



**DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH
and HUMAN
SERVICES**

**Fiscal Year
2010**

**Agency for Healthcare
Research and Quality**

***Justification of
Estimates for
Appropriations Committees***

Introduction

The FY 2010 Congressional Justification is one of several documents that fulfill the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) performance planning and reporting requirements. HHS achieves full compliance with the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 and Office of Management and Budget Circulars A-11 and A-136 through the HHS agencies' FY 2010 Congressional Justifications and Online Performance Appendices, the Agency Financial Report, and the HHS Citizens' Report. These documents are available at <http://www.hhs.gov/asrt/ob/docbudget/index.html>.

The FY 2010 Congressional Justifications and accompanying Online Performance Appendices contain the updated FY 2008 Annual Performance Report and FY 2010 Annual Performance Plan. The Agency Financial Report provides fiscal and high-level performance results. The HHS Citizens' Report summarizes key past and planned performance and financial information.

I am pleased to present the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's (AHRQ) FY 2010 Performance Budget. We all benefit from safe, effective, and efficient health care. Our performance-based budget demonstrates our continued commitment to assuring sound investments in programs that will make a measurable difference in health care for all Americans. The Agency's mission is to improve the quality, safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of health care for all Americans. In support of this mission, AHRQ is committed to improving patient safety by developing successful partnerships and generating the knowledge and tools required for long-term improvement.



AHRQ continues to improve patient care through the Effective Health Care Program which conducts comparative effectiveness research. As authorized by the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA), this program has begun a series of state-of-the-science reviews of existing scientific information on the comparative effectiveness of health care interventions, including prescription drugs. In addition to our FY 2010 President's Budget, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act appropriated \$1.1 billion for comparative effectiveness research. This investment is part of the President's health reform agenda. Of the \$1.1 billion, AHRQ will transfer \$400 million to the National Institutes of Health and \$400 million is available for allocation at the discretion of the Secretary. AHRQ will invest \$300 million to expand the comparative effectiveness research activities of its Effective Health Care Program.

In March 2009 a study funded through AHRQ's DEcIDE (Developing Evidence to Inform Decisions about Effectiveness) research network, which is part of the agency's Effective Health Care Program, found that heart disease patients 65 and older who receive stents coated with medicine to prevent blockages are more likely to survive and less likely to suffer a heart attack than people fitted with stents not coated with medication. The findings provide important new evidence for decisionmaking by heart disease patients and their physicians. These results should help resolve lingering questions regarding the safety of drug-eluting stents in recent years.

AHRQ's work to improve patient care continues through our investments in research to eliminate hospital-acquired infections. Each year, an estimated 250,000 cases of central line-associated bloodstream infections occur in hospitals in the United States, leading to at least 30,000 deaths, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The average additional hospital cost for each infection is over \$36,000, which totals over \$9 billion in excess costs annually. In October 2008, AHRQ provided \$3 million to 10 States to implement a comprehensive unit-based patient safety program to help prevent infections related to the use of central line catheters. Central venous catheters or central line catheters are tubes placed into a large vein in a patient's neck, chest or groin to administer medication or fluids or to collect blood samples. The comprehensive safety program is designed to help ICU staff ensure patient safety. The program, which has been used successfully in more than 100 ICUs in Michigan, includes tools to help health care professionals identify opportunities to reduce potential health care-associated infections and implement policies to make care safer. Within 3 months of implementation in Michigan, the program helped reduce infection rates to zero in more than 50 percent of participating hospitals. The States are California, Colorado, Florida, Massachusetts, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Washington. In addition, the California Hospital Patient Safety Organization, the North Carolina Center for Hospital Quality and Patient Safety, and the Ohio Patient Safety Institute will participate in the project. Thus, results from this project can potentially improve care, save lives, and lead to substantial cost savings for participating hospitals and the health care system.

With our continued investment in successful programs that develop useful knowledge and tools, I am confident that we will have more accomplishments to celebrate. The end result of our research will be measurable improvements in health care in America, gauged in terms of improved quality of life and patient outcomes, lives saved, and value gained for what we spend.

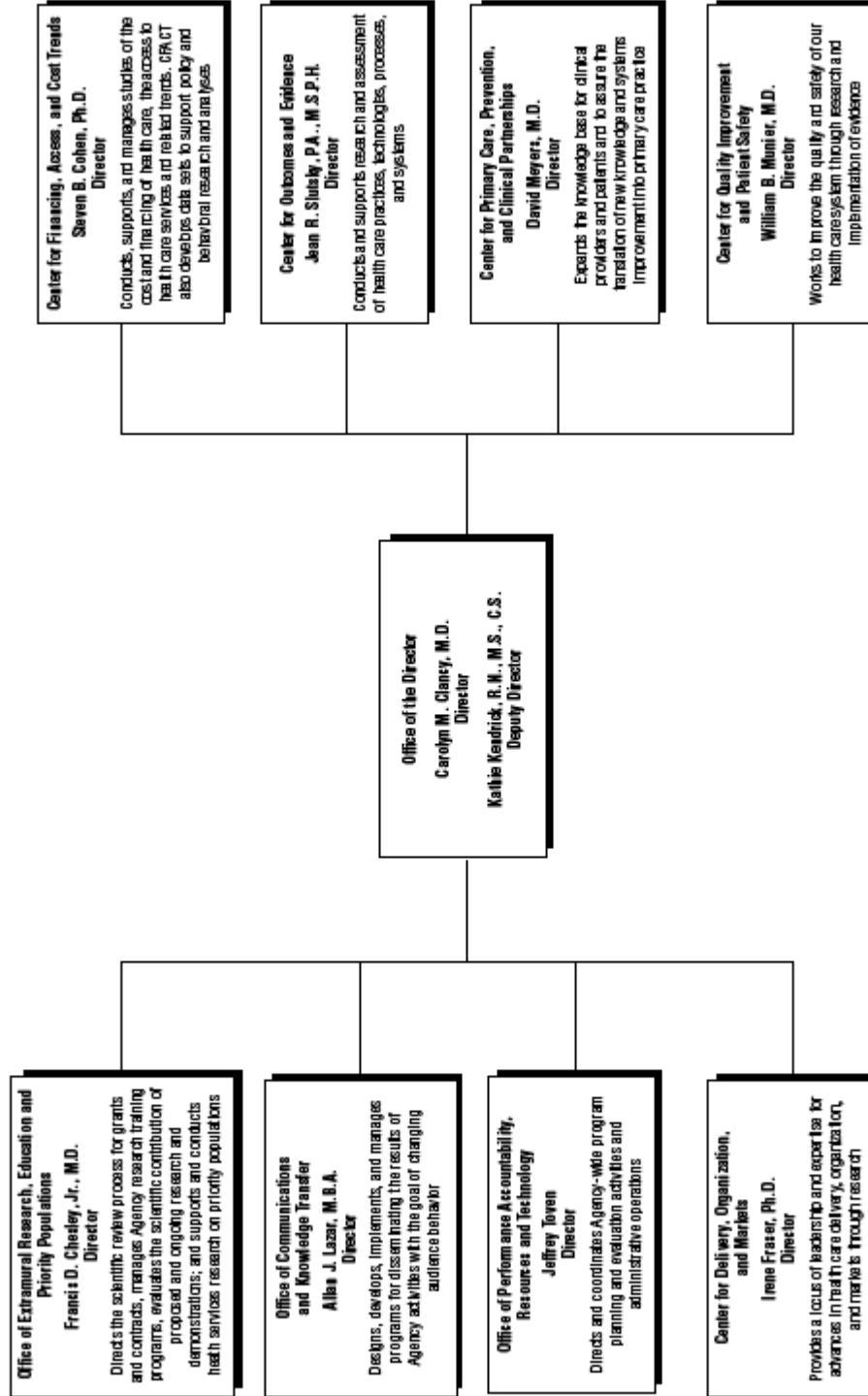
***Carolyn M. Clancy, M.D., Director
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality***

Table of Contents

Letter from the Director	i
Table of Contents.....	ii
Organizational Chart.....	iv
<u>Executive Summary</u>	
Introduction and Mission.....	1
Overview of AHRQ Budget	2
FY 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funding.....	3
Discretionary All-Purpose Table	4
Mechanism Tables	5
<u>AHRQ Exhibits and Narrative</u>	
Appropriation Language.....	9
Amounts Available for Obligation.....	10
Summary of Changes	11
Budget Authority by Activity	12
Authorizing Language.....	13
AHRQ Appropriations History Table	14
Research on Health Costs, Quality, and Outcomes (HCQO)	15
<u>I. Comparative Effectiveness</u>	
A. Program Description and Accomplishments.....	18
B. Funding History	20
C. Budget Request.....	20
D. Outputs and Outcomes Tables.....	22
E. FY 2009 ARRA Funding.....	25
<u>II. Prevention/Care Management</u>	
A. Program Description and Accomplishments.....	26
B. Funding History	29
C. Budget Request.....	29
D. Outputs and Outcomes Tables.....	30
<u>III. Value</u>	
A. Program Description and Accomplishments.....	33
B. Funding History	36
C. Budget Request.....	36
D. Outputs and Outcomes Tables.....	37
<u>IV. Health Information Technology</u>	
A. Program Description and Accomplishments.....	39
B. Funding History	41
C. Budget Request.....	41
D. Outputs and Outcomes Tables.....	42

<u>V. Patient Safety</u>	
A. Program Description and Accomplishments.....	44
B. Funding History	49
C. Budget Request.....	49
D. Outputs and Outcomes Tables.....	51
<u>VI. Crosscutting Activities Related to Quality, Effectiveness, and Efficiency Research</u>	
A. Program Description and Accomplishments.....	54
B. Funding History	62
C. Budget Request.....	62
D. Outputs and Outcomes Tables.....	63
Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS)	
A. Program Description and Accomplishments.....	68
B. Funding History	70
C. Budget Request.....	70
D. Outputs and Outcomes Tables.....	74
Program Support	
A. Program Description and Accomplishments.....	77
B. Funding History	79
C. Budget Request.....	79
D. Outputs and Outcomes Tables.....	80
<u>Supplementary Tables</u>	
Budget Authority by Object Class	84
Salaries and Expenses	85
Detail of Full-Time Equivalent Employment (FTE).....	86
Detail of Positions	87
<u>Significant Items</u>	
House Appropriation Committee Report	88
Senate Appropriation Committee Report	91
<u>Special Requirements</u>	
FY 2010 HHS Enterprise Information Technology Fund: e-Gov Initiatives	97

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality



Executive Summary

A. Introduction and Mission

The U.S. health care system is considered by many to be the finest in the world. Americans are living longer, healthier lives, thanks to significant advances in biomedical and health services research. The translation of research findings into clinical practice has raised awareness of the importance of appropriate preventive services—such as timely screenings for cancer, heart disease, and other serious conditions—and the crucial role that maintaining a healthy lifestyle plays in maintaining health and enhancing quality of life.

**To Improve the
Quality, Safety,
Efficiency and
Effectiveness of
Health Care for all
Americans**

However, our health care system faces many challenges: improving the quality and safety of health care, ensuring access to care, increasing value for health care, reducing disparities, increasing the use of health information technology, and finding new avenues for translating research into practice. We have made progress in meeting these challenges, but we can and must do better. Failure to improve health care delivery substantially is likely to impede realizing the full benefits of current breakthroughs in molecular medicine that can lead to personalized treatments.

As one of 12 agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) supports health services research initiatives that seek to improve the quality of health care in America. AHRQ's mission is to improve the quality, safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of health care for all Americans. The Agency works to fulfill this mission by conducting and supporting health services research, both within AHRQ as well as in leading academic institutions, hospitals, physicians' offices, health care systems, and many other settings across the country. The Agency has a broad research portfolio that touches on nearly every aspect of health care. AHRQ-supported researchers are working to answer questions about:

- Clinical practice.
- Outcomes of care and effectiveness.
- Evidence-based medicine.
- Primary care and care for priority populations.
- Health care quality.
- Patient safety/medical errors.
- Organization and delivery of care and use of health care resources.
- Health care costs and financing.
- Health care system and public health preparedness.
- Health information technology.

The ultimate goal is to disseminate AHRQ's research findings to produce healthier, more productive individuals and an enhanced return on the Nation's substantial investment in health care.

B. Overview of AHRQ Budget

AHRQ's FY 2010 President's Budget Request level of \$372,053,000 maintains the support provided by the FY 2009 Omnibus level. At this level AHRQ will support ongoing efforts to improve the quality, safety, outcomes, access to, and cost and utilization of health care services.

AHRQ has three budget activities: Research on Health Care Costs, Quality, and Outcomes (HCQO), the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS), and Program Support (PS). The FY 2010 President's Budget Request for the HCQO budget activity totals \$314,053,000, maintaining the FY 2009 Omnibus level. MEPS continues to provide the only national source for annual data on how Americans use and pay for medical care. The FY 2010 Request of \$55,300,000 maintains the support provided at the FY 2009 level. Finally, Program Support is maintained at the FY 2009 Omnibus level of \$2,700,000 to cover required costs related to the overall operation of the Agency.

Within the HCQO budget activity, AHRQ supports research related to five research priorities. These research portfolios include: Comparative Effectiveness, Prevention/Care Management, Value Research, Health Information Technology, and Patient Safety. In addition, AHRQ supports Crosscutting Activities Related to Quality, Effectiveness and Efficiency Research. Crosscutting Activities includes a variety of research projects that support all of our research portfolios. These activities include data collection and measurement, dissemination, rapid cycle research, training, research management and salary costs, and intramural and extramural research sponsored by multiple portfolios. The FY 2010 Performance Budget is displayed using these priorities.

Program increases:

HCQO: Crosscutting Activities Related to Quality, Effectiveness, and Efficiency – Research Management (+\$2,478,000): In FY 2010, research management costs for AHRQ total \$67,600,000, an increase of \$2,478,000 from the prior year. The FY 2010 President's Budget Request level provides \$1,872,000 for pay raise costs for AHRQ as a whole. An additional \$606,000 is provided in FY 2010 for required research management increases within AHRQ's budget, including rent increases, travel, printing, and data costs.

Program decreases:

HCQO: Crosscutting Activities Related to Quality, Effectiveness, and Efficiency – Investigator-initiated Research Grants (-\$2,478,000): The FY 2010 Estimate includes \$37,124,000 (77 grants) in total research grants funds for HCQO: Crosscutting Activities Related to Quality, Effectiveness and Efficiency. This level provides a decrease of \$2,478,000 from the FY 2009 level of \$39,602,000 – equivalent to a decrease of approximately 52 small, investigator-initiated research grants with an average cost of \$50,000. The FY 2010 President's Budget Request will fund \$6,421,000 in new investigator-initiated research grants, for a total of \$23,551,000 in investigator-initiated research. This is a decrease of \$2,478,000 from the FY 2009 funding level of \$26,029,000 for investigator-initiated research grants.

FY 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funding Comparative Effectiveness Research

In FY 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provided \$1,100,000,000 for Comparative Effectiveness Research. Of this total, \$400,000,000 was transferred to the National Institutes of Health. A total of \$400,000,000 is available for Comparative Effectiveness Research to be allocated at the discretion of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). A new Federal Coordinating Council for Comparative Effectiveness Research will help set the agenda for these funds.

The remaining \$300,000,000 is available for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to conduct and support comparative effectiveness research. Comparative effectiveness research provides information on the relative strengths and weakness of various medical interventions. Such research will give clinicians and patients valid information to make decisions that will improve the performance of the U.S. health care system. AHRQ's comparative effectiveness research is related to the Department's Strategic Goal 1: Health Care: Improve the safety, quality, affordability, and accessibility of health care, including behavioral health care and long-term care.

Once the AHRQ Comparative Effectiveness Spend Plan has been approved by HHS, OMB and Congress, AHRQ will provide additional details of how the funding will be distributed.

Discretionary All-Purpose Table

Discretionary All-Purpose Table Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (dollars in thousands)

PROGRAM	FY 2008 Appropriations	FY 2009 Omnibus	FY 2009 Recovery Act 1/	FY 2010 President's Budget
RESEARCH ON HEALTH COSTS, QUALITY AND OUTCOMES				
Budget Authority.....	\$0	\$0	\$700,000	\$0
PHS Evaluation.....	<u>276,564</u>	<u>314,053</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>314,053</u>
Subtotal, HCQO.....	276,564	314,053	700,000	314,053
FTEs.....	278	278		316
MEDICAL EXPENDITURES PANEL SURVEY				
Budget Authority.....	0	0	0	0
PHS Evaluation.....	<u>55,300</u>	<u>55,300</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>55,300</u>
Subtotal, MEPS.....	55,300	55,300	0	55,300
PROGRAM SUPPORT				
Budget Authority.....	0	0	0	0
PHS Evaluation.....	<u>2,700</u>	<u>2,700</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,700</u>
Subtotal, PROGRAM SUPPORT.....	2,700	2,700	0	2,700
FTEs.....	22	22	0	22
SUBTOTAL				
Budget Authority.....	0	0	700,000	0
PHS Evaluation.....	<u>334,564</u>	<u>372,053</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>372,053</u>
TOTAL OPERATIONAL LEVEL.....	334,564	372,053	700,000	372,053
FTEs.....	297	300		338

1/ In FY 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provided \$1,100,000,000 for Comparative Effectiveness Research. Of this total, \$400,000,000 was transferred to the National Institute of Health. A total of \$400,000,000 is available for Comparative Effectiveness Research to be allocated at the discretion of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. A new Federal Coordinating Council for Comparative Effectiveness Research will help set the agenda for these funds. The remaining \$300,000,000 is available for the AHRQ to conduct and support comparative effectiveness research. These funds are available for obligation in FY 2009 and FY 2010. The number of FTE in FY 2010 includes an estimated 38 non-permanent FTEs to be compensated using Recovery Act funds.

Mechanism Table – Total AHRQ

AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY Mechanism Table Summary (Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2008 Actual 1/		FY 2009 Omnibus		FY 2009 Recovery Act		FY 2010 Budget Request	
	No.	Dollars	No.	Dollars	No.	Dollars 2/	No.	Dollars
RESEARCH GRANTS								
Non-Competing.....	165	53,467	163	53,657			153	66,636
New & Competing:	112	19,064	112	38,053			57	22,596
Supplemental.....	—	0	—	0		0	—	0
TOTAL, RESEARCH GRANTS.....	277	72,531	275	91,710	0	TBD	210	89,232
CONTRACTS and IAAs.....		144,117		159,921				159,921
MEPS		55,300		55,300		0		55,300
TOTAL CONTRACTS/IAAs.....		199,417		215,221		TBD		215,221
RESEARCH MANAGEMENT		62,380		65,122				67,600
TOTAL, AHRQ.....		334,328		372,053		300,000		372,053

1/ Reflects actual obligations not appropriated dollars.

2/ The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (P.L. 111-5) included additional funding for AHRQ for comparative effectiveness research available in FYs 2009 and 2010. FY 2009 Recovery Act amounts will be provided once the spending plans are finalized.

Mechanism Table – Select HCQO Other Portfolios

AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY
 Select HCQO and Other Portfolios 1/
 (Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2008 Actual 2/		FY 2009 Omnibus		FY 2009 Recovery Act		FY 2010 Budget Request	
	No.	Dollars	No.	Dollars	No.	Dollars	No.	Dollars
RESEARCH GRANTS								
Non-Competing.....	105	29,243	88	27,622	0	0	74	32,803
New & Competing.....	73	6,912	59	16,080	0	0	21	8,421
Supplemental.....	—	0	—	0	—	0	0	0
TOTAL, RESEARCH GRANTS.....	178	36,155	147	43,702	0	0	95	41,224
CONTRACTS and IAAs.....		71,559		64,220		0		64,220
MEPS		55,300		55,300		0		55,300
TOTAL CONTRACTS/IAAs.....		126,859		119,520		0		119,520
RESEARCH MANAGEMENT		62,380		65,122		0		67,600
TOTAL.....		225,394		228,344		0		228,344

1/ Includes Value, Prevention/Care Management, Crosscutting Activities, MEPS and Program Support.
 2/ Reflects actual obligations not appropriated dollars.

