tobacco? (age 35+)

Yes  
No

In the past 12 months, were you advised by a doctor, nurse, or other health care professional to take a medication to assist you with quitting smoking or using tobacco? Some medications that can be used are: nicotine gum, patch, nasal spray, inhaler, or prescription medicine. (age 35+)

Yes  
No

In the past 12 months, has a doctor, nurse, or other health care professional discussed or provided methods and strategies other than medication to assist you with quitting smoking or using tobacco? Examples of methods and strategies are: telephone helpline, individual or group counseling, or program to help stop smoking. (age 35+)

Yes  
No

In the past 12 months, has your doctor, nurse, or other health care professional asked you about your mood, such as whether you are anxious or depressed? You may have answered in person, on paper, or on a computer. (age 35+)

Yes  
No

Have you ever had a pneumonia shot? A pneumonia shot or pneumococcal vaccine is usually only given once or twice in a person's lifetime (age 50+)

Yes  
No, it was offered to me by a doctor, nurse, or other health care professional but I chose not to receive it  
No, for any other reason

Have you had the shingles vaccine? The vaccine is called Zostavax®, the zoster vaccine, or the shingles vaccine. The chicken pox virus causes shingles. The vaccine has been available since May 2006. (age 50+)

Yes  
No, it was offered to me by a doctor, nurse, or other health care professional but I chose not to receive it  
No, for any other reason

Has a doctor, nurse, or other health care professional ever discussed with you the use of aspirin to prevent heart attack or stroke? (age 50+)

Yes  
No

Have you had colon cancer or your entire colon removed? (age 50+)

Yes → **If Yes, go to**  
No

**Within the past 12 months**, have you had a blood stool test using a home kit? A doctor, nurse, or other health professional provides you a special kit or cards to use at home to determine whether the stool contains blood. (age 50+)

Yes  
No, it was offered to me by a doctor, nurse, or other health care professional but I chose not to receive it  
No, for any other reason

#### **Male SAQ**

Have you had prostate cancer? (age 50+)

Yes → **Please turn to**  
No

#### **Female SAQ**

In the past 12 months, have you received counseling or information about birth control from a doctor or other medical care provider? (age 18+)

Yes  
No

Have you had a hysterectomy or have you ever had cervical cancer? (age 35+)

Yes → **If Yes, go to**  
No

About how old were you the last time you had a Pap test? (age 35+)

Younger than 35  
35 to 44 years old  
45 to 54 years old  
55 to 64 years old  
65 to 75 years old  
75 or older  
I have never had a Pap test

Have you had both breasts removed or have you ever had breast cancer? (age 50+)

Yes → **If Yes, go to**  
No