

Date

Full name
Street address
City, State, Zip

Dear Dr.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) is conducting the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS). This annual study, which has been in the field since 1973, collects information about the large portion of ambulatory care provided by physicians and mid-level providers throughout the United States. Research utilizing the NAMCS helps to inform physicians, health care researchers, and policy makers about the changing characteristics of ambulatory health care in this country. The information that will be requested includes data about the patient visit (e.g., demographics, diagnoses, services, and treatments), physician practice characteristics (e.g., practice type), and the use of electronic medical records.

Many organizations and leaders in the health care community, including those providing the enclosed letter of endorsement, have expressed their support and join me in urging your participation in this meaningful study. You will be asked to complete a one-page questionnaire on a sample of about 30 patient encounters during a randomly assigned one-week reporting period. Additionally, there is a short interview (approximately 30 minutes) with you about the nature of your practice. Participation is voluntary, and you or your staff may refuse to answer any question or may stop participating at any time without penalty or loss of benefits. The following are some key points about the survey:

- Data collection for the NAMCS is authorized by Section 306 of the Public Health Service Act (Title 42, U.S. Code, 242k).
- All information collected will be held in the strictest confidence according to Section 308(d) of the Public Health Service Act (42, U.S. Code, 242m(d)) and the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (Title 5 of PL 107-347). This information will be used for statistical purposes only. No patient names, social security numbers, or addresses are collected.
- This study conforms to the Privacy Rule as mandated by HIPAA, because disclosure of patient data is permitted for public health purposes, the NCHS Research Ethics Review Board has approved NAMCS.
- U.S. Census Bureau employees, who administer the study, have taken an oath to abide by Title 13, U.S. Code, Section 9, which requires them to keep all information about your practice and patients confidential.

A representative of the Census Bureau, acting as our agent, will be calling you to schedule an appointment regarding the details of your participation. If you have any questions regarding your participation, please call a NAMCS representative at (800) 392-2862. Additional information on the survey may be obtained by visiting the NAMCS participant Web site at www.cdc.gov/namcs. We greatly appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Sondik, Ph.D.
Director

Enclosures