Mechanism Table – Patient Safety

AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY Patient Safety Mechanism Table (Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2008 Actual 1/		FY 2009 Omnibus		FY 2009 Recovery Act		FY 2010 Budget Request	
	No.	Dollars	No.	Dollars	No.	Dollars	No.	Dollars
RESEARCH GRANTS								
Non-Competing.....	60	24,224	72	25,588	0	0	52	21,333
New & Competing.....	34	9,655	26	9,920	0	0	36	14,175
Supplemental.....	—	0		0		0	0	0
TOTAL, RESEARCH GRANTS.....	94	33,879	98	35,508	0	0	88	35,508
CONTRACTS and IAAs.....		45,055		58,201		0		58,201
MEPS		0		0		0		0
TOTAL CONTRACTS/IAAs.....		45,055		58,201		0		58,201
RESEARCH MANAGEMENT		0		0		0		0
TOTAL.....		78,934		93,709		0		93,709

1/ Reflects actual obligations not appropriated dollars.

Mechanism Table - Comparative Effectiveness

AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY Comparative Effectiveness Mechanism Table (Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2008 Actual 1/		FY 2009 Omnibus		FY 2009 Recovery Act		FY 2010 Budget Request	
	No.	Dollars	No.	Dollars	No.	Dollars 2/	No.	Dollars
RESEARCH GRANTS								
Non-Competing.....	0	0	3	447			27	12,500
New & Competing.....	5	2,497	27	12,053			0	0
Supplemental.....	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL, RESEARCH GRANTS.....	5	2,497	30	12,500	0	TBD	27	12,500
CONTRACTS and IAAs.....		27,503		37,500				37,500
MEPS		<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>
TOTAL CONTRACTS/IAAs.....		27,503		37,500		TBD		37,500
RESEARCH MANAGEMENT		<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>				<u>0</u>
TOTAL.....		30,000		50,000		300,000		50,000

1/ Reflects actual obligations not appropriated dollars.

2/ The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (P.L. 111-5) included additional funding for AHRQ for comparative effectiveness research available in FYs 2009 and 2010. FY 2009 Recovery Act amounts will be provided once the spending plans are finalized.

Appropriation Language

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Healthcare Research and Quality

For carrying out Titles III and IX of the Public Health Service Act (“PHS Act”), part A of Title XI of the Social Security Act, and section 1013 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003, amounts received from Freedom of Information Act fees, reimbursable and interagency agreements, and the sale of data shall be credited to this appropriation and shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the amount made available pursuant to section 937(c) of the PHS Act shall not exceed \$372,053,000.

Amounts Available for Obligation

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY

	<u>Amounts Available for Obligation 1/</u>		
	<u>2008 Actual 2/</u>	<u>Appropriated 2009</u>	<u>2010 PB</u>
Appropriation:			
Supplemental (P.L. 111-5) 3/.....	\$0	\$1,100,000,000	\$0
Transfer of Funds to NIH.....	\$0	-\$400,000,000	\$0
	\$0	\$700,000,000	\$0
Subtotal, adjusted appropriation.....	\$0	\$700,000,000	\$0
Offsetting Collections from:			
Federal funds pursuant to Title IX of P.L. 102-410, (Section 937(c) PHS Act)			
HCQO.....	\$276,356,000	\$314,053,000	\$314,053,000
MEPS.....	\$55,300,000	\$55,300,000	\$55,300,000
Program Support.....	\$2,696,000	\$2,700,000	\$2,700,000
	\$334,352,000	\$372,053,000	\$372,053,000
Subtotal, adjusted appropriation.....	\$334,352,000	\$372,053,000	\$372,053,000
Unobligated Balance Lapsing.....	\$212,000	---	---
Total obligations.....	\$334,564,000	\$1,072,053,000	\$372,053,000

1/ Excludes the following amounts for reimbursements:

FY 2008: \$25,529,000 (\$7,820,000 for NRSAs and \$17,709,000 for other reimbursements).

FY 2009: \$25,529,000 (\$7,820,000 for NRSAs and \$17,709,000 for other reimbursements).

FY 2010: \$25,529,000 (\$7,820,000 for NRSAs and \$17,709,000 for other reimbursements).

2/ Reflects actual obligations.

3/ In FY 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provided \$1,100,000,000 for Comparative Effectiveness Research. Of this total, \$400,000,000 was transferred to the National Institute of Health.

A total of \$400,000,000 is available for Comparative Effectiveness Research to be allocated at the discretion of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. A new Federal

Coordinating Council for Comparative Effectiveness Research will help set the agenda for these funds.

The remaining \$300,000,000 is available for the AHRQ to conduct and support comparative effectiveness research. These funds are available for obligation in FY 2009 and FY 2010.

Summary of Changes

2009 Appropriation.....	\$ -0-
(Obligations).....	(372,053,000)
2010 Estimate.....	-0-
(Obligations).....	(372,053,000)
Net change.....	-0-
(Obligations).....	(0)

	2009 Current Budget Base		Change from Base	
	(FTE)	Budget Authority	(FTE)	Budget Authority
Increases:				
A. <u>Built-in:</u>				
1. Annualization of 2009 pay raise.....	--	--	--	--
	(--)	(43,037,000)	(--)	(+456,000)
2. January 2010 Pay Raise.....	--	--	--	--
	(--)	(43,037,000)	(--)	(+1,416,000)
3. Rental payments to GSA.....	--	--	--	--
	(--)	(4,285,000)	(--)	(+106,000)
4. Inflation Costs on Other Objects.....	--	--	--	--
	(--)	--	(--)	(+500,000)
Subtotal, Built-in.....	--	--	--	--
	(--)	--	(--)	(+2,478,000)
B. <u>Program</u>				
Subtotal, Program	--	--	--	--
	(--)	--	(--)	--
Total Increases.....	--	--	--	--
	(+1)	--	(+1)	(+2,478,000)
Decreases:				
A. <u>Built-in</u>				
1. HCQO: Crosscutting Activities Related to Quality, Effectiveness and Efficiency—Research Grants	--	--	--	--
	--	\$39,602,000	(--)	(-2,478,000)
Subtotal, Built-in.....	--	--	--	--
	(--)	--	(--)	(-2,478,000)
B. <u>Program</u>				
Total, Decreases.....	--	--	--	--
	(--)	--	(--)	(-2,478,000)
Net change, Budget Authority.....	--	--	--	--
Net change, Obligations.....	--	--	(--)	--

Budget Authority by Activity

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY

Budget Authority by Activity 1/
(Dollars in thousands)

	2008		2009 Omnibus		2009 Recovery Act 2/		2010	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
1. Research on Health Costs, Quality, & Outcomes BA.....	---	0	---	0	---	700,000	38	0
PHS Evaluation.....	[278]	[276,564]	[278]	[314,053]	[---]	[0]	[278]	[314,053]
Total Operational Level.....	278	276,564	278	314,053		700,000	316	314,053
2. Medical Expenditures Panel Surveys BA.....	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
PHS Evaluation.....	---	[55,300]	---	[55,300]	---	[0]	---	[55,300]
Total Operational Level.....	---	55,300	---	55,300	---	0	---	55,300
3. Program Support BA.....	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
PHS Evaluation.....	[22]	[2,700]	[22]	[2,700]	[---]	[0]	[22]	[2,700]
Total Operational Level.....	22	2,700	22	2,700	---	0	22	2,700
Total, Budget Authority.....	0	0	0	0	---	700,000	38	0
Total PHS Evaluation.....	[300]	[334,564]	[300]	[372,053]	[---]	[0]	[300]	[372,053]
Total Operations	300	334,564	300	372,053		700,000	338	372,053

1/ Excludes the following amounts for reimbursements:

FY 2008: \$25,529,000 (\$7,820,000 for NRSAs and \$17,709,000 for other reimbursements).

FY 2009: \$25,529,000 (\$7,820,000 for NRSAs and \$17,709,000 for other reimbursements).

FY 2010: \$25,529,000 (\$7,820,000 for NRSAs and \$17,709,000 for other reimbursements).

2/ In FY 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provided \$1,100,000,000 for Comparative Effectiveness Research. Of this total, \$400,000,000 was transferred to the National Institute of Health.

A total of \$400,000,000 is available for Comparative Effectiveness Research to be allocated at the discretion of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. A new Federal Coordinating Council for Comparative Effectiveness Research will help set the agenda for these funds.

The remaining \$300,000,000 is available for the AHRQ to conduct and support comparative effectiveness research. These funds are available for obligation in FY 2009 and FY 2010. The number of FTE in FY 2010 includes an estimated 38 non-permanent FTEs to be compensated using Recovery Act funds.

Authorizing Language 1/

	<u>2009 Amount Authorized</u>	<u>2009 Omnibus</u>	<u>2010 Amount Authorized</u>	<u>FY 2010 President's Budget</u>
<u>Research on Health Costs, Quality, and Outcomes:</u>				
Secs. 301 & 926(a) PHSA.....	SSAN	\$0	SSAN	\$0
<u>Research on Health Costs, Quality, and Outcomes:</u>				
Part A of Title XI of the Social Security Act (SSA) Section 1142(i) 2/ 3/ Budget Authority.....				
Medicare Trust Funds 4/ 3/ Subtotal BA & MTF.....	Expired 5/		Expired 5/	
<u>Program Support:</u>				
Section 301 PHSA.....	Indefinite	\$0	Indefinite	\$0
<u>Evaluation Funds:</u>				
Section 937 (c) PHSA	<u>Indefinite</u>	<u>\$372,053</u>	<u>Indefinite</u>	<u>\$372,053</u>
Total appropriations.....		\$372,053		\$372,053
Total appropriation against definite authorizations.....	---	---	----	----

SSAN = Such Sums As Necessary

- 1/ Section 487(d) (3) PHSA makes one percent of the funds appropriated to NIH for National Research Service Awards available to AHRQ. Because these reimbursable funds are not included in AHRQ's appropriation language, they have been excluded from this table.
- 2/ Pursuant to Section 1142 of the Social Security Act, FY 1997 funds for the medical treatment effectiveness activity are to be appropriated against the total authorization level in the following manner: 70% of the funds are to be appropriated from Medicare Trust Funds (MTF); 30% of the funds are to be appropriated from general budget authority.
- 3/ No specific amounts are authorized for years following FY 1994.
- 4/ Funds appropriated against Title XI of the Social Security Act authorization are from the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Funds (60%) and the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Funds (40%).
- 5/ Expired September 30, 1994.

AHRQ Appropriations History Table

	<u>Budget Estimates to Congress</u>	<u>House Allowance</u>	<u>Senate Allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
2001				
Budget Authority.....	\$ -0-	\$123,669,000	\$ -0-	\$104,963,000
PHS Evaluation Funds.....	249,943,000	99,980,000	269,943,000	164,980,000
Total.....	\$249,943,000	\$223,649,000	\$269,943,000	\$269,943,000
Rescission				
Budget Authority.....	\$ -0-	\$123,669,000	\$ -0-	\$104,816,000
PHS Evaluation Funds.....	249,943,000	99,980,000	269,943,000	164,980,000
Total.....	\$249,943,000	\$223,649,000	\$269,943,000	\$269,796,000
2002				
Budget Authority.....	\$ -0-	\$168,445,000	\$291,245,000	\$2,600,000
PHS Evaluation Funds.....	306,245,000	137,800,000	\$ -0-	296,145,000
Total.....	\$306,245,000	\$306,245,000	\$291,245,000	\$298,745,000
2003				
Budget Authority.....	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$202,645,000	\$ -0-
PHS Evaluation Funds.....	250,000,000	\$ -0-	106,000,000	303,695,000
Bioterrorism.....	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	5,000,000	5,000,000
Total.....	\$250,000,000	\$ -0-	\$313,645,000	\$308,695,000
2004				
Budget Authority.....	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
PHS Evaluation Funds.....	279,000,000	303,695,000	303,695,000	318,695,000
Total.....	\$279,000,000	\$303,695,000	\$303,695,000	\$318,695,000
2005				
Budget Authority.....	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
PHS Evaluation Funds.....	303,695,000	303,695,000	318,695,000	318,695,000
Total.....	\$303,695,000	\$303,695,000	\$318,695,000	\$318,695,000
2006				
Budget Authority.....	\$ -0-	\$318,695,000	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
PHS Evaluation Funds.....	318,695,000	\$ -0-	323,695,000	318,692,000
Total.....	\$318,695,000	\$318,695,000	\$323,695,000	\$318,692,000
2007				
Budget Authority.....	\$ -0-	\$318,692,000	\$318,692,000	\$ -0-
PHS Evaluation Funds.....	318,692,000	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	318,983,000
Total.....	\$318,692,000	\$318,692,000	\$318,692,000	\$318,983,000
2008				
Budget Authority.....	\$ -0-	\$329,564,000	\$329,564,000	\$ -0-
PHS Evaluation Funds.....	329,564,000	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	334,564,000
Total.....	\$329,564,000	\$329,564,000	\$329,564,000	\$334,564,000
2009				
Budget Authority.....	\$ -0-	\$323,087,000	\$90,598,000	\$ -0-
PHS Evaluation Funds.....	325,664,000	51,913,000	243,966,000	372,053,000
ARRA Funding P.L. 111-5.....	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	1,100,000,000 1/
Total.....	\$325,664,000	\$375,000,000	\$334,564,000	1,472,053,000
2010				
Budget Authority.....	\$ -0-			
PHS Evaluation Funds.....	372,053,000			
Total.....	\$372,053,000			

1/ In FY 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provided \$1,100,000,000 for Comparative Effectiveness Research. Of this total, \$400,000,000 was transferred to the National Institute of Health. A total of \$400,000,000 is available for Comparative Effectiveness Research to be allocated at the discretion of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. A new Federal Coordinating Council for Comparative Effectiveness Research will help set the agenda for these funds. The remaining \$300,000,000 is available for the AHRQ to conduct and support comparative effectiveness research. These funds are available for obligation in FY 2009 and FY 2010.

Research on Health Costs, Quality, and Outcomes (HCQO)

	FY 2008 Appropriated	FY 2009 Omnibus	FY 2009 Recovery Act	FY 2010 President's Budget Request	FY 2010 +/- FY 2009 Omnibus /1
TOTAL					
--BA	\$0	\$0	\$700,000,000	\$0	\$0
--PHS Eval	\$276,564,000	\$314,053,000	\$0	\$314,053,000	\$0
FTEs	278	278	0	316	38

_/1 The number of FTE in FY 2010 includes an estimated 38 non-permanent FTEs to be compensated using Recovery Act funds.

FY 2009 Authorization.....Title III and IX and Section 937(c) of the Public Health Service Act and Section 1013 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act (MMA) of 2003.

Allocation Method.....Competitive Grant/co-operative agreement, Contracts, and Other.

Summary

AHRQ requests \$314,053,000 for Research on Health Costs, Quality, and Outcomes (HCQO) at the FY 2010 President's Budget Request level, maintaining the FY 2009 Omnibus level. These funds are being financed using PHS Evaluation Funds.

Research Priorities

Within the HCQO budget activity, AHRQ supports research related to six research priorities. A summary of each research priority is provided below. Additional details related to these priorities can be found beginning on page 18.

- **Comparative Effectiveness:** The FY 2010 President's Budget Request includes \$50,000,000 for comparative effectiveness research, the same level of support as the FY 2009 Omnibus level. Comparative effectiveness research improves health care quality by providing patients and physicians with state-of-the-science information on which medical treatments work best for a given condition.
- **Prevention and Care Management:** The FY 2010 President's Budget Request includes \$7,100,000 for research related to prevention and care management. This request maintains the level of support provided the prior year. This research priority focuses on two areas: translating evidence-based knowledge into current recommendations for clinical preventive services that are implemented as part of routine clinical practice to improve the health of all Americans; and research to improve care and reduce disparities for common chronic conditions like diabetes, asthma, and heart disease.
- **Value Research:** The FY 2010 President's Budget Request includes \$3,730,000 for Value Research, maintaining the FY 2009 Omnibus level. Value research focuses on finding a way to achieve greater value in health care – reducing unnecessary costs and waste while maintaining or improving quality. AHRQ's Value portfolio aims to meet this need by producing the measures, data, tools, evidence, and strategies that health care organizations, systems, insurers, purchasers, and policymakers need to improve the value and affordability of health care. The aim is to create a high-value system, in which

providers produce greater value, consumers and payers choose value, and the payment system rewards value.

- Health Information Technology (Health IT): The FY 2010 President's Budget level for health IT research is \$44,820,000, the same level of support as the FY 2009 Omnibus level. AHRQ's research on health IT is a key element to the Nation's 10-year strategy to bring health care into the 21st century by advancing the use of information technology. Established in 2004, the purpose of the Health IT portfolio at AHRQ is to develop and disseminate evidence and evidence-based tools to inform policy and practice on how health IT can improve the quality of American health care. Through grants and contracts, AHRQ and its partners identify challenges to health IT adoption and use, solutions, and best practices for making health IT work, and tools that will help hospitals and clinicians successfully incorporate new IT.
- Patient Safety Research: The FY 2010 President's Budget Request includes \$48,889,000 for Patient Safety research, maintaining the FY 2009 Omnibus level. A total of \$41,889,000 is provided for research related to patient safety threats and medical errors, of which \$17,304,000 is for research on health care-associated infections. An additional \$7,000,000 will continue to support research related to the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005 and patient safety organizations (PSOs).

AHRQ's patient safety research priority is aimed at identifying risks and hazards that lead to medical errors and finding ways to prevent patient injury associated with delivery of health care. AHRQ supports research that provides information on the scope and impact of medical errors, identifies the root causes of threats to patient safety, and examines effective ways to make system-level changes to help prevent errors. Dissemination and translation of these research findings and methods to reduce errors is also critical to improving the safety and quality of health care. To make changes at the system level, there also must be an environment, or culture, within health care settings that encourages health professionals to share information about medical errors and ways to prevent them.

- Crosscutting Activities Related to Quality, Effectiveness, and Efficiency Research: The FY 2010 President's Budget Request level provides \$159,514,000 for Crosscutting Activities Related to Quality, Effectiveness and Efficiency research, the same level of funding as the prior year. Crosscutting Activities includes a variety of research projects that support all of our research portfolios. These activities include data collection and measurement, dissemination, rapid cycle research, training, research management and salary costs, and intramural and extramural research sponsored by multiple portfolios. There are two changes within this portfolio that provide a net change of \$0.
 - The FY 2010 President's Budget Request provides for the following increases: \$1,872,000 for pay raise costs for AHRQ as a whole and \$606,000 for research management increases within AHRQ's budget, including rent increases, travel, printing, and data costs.
 - These increases are offset by a reduction of \$2,478,000 (52 small investigator-initiated research grants with an average cost of \$50,000) in total research grants funds for HCQO: Crosscutting Activities Related to Quality, Effectiveness and Efficiency from the FY 2009 level of \$39,602,000. The FY 2010 President's Budget Request will fund \$6,421,000 in new investigator-initiated research

grants, for a total of \$23,551,000 in investigator-initiated research. This is a decrease of \$2,478,000 from the FY 2009 funding level of \$26,029,000 for investigator-initiated research grants.

5-Year Table Reflecting Dollars and FTEs

Funding for the HCQO program during the last five years has been as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>FTEs</u>
2005	\$260,695,000	264
2006	\$260,695,000	270
2007	\$260,986,000	273
2008	\$276,564,000	278
2009	\$314,053,000	316

Comparative Effectiveness

	FY 2008 Appropriated	FY 2009 Omnibus	FY 2009 Recovery Act	FY 2010 President's Budget Request	FY 2010 +/- FY 2009 Omnibus
TOTAL					
--BA	\$0	\$0	\$700,000,000	\$0	\$0
--PHS Eval	\$30,000,000	\$50,000,000	\$0	\$50,000,000	\$0

FY 2009 Authorization.....Title III and IX and Section 937(c) of the Public Health Service Act and Section 1013 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act (MMA) of 2003.

