



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

National Center for Health Statistics
3311 Toledo Road, Room 3409
Hyattsville, Maryland 20782

Date

Name
Street Address
City, State, Zip

NAMCS Endorsing Organizations

American Academy of Ambulatory
Care Nursing
American Academy of Dermatology

American Academy of Family
Physicians

American Academy of Neurology

American Academy of
Ophthalmology

American Academy of Orthopaedic
Surgeons/American Association of
Orthopaedic Surgeons

American Academy of
Otolaryngology–Head and Neck
Surgery

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Academy of Physical
Medicine and Rehabilitation

American College of Cardiology

American Congress of Obstetricians
and Gynecologists

American College of Physicians

American College of Preventive
Medicine

American College of Surgeons

American Osteopathic Association

American Psychiatric Association

American Society of Clinical
Oncology

American Society of Plastic Surgeons

American Urological Association

National Association of Community
Health Centers

Dear Sir or Madam,

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 midlevel providers throughout the United States. Research using NAMCS helps to inform physicians, health care researchers, and policy makers about the changing characteristics of ambulatory health care in this country. In addition to the regular sample of physicians, NAMCS is once again specifically sampling providers from a national sample of community health centers.

Your center has been selected and we are requesting a short interview (approximately 20 minutes) with you to obtain information that would allow us to sample three providers or midlevel providers in your health center. From these providers we will collect information from a sample of patient visits (e.g., demographics, diagnoses, services, and treatments); and provider demographic and practice characteristics. We intend to conduct additional health care research by linking National Provider Identifiers (NPI) and Federal Tax Identification Numbers collected in this study to health care-related data such as Medicare 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. Participation is voluntary, and you or your staff may refuse to answer any question or stop participating at any time without penalty or loss of benefits.

The following are some key points about the survey:

- Data collection for 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 (Title 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. NAMCS conforms to the Privacy Rule as mandated

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by HIPAA because disclosure of patient data is permitted for public health purposes, and 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 Census Bureau employee, acting as our agent, will call you to schedule an appointment regarding the details of your participation. If you have any questions, please call a NAMCS representative at 1–800–392–2862. You can also find additional information on the survey by visiting the NAMCS participant website at: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd/namcs_participant.htm.

You may have questions about your rights as a participant in this research study. If so, please call the Research Ethics Review Board at 1–800–223–8118. Please leave a brief message with your name and phone number and say that you are calling about Protocol 2010–02. Your call will be returned as soon as possible.

We greatly appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Charles J. Rothwell, MS, MBA
Director