Interested persons may express their views in writing to the Reserve Bank indicated for that notice or to the offices of the Board of Governors. Comments must be received not later than February 28, 2013.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City (Dennis Denney, Assistant Vice President) 1 Memorial Drive, Kansas City, Missouri 64198–0001:

1. Darryn W. Biggerstaff, Canon City, Colorado; to retain voting shares of Canon Bank Corporation, and thereby indirectly retain voting shares of Canon National Bank, both in Canon City, Colorado.

   Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, February 8, 2013.

Margaret McCloskey Shanks,
Deputy Secretary of the Board.

February 7, 2013.

Laura G. Auletta,
Acting Senior Procurement Executive & Deputy Chief Acquisition Officer, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration.


DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Office of the Secretary

[Document Identifier: HHS–OS–18774–60D]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Public Comment Request

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of the Secretary (OS), Department of Health and Human Services, announces plans to submit a new Information Collection Request (ICR), described below, to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Prior to submitting that ICR to OMB, OS seeks comments from the public regarding the burden estimate, below, or any other aspect of the ICR.

DATES: Comments on the ICR must be received on or before April 15, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments to Information.CollectionClearance@hhs.gov or by calling (202) 690–6162.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Information Collection Clearance staff, Information.CollectionClearance@hhs.gov or (202) 690–6162.

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation is currently conducting a number of studies aimed at producing evidence that will help to improve the accuracy of the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule. Under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule, payments are based in part on the relative amount of physician work associated with each service. For a number of reasons, payment differentials for Evaluation and Management services relative to procedures, rather than narrowing, have continued to widen over time. While the fee schedule’s relative values are updated to reflect changes in medical practice, technology and physician productivity, some have questioned whether the current process adequately reflects these changes. The intended data collection effort would be used to gather information on the time data that is used as an input in the fee schedule. Analyses show that even though work is defined as both time and intensity, final work values are highly correlated with the time measure, with time explaining between 80 and 90 percent of the inter-service variance in work. However, several studies suggest potential flaws in estimates of time associated with pre-, post- and intra-service work, demonstrating that the time estimates used for many services exceed actual times when objectively measured through, for example, operating room logs. The survey data will be used to inform several gaps in knowledge critical to improving the accuracy of the fee schedule, including (i) the strength of the correlation between physician-reported clinical time and fee-schedule time values for surveyed services; (ii) how consistent the relationships are across services and across specialties; (iii) whether the relationships vary across physicians in different types of practice settings, and (iv) whether this approach to gathering time data is feasible and could be scaled up for a larger effort. Likely Respondents: Practicing physicians in 5 specialties.

Burden Statement: Burden in this context means the time expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, disclose or provide the information requested. This includes the time needed to review instructions, to develop, acquire, install and utilize technology and systems for the purpose of collecting, validating and verifying information, processing and maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information, to train

on the clinical time spent in providing selected services as well as related information on the physician’s practice.