Allocation Method.....Competitive research grants, contracts, and Other.

A. Program Description and Accomplishments

The Effective Health Care Program, launched in September 2005, supports the development of new scientific information through research on the outcomes of health care services and therapies, including drugs. By reviewing and synthesizing published and unpublished scientific studies, as well as identifying important issues where existing evidence is insufficient and undertaking new research, the program helps provide providers, clinicians, policymakers, and consumers with better information for making informed health care treatment decisions. In this program, AHRQ seeks an emphasis on timely and usable findings, building on the thoroughness and unbiased reliability that have been hallmarks of efforts so far. Equally important is broad ongoing consultation with stakeholders, which helps ensure that the program responds to issues most pressing for health care decisionmakers. Collaboration is also a key principle of the program and AHRQ works closely with many agencies of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to identify topics for research under the program and to communicate findings, including identified research gaps.

One measure the Effective Health Care Program uses to evaluate its success is the amount of evidence made available to the public. In FY 2006, the program released four systematic reviews and one summary guide. In FY 2007, the program released four systematic reviews and eight summary guides. Four new research reports, including a user's guide to registries evaluating patient outcomes and a Medical Care journal supplement on emerging methods in comparative effectiveness and safety, were also released. In FY 2008, the program released 7 systematic reviews and 12 summary guides including 2 guides that were translated into Spanish. In FY 2009, the program anticipates releasing 10 systematic reviews and 22 summary guides including some translated into Spanish. The targets for FY 2009 are reported in key output #4.4.5 in section D, Outcome and Output Tables. In addition, several research topics for systematic reviews and new research reports are in development and will be awarded for research in FY 2010.

All reports produced by the program are available on the Effective Health Care Web site, <http://www.EffectiveHealthCare.ahrq.gov>. The Web site also includes features for the public to participate in the Effective Health Care Program. Users can sign up to receive notification

when new reports are available. They can also be notified when draft key questions for research, draft reports, and other features are posted for comment, and comments can be submitted through the Web site. The public is also invited to use the Web site to nominate topics for research by the Effective Health Care Program. Also on the Web site is information about the expanded list of priority conditions, which guides the work of the program. The priority conditions are targeted to Medicaid, Medicare, and SCHIP (State Children’s Health Insurance Program) beneficiaries (see text box).

There is growing interest in, and attention to, enhancing the role of the Effective Health Care Program’s research in our health care system. For example:

- Consumer Reports Best Buy Drugs, a public education product of Consumers Union, uses findings from the program to help clinicians and patients determine which drugs and other medical treatments work best for certain health conditions. Over the course of the project, more than 1 million reports have been downloaded. In addition to the consumer materials and reports being disseminated via the Web site, they are disseminated by a Best Buy Drugs outreach program that links to existing groups with statewide reach and credibility throughout the medical community.
- The National Business Group on Health also uses findings from the Effective Health Care Program in their Evidence-based Benefit Design initiative to provide employers and their employees best available evidence for designing benefits and making treatment choices.
- Omnicare, Inc., a leading provider of pharmaceutical care for the elderly, uses Effective Health Care Program summary guides as a tool for its consultant pharmacists and facilities, which are primarily nursing homes. Omnicare serves approximately 1.4 million residents in more than 15,000 long-term care facilities in 47 States, Washington, DC, and Canada.
- Su Clinica Familiar, a multi-office health clinic in south Texas, uses AHRQ’s Effective Health Care Program summary guides for clinicians and patients to better address concerns of patients and as teaching resources for patients.
- Medscape and the American Academy of Family Physicians offers CME based on comparative effectiveness reviews, and numerous other organizations use the findings in their deliberations on patient care, formulary design, and areas for needed research.

**Effective Health Care
Updated Priority Conditions**

- Arthritis and non-traumatic joint disorders
- Cancer
- Cardiovascular disease, including stroke and hypertension
- Dementia, including Alzheimer Disease
- Depression and other mental health disorders
- Developmental delays, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, and autism
- Diabetes Mellitus
- Functional limitations and disability
- Infectious diseases including HIV/AIDS
- Obesity
- Peptic ulcer disease and dyspepsia
- Pregnancy including pre-term birth
- Pulmonary disease/Asthma
- Substance abuse

These examples of organizations disseminating evidence from the Effective Health Care Program to their constituents are directly linked to key output (#1.3.25) listed in section D, Outcome and Output Tables.

Key output (#1.3.26) in section D, Outcome and Output Tables, increases the amount of

evidence from the Comparative Effectiveness (CE) portfolio that policymakers use as a foundation for population-based policies and helps guide our relationship with the AHRQ-sponsored Medicaid Medical Director's Learning Network. Twenty State Medicaid Medical Directors report that they use Effective Health Care Program resources in a variety of ways. For example, they are incorporated into clinical guidelines created and disseminated by the States, incorporated into health plan education materials, and used to inform coverage decisions and to set criteria for prior authorization.

B. Funding History

Funding for the Comparative Effectiveness program during the last five years has been as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
2005	\$15,000,000
2006	\$15,000,000
2007	\$15,000,000
2008	\$30,000,000
2009	\$50,000,000

C. Budget Request

The FY 2010 President's Budget Request for Comparative Effectiveness is \$50,000,000, maintaining the FY 2009 funding level. In FY 2010, a total of \$50,000,000 will support:

- Planned dissemination outreach to stakeholders to engage them in the Effective Health Care Program. Topics for research in the Effective Health Care Program are selected and refined based on input from the public. The Effective Health Care Program considers public suggestions and examines the impact and relevance of the proposed topics to the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP populations. The Effective Health Care Program also considers the importance of a potential topic, such as how many people are affected and the level of uncertainty for doctors and other decisionmakers, whether the topic has already been covered by research that has been completed or is in progress, and for research reviews, the amount and type of research available.
- Systematic research reviews to inform decisions and promote effective health care. Research reviews from the Effective Health Care Program are reported in several formats. Comparative Effectiveness Reviews (CERs) and Effectiveness Reviews aim to provide comprehensive appraisal and synthesis of evidence. Updates apply systematic methods to bring CERs and Evidence Reviews up to date by reviewing the current literature. Technical Briefs aim to provide an overview of key issues related to an emerging diagnostic or therapeutic intervention. FY 2010 funding will allow AHRQ to continue to develop and make available to the public systematic reviews. These outputs are a critical component to reach our long-term objective to improve a patient's quality of care and health outcomes through informed decisionmaking.
- Advancement of systematic review methodologies. AHRQ understands the importance of and is fully committed to improving the consistency and quality of systematic reviews including comparative effectiveness reviews. AHRQ has been an international leader in this area. The science of systematic reviews is evolving and

dynamic and AHRQ is looked to as a promoter of gold standard methods development and dissemination of best ways to do systematic review. Advancement of systematic review methodologies means identifying key issues at each step involved in researching, writing, and translating a systematic review, conducting research on these issues, and then providing recommended approaches for addressing these difficult, frequently encountered methodological issues. The Effective Health Care Program will soon publish the Methods Guide for Comparative Effectiveness Reviews, both on the Effective Health Care Web site and in the scientific literature. Additional methods workgroups will be formed and the Methods Guide will be expanded.

- Effectiveness research in priority condition areas to develop new scientific evidence regarding the effectiveness and long-term treatment effects of diagnostic and therapeutic interventions and to address important knowledge gaps confronting health care decisionmakers.
- Multi-center research cooperatives for comparative and clinical effectiveness studies in diabetes, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. In FY 2010, the multi-center research cooperatives will continue to work closely with AHRQ to carry out a coordinated and collaborative research agenda that addresses stakeholder questions about the comparative effectiveness, safety, and clinical effectiveness of therapies used in diabetes, cancer, and cardiovascular disease.
- Translation and dissemination work of the John M. Eisenberg Clinical Decisions and Communications Science Center. The Eisenberg Center will continue to facilitate access to and use of evidence-based clinical and health care delivery information and foster informed health care decisions by patients, providers, and policymakers. As shown in the output table (#4.4.5), FY 2010 funding will allow for 22 Summary Guides to be produced.
- Building and enhancing the research and methodological capacity for conducting comparative and effectiveness research using the most rigorous methods possible and for the integration of evidence into practice and decisionmaking.
- Evaluating new clinical data sources and important clinical information (e.g., lab values, blood pressure readings) and performing more rigorous comparisons of treatments to draw inferences about complex clinical outcomes. This will increase the ability of clinicians to provide the right treatment to the right patient. Researchers will also work on the development and use of medical record and electronic administrative data systems.
- Continuing efforts to train and develop the new generation of comparative effectiveness researchers. It is expected that three or four career development awards will be made in FY 2010, with 3 to 5 years funding commitment for each award. Training and development activities will be closely tied to the programmatic strategic directions and the needs and challenges identified by the Effective Health Care Program.
- Consultation and collaboration with HHS agencies and other stakeholders to identify topics for research, communicate findings, identify research gaps, and ensure that the Effective Health Care Program is responsive to the most pressing issues for

health care decisionmakers.

D. Outputs and Outcomes Tables

Program: Comparative Effectiveness

Long-Term Objective: Improve patient's quality of care and health outcomes through informed decisionmaking by patients.

Measure	FY	Target	Result
1.3.24: Decrease mortality from and increase receipt of recommended care for subset of diseases measured and reported on in the National Health Care Quality Report ¹ (Developmental) (Interim Output)	2010	TBD	Oct 31, 2010
	2009	1st and 2nd Qtr – Obtain baseline measures 3rd and 4th Qtr – Set targets for FY 2010 – 2019	Oct 31, 2009
	2008	Identify measures and limit to a subset based on priority conditions; work with AHRQ's planning, evaluation, and analysis contractors to limit to ~3 metrics to be tracked	Measures have been identified but a subset based on priority conditions has not yet been selected (Target Not Met)
	2007	N/A	AHRQ created new Comparative Effectiveness Portfolio
	2006	N/A	AHRQ launched new Effective Health Care Program, authorized under Section 1013 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (Target Met)
	2005	N/A	List of priority conditions for research under Medicare Modernization Act released (Target Met)
4.4.5: Increase # of systematic reviews (SR) and summary guides (SG) produced per year (Output)	2010	TBD	Oct 31, 2010
	2009	10 SR 22 SG	Oct 31, 2009
	2008	7 SR 8 SG	7 SR 12 SG (includes 2 SG translated into Spanish) (Target Met)
	2007	N/A	4 SR 8 SG (Target Met)
	2006	N/A	4 SR 1SG (Target Met)
	2005	N/A	N/A

Measure	FY	Target	Result
1.3.25: Increase # of organizations disseminating systematic reviews (SR) and summary guides (SG) to their constituents ² (Output)	2010	TBD	Oct 31, 2010
	2009	1st and 2nd Qtr – Obtain baseline data for this performance measure 3rd and 4th Qtr – Set targets for FY 2010 – 2019	Oct 31, 2009
	2008	Work with AHRQ Effective Health Care’s Eisenberg Center, Scientific Resource Center, and Stakeholder Group to identify methods for systematically identifying organizations that are disseminating SR and SG	Have not completed identifying methods for systematically identifying organizations that are disseminating SR and SG (Target Met)
	2007	N/A	N/A
	2006	N/A	N/A
	2005	N/A	N/A
	1.3.26: Increase the amount of evidence from the Comparative Effectiveness (CE) Portfolio policymakers use as a foundation for population-based policies ³ (Developmental) (Interim Output)	2010	TBD
2009		1st and 2nd Qtr – Obtain baseline data for this performance measure 3rd and 4th Qtr – Set targets for FY 2010 – 2019	Oct 31, 2009
2008		Work with the Medicaid Medical Directors (AHRQ Learning Network) and Health Plans to identify methods for systematically reviewing policy decisions for references to evidence from the Portfolio	Worked with Medicaid Medical Directors Learning Network to develop process for identifying how CE Portfolio products are used by these State clinical policymakers (Target Met)
2007		N/A	N/A
2006		N/A	N/A
2005		N/A	N/A

¹ Baseline data will be established in FY 2009. Intermediate process measures will be used during the interim.

² Baseline data will be established in FY 2010. Intermediate process measures will be used during the interim.

³ Baseline data will be established in FY 2010. Intermediate process measures will be used during the interim.

Measure	Data Source	Data Validation
1.3.24	National Healthcare Quality Report (NHQR) Appendix A: Data Sources provide information about each database analyzed for the NHQR, including data type, sample design, and primary content	Data are validated annually by Federal public release data source NHQR. Data are analyzed, synthesized, and reported using established methodology

Measure	Data Source	Data Validation
4.5.4	All AHRQ systematic reviews and summary guides are entered into a database which is used to populate the AHRQ Effective Health Care Program Web site, http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/	Effective Health Care Program staff will develop and document a methodology that will be used annually to check data
1.3.25	Requests for copies of AHRQ publications (ordered by title and publication number) are made to the AHRQ Publications Clearinghouse. Data will be provided bi-annually from the Publications Clearinghouse on the number of organizations requesting more than 50 copies of AHRQ comparative effectiveness research reports and summary guides	Effective Health Care Program staff will develop and document a methodology that will be used annually to check data
1.3.26	Data from this output is available from AHRQ's Medicaid Medical Director's Learning Network (MMDLN). At an annual meeting, members of MMDLN report on how they use AHRQ's comparative effectiveness research reports and summary guides	MMDLN members report their usage in a written document and AHRQ staff follow-up with members to verify information provided

American Reinvestment and Recovery Act Comparative Effectiveness Research

The American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) was signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009. It is an unprecedented effort to jumpstart our economy, create or save millions of jobs, and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so our country can thrive in the 21st century. The Act is an extraordinary response to a crisis unlike any other since the Great Depression, and includes measures to modernize our Nation's infrastructure, enhance energy independence, expand educational opportunities, preserve and improve affordable health care, provide tax relief, and protect those in greatest need.

ARRA contains \$1.1 billion for comparative effectiveness research. Of the total, \$300 million is for AHRQ. Of the remaining funds, \$400 million will be transferred to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and \$400 million will be allocated at the discretion of the HHS Secretary. The legislation calls on the Institute of Medicine to recommend research priorities for these funds and gather stakeholder input. A report is due June 30, 2009. In addition, the Federal Coordinating Council for Comparative Effectiveness Research has been created to offer guidance and coordination on the use of these funds.

AHRQ is gearing up to make the most of this additional funding. We are undertaking a process to determine what will be funded. We will work closely with NIH and the Office of the Secretary to ensure that we use these funds in the most effective manner and that we are coordinating our plans to maximize effectiveness of this important investment.

AHRQ will use ARRA funds to expand and broaden comparative effectiveness research activities initiated at the Agency in response to Section 1013 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003, legislation designed to increase the availability of research that would inform the real-world decisions facing patients and clinicians. AHRQ's investments using ARRA funds will expand its Effective Health Care (EHC) Program. This effort will increase the national output of comparative effectiveness research; in addition, it may build research infrastructure and capacity, allowing future studies to address questions where data are currently not sufficient to provide guidance about competing alternatives and to improve the efficiency with which the research infrastructure is able to respond to pressing health care questions. Research activities will be performed using rigorous scientific methods within a previously established process that emphasizes stakeholder involvement and transparency, that was designed to prioritize among pressing health issues, and whose products are designed for maximum usefulness for health care decisionmakers.

More information on these and other ARRA programs can be found at <http://www.hhs.gov/recovery>.

Changes to Comparative Effectiveness Performance Measures Based on ARRA Funds

The measures currently used to report AHRQ's comparative effectiveness programs' performance will be used. Performance measure Targets and Results will be adjusted to reflect ARRA funds once AHRQ's spend plan for comparative effectiveness funding for ARRA has been approved and announced to the public. We will report outcome and outputs, to the extent possible, supported with funding appropriated under ARRA as an

incremental change from those supported by regular appropriations.

Prevention/Care Management

	FY 2008 Appropriated	FY 2009 Omnibus	FY 2009 Recovery Act	FY 2010 President's Budget Request	FY 2010 +/- FY 2009 Omnibus
TOTAL					
--BA	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
--PHS Eval	\$7,100,000	\$7,100,000	\$0	\$7,100,000	\$0

FY 2009 Authorization...Title III and IX and Section 937(c) of the Public Health Service Act.
Allocation Method.....Competitive Grants/Co-operative agreement, Contracts, and Other.

A. Program Description and Accomplishments

The purpose of AHRQ's Prevention/Care Management portfolio is to improve the quality, safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of the delivery of evidence-based preventive services and chronic care management in ambulatory care settings. We seek to accomplish our mission by:

1. Supporting clinical decisionmaking for preventive services through the generation of new knowledge, the synthesis of evidence, and the dissemination and implementation of evidence-based recommendations; and,
2. Supporting the evidence base for and implementation of activities to improve primary care and clinical outcomes through
 - health care redesign;
 - clinical-community linkages;
 - self management support;
 - integration of health information technology; and
 - care coordination.

Generation of New Knowledge

In FY 2009, several activities have been undertaken to accelerate the pace of research on complex patients (patients with multiple chronic conditions). First, portfolio staff convened a meeting of the 18 investigators who were awarded grants in this area in FY 2008. The purpose of the meeting was to encourage the investigators to explore opportunities for collaboration as an efficient way to move the field ahead more rapidly. Portfolio staff also issued a funding opportunity limited to these 18 institutions to support collaborations that will advance the creation of large, clinically-focused data sets and the refinement of methods to study complex patients.

AHRQ deliberately limited the competition to these 18 institutions. In FY 2008, in reviewing applications for the original grant award, we learned that little work is being done in the field of understanding prevention and care management for people with multiple chronic conditions. We awarded 18 grants to the most advanced investigators in this field. In FY 2009, we brought the investigators together for an in-person meeting to encourage them to form collaborations to accelerate the pace of knowledge generation in

this area. In spite of the challenges faced by the grantees, most were making significant progress toward the goal of better understanding the prioritized health care needs of patients with multiple chronic conditions.

In order to leverage limited funding resources to achieve maximum progress in the field and to encourage collaboration among these research leaders, we then issued an announcement for a limited competition R21 grant opportunity among the original 18 institutions. This will allow a few of the original 18 grantees to build bridges between their projects, for example, by merging data into shared databases or refining methodologies to better study this population. Our goal for this work is to expand the research infrastructure for future investigations on the population of patients with multiple chronic diseases.

Knowledge Synthesis and Dissemination

The portfolio fulfills AHRQ's congressionally mandated role to convene the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF). The USPSTF is mandated to conduct scientific evidence reviews of a broad array of clinical preventive services (screening, counseling, and preventive medication) and to develop recommendations for the health care provider community. The portfolio provides ongoing administrative, research, technical, and dissemination support to the USPSTF, which is an independent panel of nationally renowned, non-Federal experts in prevention and evidence-based medicine comprising primary care clinicians (e.g., internists, pediatricians, family physicians, gynecologists/obstetricians, nurses, and health behavior specialists) with strong science backgrounds.

The USPSTF develops and releases evidence-based recommendations for the health care provider community to improve the delivery of appropriate preventive services in the clinical setting. The multi-year process of generating a recommendation begins with a solicitation of topic nominations through a Federal Register notice and consultation with stakeholders. The USPSTF prioritizes nominated topics for review and for updating. From the pool of USPSTF prioritized topics, portfolio staff selects specific clinical preventive service(s) based on Agency and Departmental strategic goals to focus the portfolio's work.

