

<sup>c</sup>Based on the mean hourly wages for Computer Programmer (15–1251).

### Request for Comments

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520, comments on AHRQ's information collection are requested with regard to any of the following: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of AHRQ's health care research and health care information dissemination functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of AHRQ's estimate of burden (including hours and costs) of the proposed collection(s) 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 upon the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and included in the Agency's subsequent request for OMB approval of the proposed information collection. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Dated: December 10, 2025.

**Jeffrey Toven,**  
*Executive Officer.*

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### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

#### Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[Document Identifier: CMS–10834]

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Health and Human Services (HHS).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is announcing an opportunity for the public to comment on CMS' intention to collect information from the public. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension or reinstatement of an existing collection of information, and to allow

a second opportunity for public comment on the notice. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including the necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions, the accuracy of the estimated burden, ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected, and the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

**DATES:** Comments on the collection(s) of information must be received by the OMB desk officer by January 16, 2026.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function.

To obtain copies of a supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed collection(s) summarized in this notice, please access the CMS PRA website by copying and pasting the following web address into your web browser: <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/PaperworkReductionActof1995/PRA-Listing>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

William Parham at (410) 786–4669.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3501–3520), federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. The term “collection of information” is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3(c) and includes agency requests or requirements that members of the public submit reports, keep records, or provide information to a third party. Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)) requires federal agencies to publish a 30-day notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension or reinstatement of an existing collection of information, before submitting the collection to OMB for approval. To comply with this requirement, CMS is publishing this notice that summarizes

the following proposed collection(s) of information for public comment.

1. *Type of Information Collection*  
*Request:* Revision of a currently approved collection; *Title of Information Collection:* Requirement for Electronic Prescribing for Controlled Substances (EPCS) for a Covered Part D Drug Under a Prescription Drug Plan or an MA–PD Plan; *Use:* Section 2003 of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act of 2018 requires that prescribing of a Schedule II, III, IV, and V controlled substance under Medicare Part D be done electronically in accordance with an electronic prescription drug program beginning January 1, 2021, subject to any exceptions, which HHS may specify. In the calendar year (CY) 2021 and 2022 Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) final rules, CMS finalized the electronic prescribing for controlled substances (EPCS) requirements and exceptions at 42 CFR 423.160(a)(5). Compliance for prescribers not in long-term care facilities begins in CY 2023. Compliance for prescribers in long-term care facilities begins in CY 2028.

EPCS requirements do not require prescribers or pharmacies to submit additional data to CMS; however, CMS did finalize one exception that requires data collection. The EPCS exception, at § 423.160(a)(5)(iii), requires a prescriber to apply for a waiver if the prescriber is unable to conduct EPCS due to circumstances beyond the prescriber's control. This collection of information is necessary to provide adequate and timely exception from the EPCS requirements if the prescriber is unable to conduct EPCS due to circumstances beyond the prescriber's control. *Form Number:* CMS–10834 (OMB control number: 0938–1455); *Frequency:* Annually; *Affected Public:* Public sector (State, Local or Tribal Governments), Private sector (Business or other for-profits and Not-for-profit institutions); *Number of Respondents:* 306; *Total Annual Responses:* 306; *Total Annual Hours:* 52. (For policy questions regarding this collection contact Carrie Sena at 410–786–8003.)

**William N. Parham, III,**  
*Director, Division of Information Collections and Regulatory Impacts, Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs.*

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