In FY 2009 (as of April 13, 2009) the USPSTF has released six recommendations on clinical preventive services: three for screening services; two for counseling services and one for preventive medication. Five other recommendations are pending publication, and work was either initiated or continued on approximately 30 topics.

As reflected in key outcome measures for FY 2008 and FY 2009, and to continue through 2014, portfolio staff have prioritized knowledge generation and dissemination and implementation work in the area of screening for colorectal cancer. This preventive service has been prioritized because current rates of uptake of screening for colorectal cancer are low, colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer in the United States, and there are health disparities in receipt of the service.

In 2009, two reports were published in *Annals of Internal Medicine* in conjunction with the publication of the updated USPSTF recommendation on Screening for Colorectal Cancer. These included a systematic evidence review conducted by the Oregon Evidence-based Practice Center¹ and a decision analysis of colorectal cancer screening tests that focused

¹ Whitlock EP, Lin JS, Liles E, Beil TL and Fu R. (2008) Screening for colorectal cancer: A targeted, updated systematic review for the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. *AIM*; 149 (9): 638-658.

on age to begin and end screening, and on screening intervals. This work was conducted by the Cancer Intervention and Surveillance Modeling Network (CISNET).²

Based on this evidence, the USPSTF recommended screening for CRC using fecal occult blood testing, sigmoidoscopy, or colonoscopy, in adults beginning at age 50 years and continuing until age 75 years. For the first time, the USPSTF recommended that screening for CRC should stop after age 85, and it recommended *against routine* screening for adults age 76-85. Finally, the USPSTF found insufficient evidence to assess the benefits and harms of computed tomographic colonography and fecal DNA testing as screening modalities for colorectal cancer.

USPSTF recommendations provide one essential foundation for dissemination, implementation, and integration activities within the portfolio. In FY 2009, portfolio staff worked with The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the National Committee on Quality Assurance (NCQA) to inform national coverage decisions and performance measures on screening for colorectal cancer. For example, portfolio staff, the Chair of the USPSTF, and the principal investigators of the evidence reports referenced above gave several presentations on the evidence regarding screening for CRC using CT colonography and the rationale for the USPSTF recommendations. These presentations were made to staff at The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Medicare Evidence Development & Coverage Advisory Committee (MEDCAC).

In FY 2009, portfolio staff continued to serve as full and active members of the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable, and a joint project is under way with Federal and non-Federal partners to translate implementation guidance into more accessible electronic formats to improve the delivery of screening. This electronic tool should be finalized in FY 2009.

In FY 2008, portfolio staff selected a counseling service, Counseling to Promote a Healthy Lifestyle (which includes diet and physical activity), as a second priority area for work in upcoming years. In FY 2009, AHRQ commissioned a work plan from the Oregon Evidence-based Practice Center to update the USPSTF recommendations on counseling to promote a healthy diet and physical activity. The final work plan approved by the USPSTF is primarily designed to address the effectiveness of primary care-relevant counseling interventions to improve diet and physical activity, with a focus on the reduction of cardiovascular disease and related chronic diseases in adults. In addition to examining behavioral outcomes, the final evidence review will also report on relevant intermediate outcomes (e.g., measures related to diabetes, hypertension, dyslipidemia, and weight), and distal health outcomes (death, and morbidity related to cardiovascular disease). The final evidence report will be completed in FY 2010.

Implementation and Use of Knowledge

In FY 2008, with the American Medical Association and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, AHRQ co-sponsored *Linking Clinical Practice and the Community for Health Promotion*, a summit aimed at encouraging collaboration, coordination, and integration among health care providers, institutions, and community resources. Participants examined successful partnerships at health system, community, and State levels, and identified strategies to overcome partnership barriers.

² Zuber AG, Lansdorp-Vogelaar I, Knudsen AB, Wilschut J, van Ballegooijen M and Kuntz KM. (2008). *Evaluating test strategies for colorectal cancer screening: A decision analysis for the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force.* AIM; 149 (9): 659-669.

In FY 2009, in order to facilitate ongoing collaboration among summit participants and to disseminate their work to a larger audience, a special resource page was added to AHRQ's Web-based Innovations Exchange (<http://www.innovations.ahrq.gov>). Innovation profiles and tools from the Innovations Exchange collection address promoting healthy behaviors and linkages among health care delivery, public health, and community-based interventions.

B. Funding History

Funding for the Prevention/Care Management program during the last five years has been as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
2004	\$7,100,000
2005	\$7,100,000
2006	\$7,100,000
2007	\$7,100,000
2008	\$7,100,000

C. Budget Request

The FY 2010 President's Budget for Prevention and Care Management is \$7,100,000, a level equal to the FY 2009 Omnibus level. These funds will allow AHRQ to continue funding important research on prevention and care management, including the following activities:

- provide support to large and small grants related to prevention and care management research, with a focus on grants that implement findings from the exploratory work completed in FY 2009 on optimizing prevention and care management in complex patients;
- provide support to rapid-cycle grants to study ambulatory practices across the U.S. that have attempted to transform their practices into patient-centered medical homes;
- support Evidence-based Practice Centers to conduct systematic evidence reviews for use by the USPSTF in making recommendations on clinical preventive services;
- generate and synthesize knowledge regarding the ways in which new recommendations and evidence-based services are incorporated into clinical practice and/or health care systems;
- promote the implementation and use of appropriate evidence-based clinical services;
- convene the USPSTF 3 times during the fiscal year; and
- support the training of preventive medicine residents in evidence-based medicine.

By 2010, integration of Prevention and Care Management into one portfolio will be complete and work will continue to support the new strategic goals. In FY 2009, work began with Agency sponsored evaluators to establish performance measures and data sources to reflect the work of the new integrated Prevention and Care Management portfolio.

In addition, as shown in the Outputs and Outcomes Tables on the following page, in FY 2010 AHRQ will establish the baseline screening rate for men and women age 50+ who report having been screened for colorectal cancer. AHRQ faces many challenges in being able to measure the impact of the portfolio on screening rates, including the availability of trend data. Specifically, the Prevention/Care Management portfolio does not direct or

control how preventive services usage data are gathered via the National Health Information Survey (NHIS) or how and when the data are presented in the National Healthcare Quality Report (NHQR) and National Healthcare Disparities Report (NHDR) (which also must rely on how questions are worded in the NHIS and other national surveys).

In 2010, work will be completed on two systematic evidence reviews, one on counseling to promote a healthy diet and one on counseling to promote physical activity. These reports will assist the Task Force in making a bundle recommendation on counseling to promote a healthy lifestyle to be implemented in clinical practice. Portfolio staff will finalize the strategic plan for dissemination and implementation work in this topic area. These interim outputs ultimately support the appropriate delivery of this service to Americans.

Findings from the grant program, Optimizing Prevention and Healthcare Management in Complex Patients will be available in 2010. The results may be used to guide the development of a funding opportunity announcement for grants that implement the results of the exploratory studies.

D. Outputs and Outcomes Tables

Program: Prevention/Care Management

Long-Term Objective: To translate evidence-based knowledge into current recommendations for the provision of clinical preventive services that are implemented as part of routine clinical practice, thereby contributing to improvements in the quality of preventive care and improved health outcomes in the general population and in priority populations.

Measure	FY	Target	Result
2.3.4: Increase the percentage of men and women age 50 or older who report having been screened for colorectal cancer by issuing a USPSTF recommendation re: screening for colorectal cancer (based on NHQR/NHDR) (Output)	2010	Retire measure	NA
	2009	Release updated USPSTF recommendation on screening for CRC Finalize modification of ACS colorectal screening implementation toolkit (via IAA with CDC) to electronic format. 11.	Oct 31, 2009
	2008	Finalize evidence report and decision analysis screening for CRC Finalize dissemination & implementation situational analysis for screening for CRC AHRQ Prevention staff participate as full members of National Colorectal Cancer Round Table	Evidence report and decision analysis completed. Evidence report and decision analysis on CRC submitted to <i>Annals of Internal Medicine</i> Situational analysis for screening for CRC completed and disseminated. AHRQ staff participated as members of the Colorectal Cancer Round Table (Target Met)

Measure	FY	Target	Result
	2007	N/A	N/A
	2006	N/A	N/A
	2005	N/A	N/A
2.3.5: Increase rates of additional Portfolio-prioritized clinical preventive service(s) by issuing a workplan for additional preventive services (Developmental) (Output)	2010	Retire measure	NA
	2009	Finalize work plan for an EPC evidence report and dissemination & implementation situational analysis for additional Portfolio-prioritized clinical preventive service(s)	Oct 31, 2009
	2008	Publish Federal Register notice soliciting new topic nominations for USPSTF review	Solicitation for nominations for new topics published in the Federal Register February 20, 2008
		USPSTF will prioritize nominated topics for review Portfolio will prioritize clinical preventive service(s) in alignment with strategic goal areas	The USPSTF prioritized four topics for potential review Portfolio prioritized clinical preventive service: Counseling to Promote a Healthy Lifestyle (Healthy Diet and Physical Activity) (Target Met)
	2007	N/A	N/A
	2006	N/A	N/A
	2005	N/A	N/A
2.3.6: Improve integration of prevention and care management (CM) activities. (Output)	2010	Retire Measure	NA
	2009	Award 3-5 collaborative grants to accelerate the pace of discovery and achieve the goals of the "Optimizing Prevention and Healthcare Management for the Complex Patients"	Oct 31, 2009

Measure	FY	Target	Result
	2008	Launch new Prevention/ Care Mgmt Portfolio and create key outcome measures for care mgmt	Launched new Prevention/ Care Mgmt Portfolio Awarded 18 grants to support "Optimizing Prevention and Healthcare Management in Complex Patients" (Target Not Met)
	2007	N/A	N/A
	2006	N/A	N/A
	2005	N/A	N/A

Measure	Data Source	Data Validation
2.3.4	NHQR/NHDR	Data is validated annually by Federal public release data sources including NHQR/NHDR. Data are analyzed, synthesized and reported using established methodology
2.3.5	The data source is dependent on the prioritized service(s) and could include national sources such as the NHQR/NHDR and/or internal Prevention/CM databases	Reviewed by Prevention/CM Portfolio staff and AHRQ Senior Leadership Team
2.3.6	Internal Prevention/CM planning documents	Reviewed by Prevention/CM Portfolio staff and AHRQ Senior Leadership Team

Value

	FY 2008 Appropriated	FY 2009 Omnibus	FY 2009 Recovery Act	FY 2010 President's Budget Request	FY 2010 +/- FY 2009 Omnibus
TOTAL					
--BA	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
--PHS Eval	\$3,730,000	\$3,730,000	\$0	\$3,730,000	\$0

FY 2009 Authorization....Title III and IX and Section 937(c) of the Public Health Service Act.
Allocation Method..... Competitive Contracts, and
Other.

A. Program Description and Accomplishments

The cost of health care has been growing at an unsustainable rate, even as quality and safety challenges continue. Finding a way to achieve greater value in health care – reducing unnecessary costs and waste while maintaining or improving quality – is a critical national need. AHRQ's Value portfolio aims to meet this need by producing the measures, data, tools, evidence and strategies that health care organizations, systems, insurers, purchasers, and policymakers need to improve the value and affordability of health care. The aim is to create a high-value system, in which providers produce greater value, consumers and payers choose value, and the payment system rewards value. In 2010, AHRQ will continue to support the Value portfolio through four interrelated activities:

- **Measures, data and tools for transparency.**

Any effort to build value must rest on evidence-based measures and solid, Federal, State and local data on cost and quality. AHRQ has a long history of development and maintenance of measures and data that the Department, private purchasers, States and providers are using for quality reporting and improvement. Examples include the CAHPS®, Quality Indicators, National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Reports, Culture of Safety measures, the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project, and the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey.

A major priority of the Value initiative is development and expansion of measures, data and tools to support transparency, public reporting, payment initiatives, and quality improvement. We saw several major successes in FY 2008: The National Quality Forum endorsed 41 of our Quality Indicators for public reporting, and CMS selected 9 of these for use in Inpatient Payment. CMS also began to report data from AHRQ's Hospital CAHPS measure. The National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Report had an efficiency chapter for the first time, and we published a comprehensive Evidence Review on Efficiency measures. By the end of FY 2008, 15 States had public report cards on health care quality, more than double the number anticipated.

Most of the States doing public reporting are also opting to use AHRQ measures. By summer of 2009, 15 States, covering more than half the U.S. population, will be publicly

reporting on hospital quality using AHRQ's Quality Indicators. A new Quality Indicators Learning Institute helps these States use the indicators effectively, and provides technical assistance to new States or communities as they plan their public reporting efforts. In 2009 we also began beta-testing a new tool – My Own Network AHRQ (MonAHRQ) that gives States, communities, and others the software they need to build their own Web sites for public reporting and quality improvement.

Another major effort of the Value portfolio in 2009 has been development of a plan to synchronize and improve the information available for health care reform. The goal is to bring together and improve information from across the agency and outside the agency.

In spring of 2009 we held an expert meeting on Data for Health Care Reform designed to identify major data needs, data gaps, and strategies for filling these needs. In 2010, we will continue to build and refine measures of quality and efficiency, and produce data and tools to track, report, and improve value and efficiency. A major push for 2010 will be developing further synergies among AHRQ's measurement and data efforts particularly as they relate to reform.

- **Evidence to support reporting, payment, and improvement strategies.** A second component of the Value-Driven Healthcare Initiative is to provide evidence on when and how public reporting strategies are most likely to work, which payment strategies and community approaches are most likely to improve value, and what redesign initiatives are likely to reduce waste. Through this activity, in 2008 we were able to provide policymakers, system leaders, and regional health improvement collaboratives with 13 new tools, reports, and evaluations (more than double the number anticipated) on topics such as provider incentives, consumer incentives, measuring efficiency, consumer-friendly public reporting templates, ways to identify populations with high numbers of potentially preventable hospital admissions, strategies for reducing waste, etc. This material provided the core curriculum for various Learning Networks and achieved wide visibility across the country with employers, providers, consumers, and others seeking major improvements in value. A priority for 2010 is continuing to build the evidence base for value and efficiency, and we expect at least 10 new tools and reports. This is supported by key output measure #1.3.31.
- **Implementation partnerships.** Because the goal of the portfolio is not simply to produce evidence but to facilitate evidence-based improvements in efficiency and value, a central component of the portfolio is working with key stakeholders who are using measures, data and evidence to bring about change. For example:

Practice-Based Networks: AHRQ works with practice based-networks to identify and roll out practices to reduce waste and improve quality. One such network is the Accelerating Change and Transformation in Organizations and Communities (ACTION), a network of 15 practice-based consortia that are based in hospitals, nursing homes, home care agencies, and group practices and that have expertise in rapid deployment of proven best practices. In 2008 and 2009, for example Denver Health's safety net hospital launched a system redesign project based on Lean/Toyota Production Systems where staff were trained to analyze sources of waste, solve problems, and start implementing solutions in just one week. Teams and individuals came up with short- turnaround ideas for improving care and reducing waste, saving over \$11 million to date. Another ACTION project to develop and implement novel strategies to reduce MRSA in hospitals resulted in a new hybrid approach that was implemented in ICUs in several hospital systems in Indianapolis;

a follow-on project will enhance, expand, and spread these implementation approaches to new hospitals and to additional non-ICU hospital units in the previously participating hospitals.

Similarly, an HIV Research Network (HIVRN) has identified and implemented strategies to reduce the number of drug interactions. Through its data collection across 19 sites of HIV-patient care, the HIVRN routinely alerts individual sites about patients who were receiving inappropriate combinations of antiretroviral drugs. This has significantly reduced the number of HIV patients receiving inappropriate HIV drug regimens – for example, over a 2-year period, the number of patients receiving a particular inappropriate drug combination (tenofovir and unboosted atazanavir) was reduced by 34 percent.

Community-Based Networks: AHRQ's partnership with a set of 24 regional health improvement collaboratives (RHICs – formerly known as Chartered Value Exchanges) provides a vehicle for community-wide improvement. It takes research findings on public reporting, payment, waste reduction, and quality improvement and implements them across communities and entire States. The regional health improvement collaboratives are regional and State collaboratives, consisting of representatives of at least four stakeholder groups (public and private purchasers, providers, health plans, and consumers), and in some cases State data organizations, Quality Improvement Organizations, and health information exchanges. These organizations work in tandem to improve community-wide quality and value, through public reporting, payment incentives, and quality improvement initiatives.

AHRQ began chartering RHICs in 2008, and currently 24 communities are chartered. Although AHRQ originally expected the RHICs to represent 300,000 people by the end of 2008, they currently represent more than one-third of the U.S. population (124 million people) and include over 450 health care leaders – primarily because the RHICs themselves are large, in most cases covering entire States.

Given the broad areas and populations represented by the 24 RHICs, we plan to focus on meeting the needs of these existing collaboratives through 2010 rather than competing new ones. To help us do so, in 2009 AHRQ recompleted a contract for a Learning Network to provide them with technical assistance and new evidence-based tools for quality/efficiency measurement, public reporting, and quality improvement. This Learning Network gives all the RHICs access to organized peer learning, Webinars, one-on-one consulting, and other support by top researchers and consultants

- **Coordination forum for public payers.** The Federal Government is the largest purchaser of health care, and therefore value-driven health care cannot succeed without the active collaboration of Federal payers in this effort. In FY 2008 AHRQ established a forum to facilitate coordination across public payers and this work will continue.

In 2010, we propose to retire the following measures:

1.3.27: Increase the number of people who are served by community collaboratives that are using evidence-based measures, data, and interventions to increase health care efficiency and quality.

Reason for Retirement: The original target for this measure was 300,000, but by 2008, 124 million was achieved. Since we far exceeded the original target, we plan to now focus on working with the existing 24 Chartered Value Exchanges (CVEs) and the populations they serve.

1.3.28: Increase the # of CVEs

Reason for Retirement: 25 value exchanges were chartered in 2008, and 24 are currently chartered (1 collaborative was de-chartered when it failed to meet the chartering criteria). Given the broad areas and populations represented, we plan to focus on the 24 existing CVEs, to help them in their community-wide and State-wide public reporting, payment, and quality improvement efforts, rather than recruit more CVEs.

1.3.29: Increase the number of States or communities reporting market-level hospital cost data.

Reason for Retirement: The original target was for 4 States, but we have already reached the maximum target of 16 States producing cost-level data.

1.3.30: Increase the number of communities or States with public report cards.

Reason for Retirement: This measure should be replaced with one that reflects our work with greater precision – rather than measure the number of States/communities with public report cards, we will measure the number of AHRQ measures and tools used in public report cards.

We plan to replace these retired measures with measures that reflect the work we're planning for 2010 – to build and refine measures of quality and efficiency and produce data and tools to track, report, and improve value and efficiency; to build the evidence base for value and efficiency and produce new evidence-based reports and tools; and to disseminate measures, products, and tools to key stakeholders who can use them to improve value.

B. Funding History

Funding for the Value Research program during the last five years has been as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
2005	\$ 0
2006	\$ 687,060
2007	\$3,730,000
2008	\$3,730,000
2009	\$3,730,000

C. Budget Request

The FY 2010 President's Budget request provides \$3,730,000, the same as the FY 2009 Omnibus level. These funds will permit us to accomplish the following:

- Continue to develop, test, validate, and support quality and efficiency measures needed for transparency.
- Implement planned expansion of data, evidence, and tools.
- Implement planned expansion of State or community public report cards to 18.
- Produce at least 10 new reports, tools, or evaluations for use by policymakers,

- Continue a Learning Network to support regional health care improvement collaboratives.
- Continue a coordination forum for public payers.

D. Outputs and Outcomes Tables

Program: Value

Long-Term Objective: Consumers and patients are served by health care organizations that reduce unnecessary costs (waste) while maintaining or improving quality.

Measure	FY	Target	Result
1.3.31: Increase the cumulative number of databases, data enhancements, articles, analyses, reports, and evaluations on health care value that are disseminated (<i>Output</i>)	2010	28	Oct 31, 2010
	2009	18	Oct 31, 2009
	2008	5	13 (Target Exceeded)
	2007	N/A	N/A
	2006	N/A	N/A
	2005	N/A	N/A
1.3.27: Increase the number of people who are served by community collaboratives that are using evidence-based measures, data and interventions to increase health care efficiency and quality	2010	Retire	N/A
	2009	124 million	Oct 31, 2009
	2008	300,000 People	124 million (Target Exceeded)
	2007	N/A	N/A
	2006	N/A	N/A
	2005	N/A	N/A
1.3.28: Increase the number of Chartered Value Exchanges (CVEs)	2010	Retire	N/A
	2009	30	Oct 31, 2009
	2008	15	25
	2007	N/A	N/A
	2006	N/A	N/A
	2005	N/A	N/A
1.3.29: Increase the total number of States or communities reporting market-level hospital cost data	2010	Retire	N/A
	2009	16	Oct 31, 2009
	2008	4	16
	2007	N/A	N/A

Measure	FY	Target	Result
	2006	N/A	N/A
	2005	N/A	N/A
1.3.30: Increase the total number of communities or States with public report cards	2010	Retire	N/A
	2009	18	Oct 31, 2009
	2008	5	15
	2007	N/A	N/A
	2006	N/A	N/A
	2005	N/A	N/A

Measures	Data Source	Data Validation
1.3.31	AHRQ staff and contractors for Quality Indicators and Chartered Value Exchanges Learning Network	A yearly review of the posted National, State or community report cards and the number of AHRQ measures they contain, plus the number of report cards that rely upon the use of AHRQ tools such as MonAHRQ and the Quality Indicators Learning Institute contractor
1.3.27	Data contained in applications for Chartered Value Exchanges	Reviewed by AHRQ and contractor for validity
1.3.28	AHRQ records	Review of AHRQ records
1.3.29	HCUPnet	Data published on HCUPnet Web site and verified by HCUP Project Officers
1.3.30	Tools tracked by contractor	AHRQ Project Officer oversees contractor work

Health Information Technology

	FY 2008 Appropriated	FY 2009 Omnibus	FY 2009 Recovery Act	FY 2010 President's Budget Request	FY 2010 +/- FY 2009 Omnibus
TOTAL					
--BA	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
--PHS Eval	\$44,820,000	\$44,820,000	\$0	\$44,820,000	\$0

FY 2009 Authorization.....Title III and IX and Section 937(c) of the Public Health Service Act.
Allocation Method.....Competitive Grant/co-operative agreement, Contracts, and Other.

A. Program Description and Accomplishments

As the Nation's lead research agency on health care quality, safety, efficiency, and effectiveness, AHRQ plays a critical role in the drive to adopt Health Information Technology (Health IT). Established in 2004, the purpose of the Health IT portfolio at AHRQ is to develop and disseminate evidence and evidence-based tools to inform policy and practice on how health IT can improve the quality of American health care. This portfolio serves numerous stakeholders, including health care organizations planning, implementing, and evaluating health IT, health services researchers, policymakers and other decisionmakers. The portfolio achieves these goals through funding research grants and contracts, synthesizing findings, and developing and disseminating findings and tools.

The Health IT portfolio disseminates its products and delivers technical assistance through its National Resource Center for Health IT (NRC), Web conferences, and direct participation in select meetings and journals. Usage of the NRC Web site has continued to grow with over 170,000 unique users downloading nearly 160,000 tools, documents, and other resources from the Web site in FY 2008.

Some recent achievements and research findings related to Health IT include:

- Advancement of electronic prescribing, through delivery of a report to Congress and subsequent proposed adoption of standards for Medicare Part D Beneficiaries. As shown in the performance table below, AHRQ partnered with CMS to award five pilot projects that tested several promising standards and delivered the evidence on those standards through a rigorous evaluation. Although CMS funded the project, AHRQ provided FTE and administrative support including: constructing the RFAs, competing the RFAs, reviewing the applications, making the awards, and assigning project officers to manage and oversee the projects.
- Demonstration of best practices for health information exchange, through projects like the Midsouth eHealth Alliance in Tennessee. Currently entering its fourth year of existence, this data exchange serves all major emergency rooms in Memphis with over 50 million laboratory results and other encounter information available on nearly 1 million individuals.

- Developing evidence and refining principles of privacy and security for health IT systems to respond to consumer's needs and desires. AHRQ has co-funded the Health Information Security and Privacy Collaborative, a 35 State and territory effort which has defined the privacy and security landscape and has made concrete progress towards addressing inconsistencies and concerns. AHRQ is also conducting focus groups to determine consumer's information needs to improve their health care.
- Leadership in measurement of quality using health IT, including funding of a pivotal report from the National Quality Forum on the readiness of health IT to measure widely adopted consensus measures of quality.

The health IT program at AHRQ set several ambitious performance measures in 2004, and has seen steady progress on all of the measures and some notable achievements. To meet the President's goals of widespread adoption of electronic medical records, we partnered with CMS to test and recommend e-prescribing standards for national adoption, which was a requirement of the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003. This major achievement began in May 2005, and over two years several pilot projects were solicited, awarded and conducted, and a detailed evaluation was performed. The result has been a mandated Report to Congress in April 2007, and a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking from CMS to require use of the ready standards for Medicare beneficiaries. As this technology develops further, we look forward to showing the Nation the best ways to use e-prescribing to improve the safety and quality of health care.

EHR adoption has slowly increased – 17 percent of providers have adopted EHRs (data provided from the 2008 NAMCS mail survey - <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/pubs/pubd/hestats/physicians08/physicians08.pdf>). Our grants and contracts have produced significant insight into the best practices in implementation and use of EHRs, and continue to advance this field of knowledge. External barriers to adopt continue to pose a challenge, including the capital required from providers to purchase the system and uncertainty in the market for these products.

Similarly, hospitals have continued to steadily adopt computerized physician order entry, and in 2007 that technology is being utilized by 27 percent of providers across the Nation. The program awarded \$5 million for two new contracts that will focus on the development, adoption, implementation, and evaluation of best practices using clinical decision support (CDS). This initiative will support the development, implementation, and evaluation of demonstration projects that advance the understanding of how best to incorporate CDS into health care delivery. We continue to develop evidence and tools that inform the best use of these technologies, and will continue to disseminate them through the National Resource Center for Health IT (NRC) and our public and private partnerships.

Supporting improved decisionmaking by health care organizations represents a critical next step beyond adoption of health IT and represents significant potential for good information systems to help deliver high quality health care. Some of the basic building blocks are in place, as seen through CCHIT certification criteria for health IT. Our programs will develop and demonstrate the most effective use of evidence-based information to inform the Nation's health care providers and policymakers.

The Health IT portfolio underwent a program assessment in 2008. The program received a Results Not Demonstrated rating. The assessment cited that: (1) the program lacked

performance measures to gauge how well it was developing and disseminating research on how well health IT can improve the quality of health care; (2) the program's Web site struggled to reach its intended audience and lacked practical information; and, (3) the program lacked an efficiency measure. As a result of the program assessment, the Health IT program has embarked on a plan to improve the performance and management of the program and has met or exceeded all improvement deadlines. In FY 2008, the program developed and gained OMB approval of an efficiency measure. In addition, for activities begun in FY 2008 and completed thus far in FY 2009, the program gained feedback on how to improve its Web site by conducting focus groups of program stakeholders and summarizing the results, developed multiple "how-to guides" for the NRC Web site, and developed and gained OMB approval for a long-term performance measure.

B. Funding History

Funding for the Health Information Technology program during the last 5 years has been as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
2005	\$61,326,000
2006	\$49,886,000
2007	\$49,886,000
2008	\$44,820,000
2009	\$44,820,000

C. Budget Request

The FY 2010 President's Budget Request for Health Information Technology is \$44,820,000, the same level as the FY 2009 Omnibus Level. This request includes \$29,388,000 in new and continuation support for grants and contracts to support the Ambulatory Safety and Quality Program (ASQ) and other health IT grant activities. In FY 2010, AHRQ will re-invest \$3,842,946 in grants related to ASQ. This integrated set of grant activities is focused on demonstrating value and best approaches to broader diffusion, implementation, and effective use of health IT to improve the quality and safety of care delivered in the ambulatory setting and across transitions.

In FY 2009, AHRQ announced three new standing funding opportunities to address research to support the program's three strategic focus areas: the use of health IT to support patient - centered care and transitions in care, clinical decision support (CDS) and improved decisionmaking, and the effective use of electronic prescribing and medication management. The program will re-invest \$7,500,000 in these grants and fund \$14,545,036 in new grants in FY 2010. A summary of that funding is below:

- Ambulatory Patient Safety Program (ASQ): \$29,388,000
 - New FY 2010 Grants (\$14,545,036)
 - Continuation of ASQ and Program Grants funded in FY 2008 (\$3,842,964)
 - Continuation of Program Announcement Grants funded in FY 2009 (\$7,500,000)
 - Health IT CERTs Grant (\$1,000,000)
 - Clinical Decision Support Demonstrations (\$ 2,500,000)

In addition, the FY 2010 budget will allow AHRQ to award projects that develop and disseminate evidence and evidence-based tools on the use of health IT to improve quality and support the meaningful use of health IT. AHRQ will continue to partner with our Federal and private sector stakeholders to promote our shared goals. Coupled with effective dissemination efforts, evidence and tools derived from AHRQ Health IT program research can inform implementation and policy activities to overcome barriers and drive adoption and meaningful use of Health IT. A key challenge to reaching FY 2010 performance goals are the many factors outside of AHRQ control which influence use of health IT, including payment policy, regulatory requirements, and clinical practice standards. Specific activities include:

- National Resource Center for Health IT: \$6,000,000
- Portfolio Assessment and Evaluation Activities: \$1,000,000. The 2010 portfolio assessment and evaluation activities are currently in the planning stages. The program expects to include all relevant health IT Federal stakeholders per the forthcoming ONC operations plan.
- Dissemination, Translation and Other Rapid Cycle Research Activities: \$8,432,000

At the FY 2010 President’s Budget Request, a total of \$14.5 million in grants related to the ASQ program end. The FY 2010 President’s Budget will re-invest these funds into Health IT grants to advance its mission and to support their long-term outcome goals. The FY 2010 President’s Budget Request will also allow AHRQ to continue projects and partnerships which develop and disseminate evidence on the use of health IT to improve quality.

D. Outputs and Outcomes Tables

Program: Health IT

Measure	FY	Target	Result
1.3.52: The percentage of visits to doctors’ offices at which patients with coronary artery disease are prescribed antiplatelet therapy among doctors’ offices that use electronic health records with clinical decision support (Outcome)	2010	TBD	Jan 30, 2012
	2009	TBD	Jan 30, 2011
	2008	TBD	Jan 30, 2010
	2007	Set Baseline	Aug 31, 2009
	2006	N/A	N/A
	2005	N/A	N/A
1.3.48: Average cost per grantee of development and publication of annual performance reports and final reporting products on the AHRQ National Resource Center for Health IT (NRC) Web site (http://healthit.ahrq.gov) (Outcome)	2010	TBD	Jun 30, 2010
	2009	Set Baseline	Jun 30, 2009
	2008	N/A	N/A
	2007	N/A	N/A
	2006	N/A	N/A
	2005	N/A	N/A

Measure	Data Source	Data Validation
1.3.52	National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS)	NAMCS – using a nationally representative sample of primary care, non-pediatric practices and their patients with coronary artery disease
1.3.48	AHRQ Internal Figures	AHRQ Internal Figures – the process includes capturing the per-grantee cost of: developing and posting annual performance summaries for each grant; developing and posting a series of products (short and long summaries) of research findings upon grant completion; and posting final reports in the National Technical Information Service database of government research. The program will monitor the process of developing and publishing these reports online by attaching resource costs to each step of the process by creating a Gantt chart to map the current process, including who currently performs each step of the process and the time that each step takes. Multiplying this by personnel costs and then summing the total costs for each step of the process will produce an annual estimate of the cost to produce these documents per grantee.

Patient Safety

	FY 2008 Appropriated	FY 2009 Omnibus	FY 2009 Recovery Act	FY 2010 President's Budget Request /1	FY 2010 +/- FY 2009 Omnibus
TOTAL					
--BA	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
--PHS Eval	\$34,114,000	\$48,889,000	\$0	\$48,889,000	\$0

FY 2009 Authorization.....Title III and IX and Section 937(c) of the Public Health Service Act.
Allocation Method.....Competitive Grant/co-operative agreement, Contracts, and Other.

/1 Congress appropriated \$41,889,000 for Patient Safety Threats and Medical Errors (which includes \$17,304,000 for Healthcare-Associated Infections) and \$7,000,000 for the Patient Safety Organizations.

A. Program Description and Accomplishments

The Patient Safety Program comprises two key components: (1) coordination of support for the creation, synthesis, dissemination, implementation, and use of knowledge about patient safety threats and medical errors and (2) operation of a program to establish Patient Safety Organizations (PSOs), which are a fundamental element of the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act (Patient Safety Act) of 2005. The Patient Safety Act provided needed protection (privilege) to providers throughout the country for quality and safety review activities. The Act promotes increased patient safety event reporting and analysis, as event information reported to a PSO is protected from disclosure in medical malpractice cases. This legislation is anticipated to support and spur advancement of a culture of safety in health care organizations across the country. AHRQ administers the provisions of the Patient Safety Act dealing with PSO operations. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has issued regulations to implement the Patient Safety Act, which authorizes the creation of Patient Safety Organizations. The final rule became effective on January 19, 2009.

The Patient Safety Program's goal as stated historically is to prevent, mitigate, and decrease the number of medical errors, patient safety risks and hazards, and quality gaps associated with health care and their harmful impact on patients. The Program funds grants, contracts, and interagency agreements (IAAs) to support projects that identify the threats; identify and evaluate effective practices; educate, disseminate, and implement to enhance patient safety and quality; and maintain vigilance.

The Patient Safety Program, which formally commenced in FY 2001, began with AHRQ awarding \$50 million for 94 new projects aimed at reducing medical errors and improving patient safety. Throughout the past 8 years, AHRQ has funded many additional projects and initiatives in a number of areas of patient safety and health care quality. As a result, a large body of research continues to emerge, and numerous surveys, reporting and decision support systems, training and technical assistance opportunities, taxonomies, publications, tools, and presentations are available for general use. AHRQ has addressed these patient safety issues independently and in collaboration with public and private sector organizations.

Some relevant research findings and projects related to Patient Safety include:

Research Grants

- Through a study funded by AHRQ for which preliminary findings are currently available, it is estimated that 95 percent of hospitals have some type of reporting system. This is based on a nationally representative sample of 2,000 hospitals with an 81 percent survey response rate. Only about 12 percent of the respondents had a fully computerized system. (FY 2005 funding = \$165,909.) Plans include a repeat survey of hospitals to update this estimate during FY 2009.
- In FY 2005, 17 Partnerships in Implementing Patient Safety two-year grants were awarded to assist health care institutions in implementing safe practice interventions that show evidence of eliminating or reducing medical errors, risks, hazards, and harms associated with the process of care. The majority of these grants are completed and the resultant tool kits are in the process of being made available to the public and/or further tested in different environments to identify what easily works and what challenges are faced by providers in implementing these safe practice intervention tool kits. (FY 2005 and FY 2006 funds = \$4.7 million.)
- In September 2008, AHRQ awarded \$3,708,799 for 13 risk-informed intervention grants. These 3-year projects build on previously funded risk assessment projects funded by AHRQ and support risk-informed development and implementation of safe practice interventions that have the potential of eliminating or reducing medical errors, risks, hazards, and harms associated with the process of care in the ambulatory setting. The objectives of the projects are to: (1) identify, develop, test, and implement safe practice interventions in ambulatory care settings, and (2) share the findings and lessons learned about the challenges and barriers to developing and implementing these interventions through toolkits. (Source: <http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/risk08.htm>.)

Training Programs

- The Patient Safety Improvement Corps (PSIC) is a partnership program between AHRQ and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The primary goal is to improve patient safety by providing to teams of hospital and other staff, including patient safety officers and those responsible for patient safety reporting and analysis, as well as, intervention initiatives the knowledge and skills necessary to:
 - Conduct effective investigations of reports of medical errors (e.g., close calls, errors with and without patient injury) by identifying their root causes with an emphasis on underlying system causes.
 - Prepare meaningful reports on the findings.
 - Develop and implement sustainable system interventions based on report findings.
 - Measure and evaluate the impact of the safety intervention (i.e., that will mitigate, reduce, or eliminate the opportunity for error and patient injury).
 - Ensure the sustainability of effective safety interventions by transforming them into standard clinical practice.
- The PSIC program content includes a number of topics, tools, and methods designed to help participants reduce medical error and improve patient safety (e.g., patient safety science, human factors, root cause analysis, health care failure mode and effects analysis,

probabilistic risk assessment, medical error reporting and analysis, measurement, evaluation, communication, leading and sustaining organizational change, safety culture assessment, high reliability organizations' characteristics and operations, TeamSTEPPS™ team training, mistake-proofing in the delivery of health care, just culture, and other topics such as the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005, patient safety organizations, patient safety indicators, and the National Healthcare Quality and National Healthcare Disparities Reports). (Source: <http://www.ahrq.gov/about/psimpcorps.htm>.)

- Each year, PSIC exceeded the target number of organizations targeted for training. With the fourth class, the PSIC has trained a team in every State in the United States. Additionally, AHRQ produced a PSIC DVD that provides a self-paced, modular approach to training individuals involved in patient safety activities at the institutional level. This interactive, 8-module DVD provides information on the investigation of medical errors and their root causes; identification, implementation, and evaluation of system-level interventions to address patient safety concerns; and steps necessary to promote a culture of safety within a hospital or other health care facility. (FY 2009 funding for PSIC = \$300,000.)
- It has been an expectation that “graduates” from the PSIC program will both use their PSIC training to become change agents in their home organizations and go on to implement as well as train others using the knowledge, skills, and patient safety improvement techniques delivered in their PSIC training. For example, as a result of participating in the PSIC, the State of Maine, in 2008 and 2009, is attempting to train all hospitals in the use of TeamSTEPPS. The Connecticut Hospital Association and team members from the Connecticut Department of Public Health have also studied Connecticut’s adverse event reporting system. This effort helped the Department of Public Health’s Quality in Health Care Advisory Committee, which developed formal recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of the State’s adverse event reporting system. The Committee’s recommendations were incorporated in legislation enacted by the Connecticut legislature in May 2004. In October 2005, the New York State Department of Health rolled out their PSIC-based training program including more than 700 people from the State’s free-standing diagnostic and treatment centers (e.g., Ambulatory Surgery Centers, End Stage Renal Disease Dialysis Centers, Community Healthcare Centers) and selected Department of Health clinics. In Georgia, the Georgia Hospital Association (GHA) developed their PSIC based on GHA’s staff participation in the 2004-2005 PSIC program. The GHA PSIC used 5 two-day face-to-face workshops, 8 Webinars, and 4 networking audio conferences. This training enabled the GHA PSIC program attendees to go back to their organizations, train additional staff, and implement patient safety improvement programs.

Resources/Tools

- AHRQ also supports the AHRQ Patient Safety Network (AHRQ PSNet). It is a national Web-based resource featuring the latest news and essential resources on patient safety. The site offers weekly updates of patient safety literature, news, tools, and meetings (“What’s New”), and a vast set of carefully annotated links to important research and other information on patient safety (“The Collection”). Supported by a robust patient safety taxonomy and Web architecture, AHRQ PSNet provides powerful searching and browsing capabilities, as well as the ability for diverse users to customize the site around their interests (My PSNet). In addition, AHRQ funds the WebM&M (Morbidity and Mortality Rounds on the Web). WebM&M is an online journal and forum on patient safety and health care quality. This site features expert analysis of medical errors reported anonymously by readers, interactive learning modules on patient safety (“Spotlight Cases”), Perspectives on Safety, and forums

for online discussion. Use of these sites has increased over the past 3 years, from approximately 57,000 Web sessions in April 2005, to more than 190,000 in April 2008. (Funding for the PSNet and WebM&M total \$1.3 million in FY 2009.)

- In their 1999 report on medical errors, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) suggested that systemic failures were important underlying factors in medical error and that better teamwork and coordination could prevent harm to patients. The IOM recommended that health care organizations establish team training programs for personnel in critical care areas such as emergency departments, intensive care units, and operating rooms. As a follow up, AHRQ, in partnership with the Department of Defense, developed a teamwork training program –TeamSTEPPS™. It is an evidence-based teamwork system aimed at optimizing patient outcomes by improving communication and other teamwork skills among health care professionals. It includes a comprehensive set of ready-to-use materials and training curricula necessary to integrate teamwork principles successfully into an organization's health care system. TeamSTEPPS™ is presented in a multimedia format, with tools to help a health care organization plan, conduct, and evaluate its own team training program. It includes five components: (1) an instructor guide; (2) a multimedia resource kit including a CD-ROM and DVD with 9 video vignettes about how failures in teamwork and communication can place patients in jeopardy, and how successful teams can work to improve patient outcomes; (3) a spiral-bound pocket guide; (4) PowerPoint® presentations; and (5) a poster that tells staff that the organization is adopting TeamSTEPPS™. In addition, AHRQ has a technical assistance contract in place to support those interested in implementing TeamSTEPPS™. TeamSTEPPS National Implementation continues to grow and expand. As of the end of FY 2008, the project has trained or registered 651 individuals for TeamSTEPPS Master Trainers representing 147 different organizations across the United States. TeamSTEPPS is now part of the 9th Scope of Work for Quality Improvement Organizations (QIOs). All QIOs have received initial Master Team Training. To date, Master Trainers reported that they have trained 4,780 individuals from 119 organizations. (Technical assistance in FY 2008 and FY 2009.)

AHRQ Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAIs) Activities

The Agency has funded numerous projects to reduce HAIs, including MRSA infections. (Please note, in FY 2008 \$5 million in funding for MRSA was funded under Crosscutting Activities.) Following are brief descriptions of some of these projects and initiatives.

- HAI ACTION Project. In September 2007, AHRQ awarded task orders to five Accelerating Change and Transformation in Organizations and Networks (ACTION) partners to mitigate HAIs at 34 hospitals. For 6 months, multidisciplinary teams at each hospital used AHRQ-supported evidence-based tools for improving infection safety to facilitate changes in clinician behaviors and habits, care processes, and the safety culture. In addition, AHRQ has funded an assessment program, led by Indiana University, to coordinate project tasks and activities, provide technical assistance to the hospitals, and examine information gleaned from the project. Also, the Agency plans to develop an HAI project toolkit, which will include a case study for health care organizations interested in learning how the HAI project participants implemented infection safety training, the challenges they faced, and how they addressed them.
- Patient Safety Improvement Corps (PSIC) Fellowship Program on HAIs. The Patient Safety Improvement Corps (PSIC) is a partnership program between AHRQ and the Department of Veterans Affairs to improve patient safety by providing the knowledge and skills necessary

to investigate medical errors and develop and evaluate sustainable system interventions to prevent them. The PSIC Fellowship Program on HAIs is a 1-day program to provide PSIC graduates with an overview of HAIs and to demonstrate different and successful approaches to prevention, reduction, or mitigation of HAIs from different perspectives including public and private hospital systems, communities, and regions.

- MRSA Collaborative Research Initiatives. In October 2007, Congress appropriated \$5 million to AHRQ to identify and help suppress the spread of MRSA and related HAIs. Until then, the only large-scale study that had produced evidence on how to reduce serious HAIs and maintain that reduction was supported by AHRQ and carried out in 127 Michigan hospitals from 2003 to 2006. This new effort to reduce MRSA builds on that experience. In developing the action plan that AHRQ is funding, the Agency has worked in collaboration with the CDC and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). This action plan will use electronic and administrative data, surveillance, and implementation strategies to:
 - Reduce the burden of MRSA infections via novel interventions aimed at critical control points in a community/region.
 - Determine scope, risk factors, and control measures for hospital-acquired, community-onset MRSA infections.
 - Test methods to reduce hospitalization from community-acquired MRSA.
 - Understand the role of inter-facility MRSA transmission on overall infection rates.
 - Understand the role of nursing home transmission on overall rates and delineate interventions that are effective in reducing such transmission.
- Other proposed MRSA collaborative projects are as follows:
 - Reduction of Clostridium Difficile Infections in a Regional Collaborative of In-patient Health Care Settings
 - Reducing the Overuse of Antibiotics by Primary Care Clinicians Treating Patients in Ambulatory and Long-term Care Settings
 - Improving the Measurement of Surgical Site Infection (SSI) Risk Stratification and Outcome Detection
 - Produce Rapid National, Regional and State-level Estimates of HAIs to Evaluate the Impact of Inter-Agency HAI Initiatives
 - Reduction Of Infections Caused by Carbapenem Resistant Enterobacteriaceae (KPC producing organisms) Through Application Of Recently Developed CDC/HICPAC Recommendations

Patient Safety Act and PSOs

AHRQ, in conjunction with the Office of the Secretary and the Office of Civil Rights, has made significant progress in implementing the Patient Safety Act. On November 21, 2008, regulations to implement the Act were published, and the regulations became effective January 19, 2009. In addition, AHRQ has continued development of common definitions and reporting formats (Common Formats) to describe patient safety events. Promulgation of these Common Formats, which will allow aggregation and analysis of events collected by Patient Safety Organizations and national reporting annually on patient safety, was authorized by the Act. AHRQ announced the availability of Common Formats, v 0.1 beta, in a Federal Register notice at the end of August 2008.

Historically, the Patient Safety Program has concentrated most of its resources on evidence generation. While that activity continues to be important for AHRQ, increasingly, program support is moving more toward data development/reporting and dissemination/implementation

as the Agency focuses on making demonstrable improvements in patient safety. This reporting and implementation focus has the advantage of providing a natural feedback loop that can highlight areas in which new evidence is most needed to address real quality and safety problems encountered by providers and patients. Additionally, most of the measures for the patient safety program have been modified to better reflect goals. The new measures, effective in FY 2008, are provided in the Performance Table below. The new measures better reflect an emphasis on implementation of evidence-based practices and reporting on their impact. Two of the measures also enable capture of information on two major new Agency initiatives (i.e., PSOs and HAIs).

Currently, only one Patient Safety measure has data to report for FY 2008. For measure 1.3.41, “Increase the number of tools that will be available in AHRQ’s inventory of evidence-based tools to improve patient safety and reduce the risk of patient harm,” a total of 73 tools are included in the inventory.

The Program took the following actions in 2008 to improve performance:

- Measuring the number of PSOs that become certified based on Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act legislation. The list of certified PSOs is available on an ongoing basis as PSOs become listed.
- Establishing annual targets around the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act.
- Updating performance measures and targets. Patient Safety continues efforts to develop a data source to capture the use of AHRQ-supported tools. The program is writing a work assignment to identify and consolidate data collection into a single source.

The Patient Safety program underwent a program assessment in 2003, and was found to be performing adequately. The review cited improvements in the safety and quality of care as a strong attribute of the program. As a result of the program assessment, the program continued to take actions to prevent, mitigate and decrease the number of medical errors, patient safety risks and hazards associated with health care and their harmful impact on patients. The Patient Safety Program has also benefited from a robust effort aimed at evaluating the impact of projects that have been funded under this portion of AHRQ’s budget. In April, summaries of the findings were published in a special issue of the journal *Health Services Research*. The contents include a description of the evaluation framework and approach, along with other articles that address AHRQ Contributions to patient safety knowledge, experiences with implementation research, the Patient Safety Improvement Corps, and trends and challenges in measuring safety outcomes.

B. Funding History

Funding for the Patient Safety program during the last five years has been as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
2005	\$34,192,000
2006	\$34,114,000
2007	\$34,114,000
2008	\$34,114,000
2009	\$48,889,000

C. Budget Request

The FY 2010 President's Budget Request level for Patient Safety Research is \$48,889,000 the same level as the FY 2009 Omnibus Level. The Patient Safety Program is comprised of two research components: Patient Safety Threats and Medical Errors (including HAIs) and PSOs.

Patient Safety Threats and Medical Errors:

The FY 2010 President's Budget Request level provides \$41,889,000 million for patient safety threats and medical errors, including \$17,304,000 for funds related to reducing Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAIs). This level will enable us to provide continued support for a number of ongoing research contracts, IAAs, and research grants including:

- The AHRQ PSNet and the AHRQ WebM&M, both of which have a growing user base and high levels of customer satisfaction based on annual customer satisfaction surveys
- Patient safety grants focused on diagnostic error, ambulatory care patient safety intervention tool kit development, and CERTS pediatric patient safety
- A follow-on effort to the PSIC "graduates" fellowship training
- Patient safety evaluation activities
- Patient safety implementation projects conducted through our ACTION program
- TeamSTEPPS™ technical assistance
- Patient safety knowledge transfer projects

In terms of performance measures, in FY 2007 the patient safety portfolio was able to provide a baseline for the number of U.S. health care organizations using AHRQ-supported tools to improve patient safety – 382 hospitals. The FY 2008 target for this measure is 439 hospitals, increasing to 504 hospitals in FY 2009. In addition, AHRQ intends to increase the number of tools that will be available in AHRQ's inventory of evidence-based tools to improve patient safety and reduce the risk of patient harm. FY 2007 efforts focused on developing a baseline measure. The FY 2007 baseline for the inventory of evidence-based tools is 61 – AHRQ goal is to develop and additional 7 tools in 2008 (for a total of 68), 8 additional tools in FY 2009 (for a total of 76), and 10 additional tools in 2010 (for a total of 86).

As part of ongoing efforts aimed at reducing and eliminating HAIs, AHRQ has helped to coordinate and execute the Department of Health and Human Services National Action Plan related to healthcare-associated infections. In FY 2009, \$17,304,000 in additional funds were made available for work in this important area. A portion of the additional funds will expand a multi-State project (from 10 States to approximately 30 States) to apply the approach that proved to be successful in the Michigan Keystone project to prevent central line associated blood stream infections (CLABSI). Significant reductions in these infections were achieved through a comprehensive unit-based surveillance program (CUSP) in intensive care units. AHRQ will continue funding HAIs at \$17,304,000 at the FY 2010 President's Budget Request level. Possible topics to be addressed as part of the HAI initiative include projects that focus on other infection sites (e.g., the urinary tract, lungs, surgical sites), hospital locations outside the ICU and other health care settings (e.g., nursing homes, outpatient clinics, etc.), as well as the prevention of additional types of infections (e.g., *Clostridium difficile*) and contributing factors such as antibiotic overuse.

Patient Safety Organizations (PSOs)

The Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act (PSQIA) of 2005 amended the Public Health Service Act to foster a culture of safety in health care organizations. To encourage health care

providers to work with PSOs, the Act (and implementing regulations) provides Federal confidentiality and privilege protections to deliberations carried out under the aegis of patient safety organizations. This legal protection of information voluntarily reported to PSOs will promote increased reporting and analysis of patient safety events and subsequent improvements in care. The Act prohibits the use of these analyses in civil, administrative, or disciplinary proceedings and limits their use in criminal proceedings. AHRQ is coordinating implementation of the Act as a science partner to PSOs and health care providers. The Agency's goals are to help advance the methodologies that identify the most important causes of threats to patient safety, identify best practices for addressing those threats, and share the lessons learned as widely as possible. Specific work to carry out the Act includes:

1. promulgating regulations to implement the Act;
2. developing systems to allow application by organizations to become PSOs;
3. listing successful applicant organizations as PSOs;
4. where appropriate, re-listing and de-listing PSOs;
5. maintaining a database of PSO administrative information;
6. providing technical assistance to PSOs; and
7. holding an annual meeting of PSOs.

Work related to patient safety event information includes:

- specifying common definitions and reporting formats and disseminating it through notification in the Federal Register;
- establishing systems to help PSOs de-identify information (data on an individual patient, reporter, provider, or institution);
- developing a network of patient safety databases that will allow exchange of de-identified information among PSOs and reporting to AHRQ;
- publication annually in AHRQ's National Healthcare Quality Reports information on national and regional statistics, including trends and patterns of health care errors.

Funding for this important Act will continue at the FY 2010 President's Budget Request at \$7,000,000. This level of support will enable AHRQ, working with the Secretary, to support PSO operations in FY 2009, including publishing the list of operational PSOs. (See measure 1.3.40.)

D. Outputs and Outcomes Tables

Program: Patient Safety

Long-Term Objective: Within five years, providers that implement evidence-based tools, interventions, and best practices will progressively improve their patient safety scores on standard measures (e.g., Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS), Hospital Survey of Patient Safety (HSOPS), Patient Safety Indicators (PSIs), and the Medical Office Survey on Patient Safety Culture.)

Measure	FY	Target	Result
1.3.37: Increase the percentage of hospitals in the U.S. using computer-based patient safety event reporting systems (PSERS).	2010	N/A	N/A
	2009	24%	Oct 31, 2009
	2008	N/A	N/A

Measure	FY	Target	Result
<i>(Long-Term Outcome)</i>	2007	N/A	N/A
	2006	Baseline	12%
	2005	N/A	N/A
1.3.38: Increase the number of U.S. health care organizations per year using AHRQ-supported tools to improve patient safety from the 2007 baseline (new portfolio measure) <i>(Output)</i>	2010	580 hospitals	Dec 31, 2011
	2009	500 hospitals	Dec 31, 2010
	2008	450 hospitals	Dec 31, 2009
	2007	Baseline	382 hospitals
	2006	N/A	N/A
	2005	N/A	N/A
1.3.39: Increase the number of patient safety events (e.g. medical errors) reported to the Network of Patient Safety Databases (NPSD) from baseline <i>(Output)</i>	2010	TBD	Dec 31, 2010
	2009	Baseline	Dec 31, 2009
	2008	N/A	N/A
	2007	N/A	N/A
	2006	N/A	N/A
	2005	N/A	N/A
1.3.5: Percentage reduction in the cost per capita of treating hospital-acquired infections per year Baseline actual in 2003: \$4,437.28 per capita <i>(Efficiency)</i>	2010	-2%	Oct 31, 2012
	2009	-2%	Oct 31, 2011
	2008	-2%	Oct 31, 2010
	2007	-2%	Sep 30, 2009
	2006	N/A	N/A
	2005	N/A	N/A
1.3.40: Patient Safety Organizations (PSOs) listed by HHS Secretary <i>(Outcome)</i>	2010	TBD	Oct 31, 2010
	2009	PSOs listed by Secretary	Oct 31, 2009
	2008	Final Regulation published	PSO Final Regulation Issued (Target Met)
	2007	N/A	N/A
	2006	N/A	N/A
	2005	N/A	N/A
1.3.41: Increase the number of tools available in AHRQ's inventory of evidence-based tools to improve patient safety and	2010	86	Oct 31, 2010
	2009	76	Oct 31, 2009

Measure	FY	Target	Result
reduce the risk of patient harm (Output)	2008	68	73 (Target Exceeded)
	2007	Baseline	61
	2006	N/A	N/A
	2005	N/A	N/A

Measure	Data Source	Data Validation
1.3.37	Survey to be completed every 3 years (contract TBD)	Survey contractor will develop methods to validate survey data
1.3.38	Surveys/Case studies	AHRQ staff (OCKT) and evaluation contractor (TBD) to develop methods to validate survey data and conduct case studies
1.3.39	PSOs (and the privacy center contractor that builds the NSPD)	The privacy center contractor monitors the number of reports in the NPSD that is submitted through the PSOs
1.3.5	HCUP/PSIs	Ongoing HCUP/PSI validation activities (HCUP and QI Project Officers use established methodology to check data)
1.3.40	PSOs listed by HHS Secretary	PSOs listed by HHS Secretary
1.3.41	AHRQ FOAs, grant awards, and contract records	AHRQ staff (i.e., project officers, portfolio leads, grants management, and contracts staff) monitor project completion and dissemination of results

**Crosscutting Activities Related to Quality, Effectiveness,
and Efficiency Research**

	FY 2008 Appropriated	FY 2009 Omnibus	FY 2009 Recovery Act	FY 2010 President's Budget Request	FY 2010 +/- FY 2009 Omnibus
TOTAL					
--BA	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
--PHS Eval	\$156,800,000	\$159,514,000	\$0	\$159,514,000	\$0

FY 2009 Authorization.....Title III and IX and Section 937(c) of the Public Health Service Act.
Allocation Method.....Competitive Grant/co-operative agreement, Contracts, and Other.

A. Program Description and Accomplishments

In addition to our research portfolios, funds are provided in HCQO to support a variety of research projects that support all of our research portfolios. Projects that support all portfolios are kept with the Crosscutting Activities Related to Quality, Effectiveness and Efficiency portfolio. In order to meet its outcome goals, AHRQ has developed a set of research contract and grant mechanisms that support the work of the portfolios. These activities include data collection and measurement, dissemination, rapid cycle research, research management and salary costs, training and intramural and extramural research sponsored by multiple portfolios.

Examples of projects that help portfolios with measurement in health care include the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS), Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP), Quality Indicators (QIs), and the National Healthcare Disparities and Quality Reports (NHDR/QR). Additional information about these activities is found in the next section.

Creation of new knowledge is critical to AHRQ’s ability to answer questions related to improving the quality of health care. Portfolios rely on intramural and extramural research to accomplish strategic goals. The questions addressed are of interest and contribute to each of the portfolios. These types of research allow portfolios to generate knowledge and test hypotheses. Investigator-initiated research and training projects that have over-arching research topics – not specific to one portfolio – are kept within Crosscutting Activities. In addition, research portfolios use other activities to ensure that their research is being disseminated to the appropriate health care stakeholder and translated to usable information so health care is directly improved. Examples of activities that help with dissemination and translation are the Eisenberg Center, Evidence-based Practice Centers (EPCs), marketing outreach activities, clearinghouses, and direct dissemination and knowledge transfer activities. Finally, crosscutting activities support Rapid Cycle Research and include Accelerating Change and Transformation in Organizations and Networks (ACTION), Centers for Education & Research on Therapeutics (CERTs), Primary Care Practice-Based Research Networks (PBRNs), and Developing Evidence to Inform Decisions about Effectiveness (DeCIDE Network). These Rapid Cycle Research Activities are found both in Crosscutting Activities and within our research portfolios – depending on the topic.

Research and Training Grants

AHRQ-supported grantees in this portfolio are working to answer questions about: cost, organization and socio-economics; long-term care; pharmaceutical outcomes; training; quality of care; and system capacity and bioterrorism. AHRQ will highlight two grant programs related to Crosscutting Activities: CAHPS and CERTs.

CAHPS®. CAHPS is a multi-year initiative of AHRQ. Originally, “CAHPS” referred to AHRQ’s “Consumer Assessment of Health Plans Study.” However, in 2005, AHRQ changed this to “Consumer Assessment of Health Providers and Systems.” This name better reflects the evolution of CAHPS from its initial focus on enrollees’ experiences with health plans to a broader focus on consumer experience with health care providers and facilities. AHRQ first launched the program in October 1995 in response to concerns about the lack of reliable information about the quality of health plans from the enrollees’ perspective. The survey was adopted by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), U.S. Office of Personnel Management, and the National Committee for Quality Assurance for public reporting and accreditation purposes. As of 2007, 138,000,000 Americans were enrolled in health plans for which CAHPS data were collected. Over time, the program has expanded beyond its original focus on health plans to address a range of health care services and meet the various needs of health care consumers, purchasers, health plans, providers, and policymakers. In June 2007, AHRQ funded the third iteration of CAHPS grants to two organizations: RAND and the Yale School of Public Health. Though instrument development is a part of CAHPS 3, there is a heavier emphasis on using CAHPS data for quality improvement and expanding our knowledge of how to report quality data to consumers and other audiences. In FY 2009 and FY 2010, AHRQ support for CAHPS grants totaled \$2.9 million. Here are some highlights of the past year:

TalkingQuality. *TalkingQualilty* is a Web site developed by the CAHPS consortium (AHRQ, the CAHPS grantees, and the CAHPS support contractor). This Web site assembles existing research and best practices about reporting quality information to consumers and other audiences. The intended users are people and organizations who design health care quality reports. In the past year, the team has begun a large-scale revision to this site, including updating of all information, designating priority content, improvements to site navigation and the possibility of developing new features, such as a ‘wiki’ type mechanism for linking users with reporting questions or problems. We hope to release an initial version of this improved site in early 2009.

CAHPS Hospital Survey. This survey, developed at the request of CMS and jointly funded by CMS and AHRQ, is a standardized survey of the experiences of adult inpatients concerning care and services they received while hospital patients. CMS began voluntary national implementation of the CAHPS Hospital Survey in fall 2006 and publicly reported survey results via the HospitalCompare Web site for the first time in March 2008. In the week before CAHPS Hospital Survey (HCAHPS) data were added to HospitalCompare, CMS reports that there were 161,000 page views; in the week after, page views increased to 1.4 million.

CAHPS Clinician and Group Survey. This survey, which we released in spring 2007, asks patients about their recent experiences with physicians and other office staff. We are currently working with the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) to develop a version of this survey which ABMS will use as part of their Maintenance of Certification process. ABMS will use survey results to improve physician performance and will ultimately release these data to consumers.

CAHPS Home Health Care Survey. We are finishing work on this survey, which asks for patients' assessment of services they received from Home Health agencies (HHAs). These services include nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, or other medical care, as well as personal assistance. The field test involved 34 home health agencies in 15 States. The questionnaire is expected to be refined, completed, and sent to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) by fall of 2008 at which time it will be available to the public free of charge. CMS anticipates submitting the survey for endorsement to the National Quality Forum later this year.

CAHPS Nursing Home Survey (Family Members). AHRQ plans to officially transit the CAHPS Nursing Home Survey for family members to CMS this summer and post the survey and related development documents to the CAHPS Web site. The Technical Expert Panel met in February 2008 to review the final report and comment on the survey and administration protocol.

Surveys modules under development include: Health Literacy, Cultural Competence, and Health Information Technology.

The long-term goals of CAHPS are to ensure that: consumers/patients have accurate and timely information about health care providers and facilities to inform their selection decisions, and providers and health care facilities have accurate information from their patients to use as a basis for quality improvement efforts. CAHPS has set a program performance goal of ensuring that CAHPS data will be more easily available to the user community and the number of consumers who have accessed CAHPS information to make health care choices will increase by over 50 percent from the FY 2002 baseline of 100 million. By moving to create surveys for a range of providers beyond the widely used CAHPS health plan surveys, including clinicians, hospitals, nursing homes, and dialysis facilities, CAHPS is rapidly expanding the capacity to collect data that can be utilized to make more informed choices by the purchasers who contract with and the consumers who visit these providers. In FY 2007, CAHPS met the performance target (see performance measure 1.3.23) to increase 40 percent over the baseline of the user community. In FY 2007 AHRQ increased this usage to 41 percent over the baseline of 100 million users – 141 million users of CAHPS information – and maintained this performance level in 2008.

CERTs. The Centers for Education & Research on Therapeutics (CERTs) demonstration program is a national initiative to conduct research and provide education that advances the optimal use of therapeutics (i.e., drugs, medical devices, and biological products). The program consists of 14 research centers and a Coordinating Center and is funded and run as a cooperative agreement by AHRQ in consultation with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The CERTs receive funds from both public and private sources, with AHRQ providing core financial support – \$11.5 million in both FY 2009 and FY 2010. The research conducted by the CERTs program has three major aims:

- To increase awareness of both the uses and risks of new drugs and drug combinations, biological products, and devices, as well as of mechanisms to improve their safe and effective use.
- To provide clinical information to patients and consumers; health care providers; pharmacists, pharmacy benefit managers, and purchasers; health maintenance organizations and health care delivery systems; insurers; and government agencies.
- To improve quality while reducing cost of care by increasing the appropriate use of drugs,

Upper GI (Gastrointestinal) Bleeding: Measures 4.4.3 and 4.4.4:

Results show that from FY 2005 through FY 2007, the actual rate of hospitalizations for upper GI bleeding due to adverse effects of medication or inappropriate treatment of peptic ulcer disease in those between 65 and 85 years of age have consistently met or slightly exceeded the targets. In FY 2004, baseline rates were established (55/10,000). In FY 2006, the target was a 1.1-percent drop and the actual result was a 2-percent drop (54.38/10,000). In FY 2007, the target was a 2-percent drop and the actual result was a 5.2-percent drop (51.56/10,000).

The most recent results from FY 2008 also met the corresponding target. In FY 2008, the target was a 1.8-percent drop and the actual result was a 3.5-percent drop (49.75/10,000). Although FY 2007 and FY 2008 had approximately double the targeted decrease in hospitalizations for GI bleeding, we retained the previously modeled FY 2009 target of a 3-percent decrease pending a planned evaluation in FY 2009 as described above under 4.4.2. AHRQ did not revise this target because of an ongoing external evaluation that is currently gathering information on multiple factors that might explain why the rate of GI bleeding hospitalizations is exceeding targeted declines. The evaluation will assess the precision of the annual HCUP measurement of GI bleeding hospitalizations and its ability to discern meaningful changes in annual rates, so AHRQ can determine whether the observed annual changes are sufficiently robust to re-project a new and more ambitious trend. The evaluation will also examine potential contributions from non-pharmaceutical factors (including but not limited to changes in health care systems, treatment methods, and population lifestyle factors such as alcohol and tobacco use) to hospitalizations for GI bleeding, so that changes due to pharmaceuticals can be appropriately attributed and projected.

Results show that from FY 2005 through FY 2007, the number of admissions for GI bleeding have generated a per year drop in per capita charges for GI bleeding and our targets have consistently been met. In FY 2004, baseline rates were established (\$96.54 per capita). In FY 2006, the target was a 3-percent drop and the actual result was a 3.2-percent drop (\$93.36 per capita). In FY 2007, the target was a 4-percent drop and the actual result was a 4.9-percent drop (\$91.81 per capita).

The most recent results from FY 2008 also met the corresponding target. In FY 2008, the target was a 5-percent drop and the actual result was a 5.1-percent drop (\$87.10 per capita). Given the past trend, we believe it is reasonable to expect that hospitalization for upper GI bleeding due to adverse events of medication or inappropriate treatment of peptic ulcer disease in those between 65 and 85 years of age will decrease, and the decreased number of admissions will continue to generate an annual drop in per capita charges for GI bleeding. The target selected for FY 2009 is a 6-percent drop. The target selected for FY 2010 is a 7-percent drop. In FY 2009 the program will assess the ambitiousness of current targets.

Many external factors could have affected this performance trend. For example, upper GI bleeding is common in people taking drugs such as anticoagulants, medications affecting platelet functions, and those affecting GI mucosal defenses. Increased or more appropriate monitoring of these drugs could have affected the number of hospitalizations for upper GI bleeding due to adverse events of medication. An increased use of pharmacologic agents such as proton pump inhibitors to prevent gastric irritation in patients could also have affected this performance trend.

The CERTs program initiated a warfarin interaction study to better define the relative safety of commonly used antibiotics and antifungals when co-administered with warfarin. The safety outcome will be major bleeding complications of warfarin, as confirmed by medical record review. This study will test the hypothesis that in a cohort of warfarin users, the risk for major GI bleeding complications differs among the specific study antimicrobials. At present, clinicians cannot make evidence-based choices when prescribing antibiotics and antifungals with warfarin, because the overall quality of interaction literature for warfarin is poor. These data on the relative safety of antimicrobials would inform clinical decisions for this vulnerable population. This research, once complete, will have a direct impact on AHRQ's performance measure 4.4.3: reduce hospitalization for upper GI bleeding due to the adverse effects of medication or inappropriate treatment of peptic ulcer disease, in those between 65 and 85 years of age by implementing the research findings.

CERTs, as part of the now obsolete Pharmaceutical Outcomes program, underwent a program assessment in 2004. The program received a Moderately Effective rating. The assessment cited research to be conducted by AHRQ's CERTS program to reduce antibiotic inappropriate use in children, congestive heart failure hospital readmission rates, and hospitalizations for upper gastrointestinal bleeding due to the adverse effects of medication or inappropriate treatment of peptic ulcer disease. As a result of the program assessment, the CERTs is taking actions to: (1) analyze trends to determine if targets for measures need to be adjusted; and (2) produce reports on best practices in observational methods research.

Research Contracts and IAAs

Examples of types of research contracts and IAAs AHRQ has supported related to Crosscutting Activities includes the following:

Contracts and IAAs support the development and release of the annual *National Healthcare Quality Report* and its companion document, the *National Healthcare Disparities Report*. These reports measure quality and disparities in four key areas of health care: effectiveness, patient safety, timeliness, and patient centeredness. In addition, AHRQ provides a *State Snapshots* Web tool that was launched in 2005. It is an application that helps State health leaders, researchers, consumers, and others understand the status of health care quality in individual States, including each State's strengths and weaknesses. The 51 State Snapshots—every State plus Washington, DC—are based on 129 quality measures, each of which evaluates a different segment of health care performance. While the measures are the products of complex statistical formulas, they are expressed on the Web site as simple, five-color "performance meter" illustrations. Support for these contracts and IAAs totals \$2.9 million in both FY 2009 and FY 2010.

Contracts and IAAs to support the National Quality Measures Clearinghouse (NQMC) and its companion the National Guideline Clearinghouse (NGC). The NQMC and the NGC provide open access to thousands of quality measures and clinical practice guidelines to clinicians and health care providers. The NQMC and NGC receive close to 2 million visits each month. They can be found at <http://www.qualitymeasures.ahrq.gov> and <http://www.guideline.gov>. Support for these two clearinghouses total \$7.0 million in FY 2010.

Contract support for HCUP and the AHRQ Quality Indicators (QIs). Efforts to improve the quality, safety, effectiveness, and efficiency of health care and reduce disparities in the United States require detailed knowledge about how the health care delivery system works now and

how different organizational and financial arrangements affect this performance. Improving health care requires easy access to detailed information and data on costs, access to health care, quality, and outcomes that can be used for research and policymaking at the national, State, and local levels. It also requires tools to measure and track progress in these areas. The Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) provides the necessary data through a long-standing partnership with State data organizations, hospital associations, and private data organizations. HCUP is a family of health care databases and related software tools and products that support the mission of AHRQ. HCUP includes the largest collection of all-payer, encounter-level data in the United States, beginning in 1988. It includes detailed information on 90 percent of all inpatient stays in the country – including information about the diagnosis, the procedures, the cost, and who paid for the care, as well as encrypted non-identifiable demographic information. For over 25 States, it also includes ambulatory surgery and emergency department data. Support for the HCUP contract totals \$4.1 million in FY 2009 and 2010. For more information, go to <http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/overview.jsp>.

One widely used HCUP tool is the AHRQ Quality Indicators (QIs) a set of quality measures developed from HCUP data. Support for QIs total \$0.4 million in FY 2010. This measure set is organized into four modules—Prevention, Inpatient, Patient Safety, and Pediatrics. The Prevention Quality Indicators (PQIs) focus on ambulatory care sensitive conditions that identify adult hospital admissions that evidence suggests could have been avoided, at least in part, through high-quality outpatient care. Inpatient Quality Indicators (IQIs) reflect quality of care for adults inside hospitals and include: Inpatient mortality for medical conditions; inpatient mortality for surgical procedures; utilization of procedures for which there are questions of overuse, underuse, or misuse; and volume of procedures for which there is evidence that a higher volume of procedures may be associated with lower mortality. Patient Safety Indicators (PSIs) also reflect quality of care for adults inside hospitals, but focus on potentially avoidable complications and iatrogenic events. Pediatric Quality Indicators (PDIs) reflect quality of care for children below the age of 18 and neonates inside hospitals and identify potentially avoidable hospitalizations among children. These measures are free and made publicly available as part of an AHRQ supported software package.

The AHRQ QIs are based upon a few guiding principles which make them unique. They:

- Were developed using readily available administrative data (HCUP);
- Use a transparent methodology;
- Are risk adjusted and use a readily available, familiar methodology;
- Are constantly refined based on user input;
- Are updated and maintained by a trusted source; and
- Have documentation and program software in the public domain.

The HCUP/QI family of data and products supports the achievements of a number of AHRQ objectives including two major goals:

- Expand and improve data and tools
- Expand use of HCUP and the AHRQ Quality Indicators (QIs) by policymakers and others

Expand and Improve Data and Tools

The HCUP databases have been a powerful resource for the development of tools that can be applied to other similar databases by health services researchers and decisionmakers. The expanded data and tools can then be translated to inform decisionmaking and improve health care delivery. A major achievement in 2008 and 2009 was creation and release of the largest

all-payer emergency department database in the United States. The first Nationwide Emergency Department Sample (NEDS) database was created to enable national analyses of emergency department (ED) utilization patterns and support public health professionals, administrators, policymakers, and clinicians in their decisionmaking regarding this critical source of care. The NEDS contains clinical and non-clinical information on patients, regardless of payer—including those covered by Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance, and the uninsured. The ED serves a dual role in the U.S. health care system infrastructure as a point of entry for approximately 50 percent of inpatient hospital admissions and as a setting for treat-and-release outpatient visits.

In FY 2008, AHRQ also met our performance target (see performance table 1.3.15) to increase the number of partners contributing outpatient data to the HCUP databases. AHRQ added data from Maine for a total of 39 statewide data organizations participating in HCUP. The number of State Ambulatory Surgery Databases increased by three partners (California, Maine, and Oklahoma) and the number of State Emergency Department Databases increased by four partners (California, Maine, New York, and Rhode Island). They were selected based on the diversity – in terms of geographic representation and population ethnicity – they bring to the project, along with data quality performance and their ability to facilitate timely processing of data. This outcome exceeded the goal by adding seven new Partner databases instead of four. Progress has already been made on FY 2009 goals with the addition of a 40th partner and two new outpatient databases.

Expand Use of HCUP and the AHRQ Quality Indicators by Policymakers and Others

The AHRQ QIs are widely used for quality improvement and public reporting initiatives. We saw several major successes in FY 2008: The National Quality Forum endorsed 41 of our Quality Indicators for public reporting, and there are a growing number of organizations who are using them for public reporting. There are currently over 2,000 subscribers to the AHRQ QI listerv and approximately 150 inquiries being received monthly.

AHRQ has fully met its 2008 performance target (see performance table 1.3.22): “3 new organizations use HCUP/QIs to assess potential areas of quality improvement, and at least 2 of them will develop and implement an intervention based on the QIs. Impact will be observed in 1 new organization after the development and implementation of an intervention based on the QIs.”

As the result of NQF endorsement, a growing number of States are using the Quality Indicators for public reporting of hospital quality. Most recently, New Jersey and California became the 13th and 14th States to use the AHRQ Quality Indicators in a hospital level public report card. Nevada will begin public reporting using the Quality Indicators by the end of April 2009. With the addition of Nevada, 15 States, covering more than half the U.S. population, will be publicly reporting on hospital quality using AHRQ’s Quality Indicators. A new Quality Indicators Learning Institute helps these States use the indicators effectively, and provides technical assistance to new States or communities as they plan their public reporting efforts.

In addition, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has incorporated nine AHRQ Patient Safety Indicators in its 2009 IPPS Rule (acute hospital inpatient prospective payment system). The CMS has held a national “dry run” of the measures with its hospitals and is planning on releasing the measures by hospital on its Hospital Compare Web site in FY 2010.

HCUP and QI analyses and reports based on these tools have been greatly expanded through

statistical briefs, peer-reviewed publications and Web-based reports. For example, HCUP provides critical information on the U.S. health care system such as:

- From 1997 to 2006, the number of uninsured hospitalizations increased by 34 percent, which far exceeds the 14 percent overall increase in hospital stays. Relative to all hospital stays, uninsured stays began in the emergency department (ED) much more frequently with nearly 60 percent of these stays originating in the ED compared to 44 percent of hospital stays overall.
- Uninsured patients accounted for 22.0 percent of tuberculosis (TB) stays, though they made up only 5.8 percent of all non-maternal, non-neonatal hospitalizations. Medicaid covered 24.4 percent of all TB stays, though it accounted for only 12.3 percent of all non-maternal, non-neonatal stays.
- In 2006, there were 503,300 total hospital stays with pressure ulcers (a potentially preventable complication) noted as a diagnosis—an increase of nearly 80 percent since 1993. Adult stays totaled \$11 billion in hospital costs in 2006.
- One out of every 5 hospital stays (21.3 percent) had either a principal or secondary diagnosis of a mental health condition. Medicare and Medicaid were the expected payers for 60 percent of mental health stays.
- Potentially preventable hospital stays for chronic conditions were 42 percent higher among Hispanic adults than among non-Hispanic white adults. Disparities between Hispanics and non-Hispanic whites were greater for diabetes (37 vs. 17 hospitalizations per 10,000 population, respectively).
- Almost two-thirds of the national bill for hospital care was billed to two government payers, Medicare (\$444 billion) and Medicaid (\$135 billion), while slightly less than one-third (\$287 billion) was billed to private insurance and about 5 percent (\$43 billion) was billed to uninsured individuals.

HCUP and the Quality Indicators projects also began development of a new AHRQ tool, My Own Network AHRQ (MonAHRQ) – a Web site builder that would allow any organization or Agency to input their data and then output a Web site. It is being developed to be used by anyone with access to hospital discharge data and will allow users to generate quality, cost, and utilization statistics for Web sites that will be hosted on local servers by individual organizations. These Web sites will provide information in a uniform way using uniform measures at whatever level the host user chooses (e.g., county-level, hospital-level) to various audiences (e.g., patients/consumers, constituent hospitals, public health officials). After testing is completed in the spring of 2009, AHRQ anticipates launching the tool for public use in summer 2009. The final Web site will be an interactive querying tool that users can navigate to learn about hospital care in their area. These efforts, along with others to speed up the production of HCUP databases, increase data representativeness, examine data linkages, facilitate the inclusion of clinical information in administrative data, and begin development of the new Web-based tool all combine to ensure future program performance and support of the Agency's portfolios.

Research Management.

Research management activities for the agency include items such as salaries and benefits, rent, supplies, travel, transportation, communications, printing and other reproduction costs, contractual services, taps and assessments, supplies, equipment, and furniture.

B. Funding History

Funding for the Other Quality, Effectiveness, and Efficiency Research program during the last five years has been as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
2005	\$143,077,000
2006	\$153,908,000
2007	\$151,153,000
2008	\$156,800,000
2009	\$159,514,000

C. Budget Request

The FY 2010 Estimate level provides \$159,514,000 for Crosscutting Activities Related to Quality, Effectiveness, and Efficiency research, the same level of funding as the prior year. There are two changes within this portfolio that provide a net change of \$0.

- HCQO: Crosscutting Activities Related to Quality, Effectiveness and Efficiency – Investigator-initiated Research Grants (-\$2,478,000): The FY 2010 Estimate includes \$37,124,000 (77 grants) in total research grants funds for HCQO: Crosscutting Activities Related to Quality, Effectiveness and Efficiency. This level provides a decrease of \$2,478,000 from the FY 2009 level of \$39,602,000 – equivalent to a decrease of approximately 52 small, investigator-initiated research grants with an average cost of \$50,000. The FY 2010 President’s Budget Request will fund \$6,421,000 in new investigator-initiated research grants, for a total of \$23,551,000 in investigator-initiated research. This is a decrease of \$2,478,000 from the FY 2009 funding level of \$26,029,000 for investigator-initiated research grants.

In addition, the FY 2010 Estimate level will provide for noncompeting research grant commitments for several grants programs, including the CAHPS and CERTs programs. Funding for CAHPS grants will total \$2.9 million in FY 2010. In FY 2010, the CAHPS program will ensure that data will be more easily available to the user community and the number of consumers who have access to CAHPS information to make health choices will increase by 46 percent over baseline (see performance table 1.3.23). If AHRQ meets this target for FY 2010, 146 million consumers will have access to CAHPS information.

A total of \$11.5 million is provided in FY 2010 in continuation grant support for the CERTs program. This program expects decreases in hospitalization for upper GI bleeding due to adverse events of medication or inappropriate treatment of peptic ulcer disease in those between 65 and 85 years of age and decreased number of admissions will continue to generate a per year drop in per capita charges for GI bleeding. The most recent results from FY 2008 did meet the corresponding target. In FY 2008, the target was a 5-percent drop and the actual result was a 5.1-percent drop (\$87.10 per capita). The target selected for FY 2009 is a 6-percent drop (\$90.75) relative to the original baseline, which is \$99.54. The target selected for FY 2010 is a 7-percent drop. In FY 2009 the program will assess the ambitiousness of current targets.

- Research Contracts and IAAs (\$0): The FY 2010 President’s Budget Request maintains research contract and IAA support at \$57,490,000. This level of support will allow AHRQ to

continue core research contracts and IAAs that support Crosscutting Activities Related to Quality, Effectiveness and Efficiency research.

Contracts that will continue in FY 2010 include HCUP at a total of \$4.1 million. HCUP has set an effectiveness goal that by 2010, at least five organizations will use HCUP databases, products or tools to improve health care quality for their constituencies by 5 percent, as defined by AHRQ Quality Indicators. Of those, three new organizations use HCUP/QIs to assess potential areas of quality improvement, and at least two of them will develop and implement an intervention based on the QIs. Impact will be observed in one new organization after the development and implementation of an intervention based on the QIs.

By increasing the number of organizations using HCUP and the Quality Indicator tools, we support the overall program goal. HCUP's long-term goal for efficiency is to achieve wider access to effective health care services and reduce health care costs by increasing the number of partners contributing data to the HCUP databases. Expanding to add new States and increasing the number of Partners that contribute ambulatory surgery and emergency department data improves national and regional representation. AHRQ added data from Maine for a total of 39 statewide data organizations participating in HCUP. The number of State Ambulatory Surgery Databases (AS) increased by three partners (California, Maine, and Oklahoma) and the number of State Emergency Department Databases (ED) increased by four partners (California, Maine, New York, and Rhode Island). They were selected based on the diversity—in terms of geographic representation and population ethnicity—they bring to the project, along with data quality performance and their ability to facilitate timely processing of data.

- **Research Management (+\$2,478,000):** In FY 2010, research management costs for AHRQ total \$67,600,000, an increase of \$2,478,000 from the prior year. The FY 2010 President's Budget Request level provides \$1,872,000 for pay raise costs for AHRQ as a whole. An additional \$606,000 is provided in FY 2010 for required research management increases within AHRQ's budget, including rent increases, travel, printing, and data costs. In FY 2010, research management costs for AHRQ total \$67,600,000.

D. Outputs and Outcomes Tables

Program: Crosscutting Activities Related to Quality, Effectiveness and Efficiency Research

Long-Term Objective 1: Reduce inappropriate antibiotic use in children between the ages of 1 and 14.

Measure	FY	Target	Result
4.4.1: The number of prescriptions of antibiotics per child aged 1 to 14 in the United States (Outcome)	2010	0.50 per child per year	Oct 31, 2010
	2009	0.51 per child per year	Oct 31, 2009
	2008	0.52 per child per year	0.58 per child (Target Not Met)
	2007	0.53 per child per year	0.52 per child (Target Met)
	2006	0.54 per child per year	0.60 per child (Target Not Met)

Measure	FY	Target	Result
	2005	0.55 per child per year	0.59 per child (Target Not Met)

Measure	Data Source	Data Validation
4.4.1	MEPS	The MEPS family of surveys includes a Medical Provider Survey and a Pharmacy Verification Survey to allow data validation studies in addition to serving as the primary source of medical expenditure data for the survey. The MEPS survey meets OMB standards for adequate response rates, and timely release of public use data files.

Long-Term Objective 2: Reduce congestive heart failure hospital readmission rates in those between 65 and 85 years of age.

Measure	FY	Target	Result
4.4.2: The percentage of hospital readmissions within 6 months for congestive heart failure in patients between 65 and 85 years of age (Outcome)	2010	34%	Oct 31, 2010
	2009	34.5%	Oct 31, 2009
	2008	35%	31.91% (Target Met)
	2007	35.5%	36.51% (Target Not Met)
	2006	36%	36.74% (Target Not Met)
	2005	37%	36.99% (Target Met)

Measure	Data Source	Data Validation
4.4.2	HCUP	HCUP and QI Project Officers use established methodology to check data.

Long-Term Objective 3: Reduce hospitalization for upper GI bleeding in those between 65 and 85 years of age.

Measure	FY	Target	Result
4.4.3: The decrease in the rate of hospitalization for upper GI bleeding due to the adverse effects of medication or inappropriate treatment of peptic ulcer disease in patients between 65 and 85 years of age (Outcome)	2010	-4%	Oct 31, 2010
	2009	-3%	Oct 31, 2009
	2008	-1.8%	49.75/10,000 (-3.5%) (Target Exceeded)
	2007	-2%	51.56/10,000 (-5.2%) (Target Exceeded)
	2006	-2%	54.38/10,000 (-1.1%) (Target Not Met)
	2005	-2%	55/10,000 (0%) (Target Not Met)

Measure	FY	Target	Result
4.4.4: The cost per capita of hospital admissions for upper GI bleeding among patients aged 65 to 84 (Efficiency)	2010	\$89.78 per capita	Oct 31, 2010
	2009	\$90.75 per capita	Oct 31, 2009
	2008	\$91.71 per capita	\$87.10 per capita (Target Met)
	2007	\$92.68 per capita	\$91.81 per capita (Target Met)
	2006	\$93.64 per capita	\$93.36 per capita (Target Met)
	2005	\$94.61 per capita	\$93.20 per capita (Target Met)

Measure	Data Source	Data Validation
4.4.3 4.4.4	HCUP	HCUP and QI Project Officers use established methodology to check data

Long-Term Objective 4: Achieve wider access to effective health care services and reduce health care costs.

Measure	FY	Target	Result
1.3.15: Cumulative number of partners contributing data to HCUP databases will exceed by 5% the FY 2000 baseline of 39 ¹ . (Output)	2010	Increase # of partners providing data	Oct 31, 2010
	2009	Increase # of partners providing data by 3	Oct 31, 2009
	2008	Increase # of partners contributing to HCUP databases	27 AS 25 ED (Target Met)
	2007	Increase # of partners contributing to HCUP databases	24 AS 22 ED (Target Met)
	2006	N/A	21 Ambulatory Surgery (AS) 17 Emergency Department (ED) (Target Met)
	2005	N/A	5 new outpatient datasets (Target Met)

¹ This measure is annual and represents additional partner data per year. The Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) is a family of health care databases and related software tools and products developed through a Federal-State-industry partnership and sponsored by AHRQ. HCUP databases bring together the data collection efforts of 39 State data organizations, hospital associations, private data organizations, and the Federal government in a voluntary data sharing partnership to create a national information resource of patient-level health care data. HCUP executes memorandums of agreements with its state-level data partners which specify the partnering arrangements and data permissions and restrictions. At present, only HCUP has held discussions with all the remaining U.S. States that collect and release hospital data to pursue partnership. Four States do not collect hospital inpatient data.

Measure	FY	Target	Result
1.3.22: Number of additional organizations per year that use Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) databases, products, or tools in health care quality improvement efforts. (Outcome)	2010	3 organizations	Oct 31, 2010
	2009	3 organizations	Oct 31, 2009
	2008	3 organizations	5 new organizations - Kentucky Hospital Association; SSM Health Care; IN CHCS; Robert Wood Johnson; University Hospital (Target Met)
	2007	3 organizations	3 new organizations – CO Health Institute; OH Department of Health; Harvard Vanguard Medical Association & Atrias Health (Target Met)
	2006	3 organizations	3 new organizations - Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development; CT Office of Health Care Access; Dallas-Fort Worth Hospital Council (Target Met)
	2005	2 organizations	2 organizations (Target Met)

Measure	Data Source	Data Validation
1.3.15	HCUP database	HCUP Project Officer monitors the number of partners and reports by identifying the new data added to the existing baseline
1.3.22	HCUP database	HCUP and QI Project Officers work with Project Contractors to monitor the field and collect specific information to validate the organizations' use and outcomes

Long-Term Objective 5: Assure that providers and consumers/patients use beneficial and timely health care information to make informed decisions/choices.

Measure	FY	Target	Result
1.3.23: The number of consumers who have access to customer satisfaction data from the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) to make health care choices (Outcome)	2010	Increase 46% over baseline (146 million)	Oct 31, 2010
	2009	Increase 44% over baseline (144 million)	Oct 31, 2009
	2008	Increase 42% over baseline (142 million)	41% (141 Million) (Target Not Met)
	2007	Increase 40% over baseline (140 million)	41% (141 Million) (Target Met)
	2006	Increase baseline	138 Million (Target Met)
	2005	Increase baseline	135 Million (Target Met)

Measure	Data Source	Data Validation
1.3.23	CAHPS database National CAHPS Benchmarking Database	Prior to placing survey and related reporting products in the public domain a rigorous development, testing, and vetting process with stakeholders is followed. Survey results are analyzed to assess internal consistency, construct validity, and power to discriminate among measured providers.

Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS)

	FY 2008 Appropriated	FY 2009 Omnibus	FY 2009 Recovery Act	FY 2010 President's Budget Request	FY 2010 +/- FY 2009 Omnibus
TOTAL					
--BA	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
--PHS Eval	\$55,300,000	\$55,300,000	\$0	\$55,300,000	\$0
FTEs	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FY 2009 Authorization.....Title III and IX and Section 937(c) of the Public Health Service Act.
 Allocation Method.....Contracts, and Other.

A. Program Description and Accomplishments

The Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS), first funded in 1995, is the only national source for annual data on how Americans use and pay for medical care. It supports all of AHRQ's research related strategic goal areas. The survey collects detailed information from families on access, use, expense, insurance coverage and quality. Data are disseminated to the public through printed and Web-based tabulations, microdata files and research reports/journal articles.

The data from the MEPS have become a linchpin for the public and private economic models projecting health care expenditures and utilization. This level of detail enables public and private sector economic models to develop national and regional estimates of the impact of changes in financing, coverage, and reimbursement policy, as well as estimates of who benefits and who bears the cost of a change in policy. No other surveys provide the foundation for estimating the impact of changes on different economic groups or special populations of interest, such as the poor, elderly, veterans, the uninsured, or racial/ethnic groups. Government and non-governmental entities rely upon these data to evaluate health reform policies, the effect of tax code changes on health expenditures and tax revenue, and proposed changes in government health programs such as Medicare. In the private sector (e.g., RAND, Heritage Foundation, Lewin-VHI, and the Urban Institute), these data are used by many private businesses, foundations, and academic institutions to develop economic projections. These data represent a major resource for the health services research community at large. Since 2000, data on premium costs from the MEPS Insurance Component have been used by the Bureau of Economic Analysis to produce estimates of the GDP for the Nation. Because of the need for timely data, performance goals for MEPS have focused on providing data in a timely manner. The MEPS program has met or exceeded all of its data timeliness goals. These performance goals require the release of the MEPS Insurance Component tables within 7 months of data collection; the release of MEPS Use and Demographic Files within 12 months of data collection; the release of MEPS Full Year Expenditure data within 12 months of data collection. In addition, the program has expanded the depth and breadth of data products available to serve a wide range of users. To date, over 200 statistical briefs have been published. The MEPS data table series has expanded to include eight topic areas on the household component and nine topic areas on the Insurance Component. In addition, specific large State and metro area

expenditure and coverage estimates have been produced, further increasing the utility of MEPS within the existing program costs. In 2008, further advances in the timeliness of the MEPS Insurance Component data have been initiated through a change in the questionnaire to obtain employer sponsored coverage information that is in force at the time of data collection, rather than for a prior year retrospective reference period. Further advances in data accessibility have also been achieved by expanding the number of Data Centers across the Nation to permit access to MEPS restricted data through a collaboration with the Bureau of the Census to utilize nine additional Research Data Centers for approved projects. Since its inception in 1996, MEPS has been used in several hundred scientific publications, and many more unpublished reports to inform health policy decisions and practice.

- The MEPS data have been used extensively by the Congressional Budget Office, Congressional Research Service, Department of Treasury, Joint Taxation Committee, and Department of Labor to inform Congressional inquiries related to health care expenditures, insurance coverage and sources of payment and to analyze potential tax and other implications of Federal Health Insurance Policies.
- MEPS data on health care quality, access, and health insurance coverage have been used extensively in the Department's two annual reports to Congress, the National Healthcare Disparities Report and the National Healthcare Quality Report.
- The MEPS was awarded the American Association for Public Opinion Research's 2008 Policy Impact Award in recognition of their extraordinary, long-term group effort in contributing timely data and research that has informed U.S. health care policy decisions.
- The MEPS has been used in Congressional testimony on the impact of health insurance coverage rate increases on small businesses.
- The MEPS data have informed studies of the value of health insurance in private markets and the effect of consumer payment on health care.
- The MEPS data have been extensively used to inform Congressional inquiries tied to State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) reauthorization, with particular emphasis on the change in take-up rates among Medicaid eligible children over the implementation period of SCHIP and the percent of all uninsured children who are eligible for Medicaid or SCHIP.
- The MEPS-IC has been used by a number of States in evaluating their own private insurance issues including eligibility and enrollment by the State of Connecticut and by the Maryland Health Care Commission; and community rating by the State of New York. As part of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's State Coverage Initiative, MEPS data was cited in 69 reports, representing 27 States.
- The MEPS data have been used extensively by the Government Accountability Office to determine trends in Employee Compensation, with a major focus on the percentage of employees at establishments that offer health insurance, the percentage of eligible employees who enroll in the health insurance plans, the average annual premium for employer-provided health insurance for single workers, and the employees' share of these premiums.

- MEPS data have been used in HHS Reports to Congress on expenditures by sources of payment for individuals afflicted by conditions that include acute respiratory distress syndrome, arthritis, cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, depression, diabetes, and heart disease.
- MEPS data are used to develop estimates provided in the *Consumers Checkbook Guide to Health Plans*, of expected out of pocket costs (premiums, deductibles and copayments) for Federal employees and retirees for their health care. *The Checkbook* is an annual publication that provides comparative information on the health insurance choices offered to Federal workers and retirees.
- The MEPS has been used to estimate the impact of the Medicare Modernization Act (MMA) by the Employee Benefit Research Institute (the effect of the MMA on availability of retiree coverage), by the Iowa Rural Policy Institute (effect of the MMA on rural elderly) and by researchers to examine levels of spending and co-payments.
- MEPS data have been used by CDC and others to evaluate the cost of common conditions including arthritis, injuries, diabetes, obesity, and cancer.

Before AHRQ reorganized research portfolios, MEPS was part of the Data Collection and Dissemination portfolio. This portfolio underwent a program assessment in 2002, and was found to be moderately effective. The review cited the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) as a strong attribute of the program. As a result of the program assessment, the program continues to take actions to reduce the number of months that MEPS data is made available after the date of completion of the survey, increase the number of MEPS data users, and increase the number of topical areas tables included in the MEPS Tables Compendia.

B. Funding History

Funding for the MEPS budget activity during the last five years has been as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
2005	\$55,300,000
2006	\$55,300,000
2007	\$55,300,000
2008	\$55,300,000
2009	\$55,300,000

C. Budget Request

The FY 2010 President's Budget Request for the MEPS totals \$55,300,000 in PHS evaluation funds, maintaining the FY 2009 Omnibus level. The funding allocation in FY 2010 for the three core MEPS Component Surveys follows: MEPS Household Component (\$33,300,000); MEPS Medical Provider Component (\$12,000,000); and the MEPS Insurance Component (\$10,000,000).

The FY 2010 funding for MEPS will be used to support the sample size and content of the MEPS Household and Medical Provider Surveys necessary to satisfy the congressional mandate to submit an annual report on national trends in health care quality and to prepare an annual report on health care disparities. The MEPS Household Component sample size is

specified at 14,000 households in 2010 with full calendar year information. These sample size specifications for the MEPS permit detailed analyses of the quality of care received by special populations meeting precision specifications for survey estimates. This design, in concert with the survey enhancements initiated in prior years, significantly enhances AHRQ's capacity to report on the quality of care Americans receive at the national and regional level, in terms of clinical quality, patient satisfaction, access, and health status both in managed care and fee-for-service settings.

The MEPS Household Component:

These funds will also permit the continuation of an oversample in MEPS of Asian and Pacific Islanders and an over-sample of African Americans. These enhancements, in concert with the existing MEPS capacity to examine differences in the cost, quality and access to care for minorities, ethnic groups and low income individuals, will provide critical data for the National Healthcare Quality Report and the National Healthcare Disparities Report.

The MEPS Insurance Component:

Funds will also be allocated to the MEPS Insurance Component to maintain improvements in the availability of data to the States. In FY 2010, data on employer sponsored health insurance will be collected to support separate estimates for all 50 States and these funds would be used to enhance the tabulations we provide to the States to support their analysis of private, employer sponsored health insurance.

The Medical Provider Component:

FY 2010 funds will also support the MEPS Medical Provider Component, a survey of medical providers, facilities and pharmacies that collects detailed data on the expenditures and sources of payment for the medical services provided to individuals sampled for the MEPS. Such data are essential to improve the accuracy of the national medical expenditure estimates derived from the MEPS and to correct for the item non-response on expenditures by household sample participants.

Recent enhancements to the estimation capabilities of the MEPS Household Component have also been realized and permit the generation of health care utilization, expenditure, and health insurance coverage estimates for some large metropolitan areas and for the ten largest States. This has resulted in visible improvements in the analytic capacity of the survey without any additional increments to the sample size.

MEPS - Marginal Cost

The Baseline MEPS sample consists of approximately 14,000 households and 32,000 individuals, and includes over-sampling of African Americans, Hispanics, Asians, and low income households. With respect to desired levels of precision for survey estimates, a relative standard error (RSE) specification of less than or equal to 10 percent is recommended for survey estimates that characterize policy relevant population subgroups, which include racial and ethnic minorities ($RSE(X) = \text{standard error}(X) \text{ divided by the estimate } X$). This precision target is not currently being met for estimates of the health care utilization and expenditure patterns for American Indians/Alaskan Natives, subgroups of individuals of multiple races (e.g. race classifications of both African American and other race), specific Hispanic subgroups (e.g., Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican) and Asian population subgroups (e.g., Chinese, Vietnamese, Asian Indian). The FY 2010 cost estimate for MEPS — at an average cost of \$6,971 per household for the household and medical provider components of the MEPS survey — would allow for the following sample yields for these racial and ethnic minority population subgroups in

MEPS.

MEPS Oversampling

Subgroup	Baseline – FY 2010 President’s Budget Request	
	Individuals	RSE (for mean expenditures)
Asians	1,300	7.8%
Chinese	160	16.0%
Hispanic Subgroups		
Puerto Rican	700	11.5%
Cuban	300	33.2%
Dominican	225	19.0%
American Indians/Alaskan Natives	400	13.2%
Multiple Races	575	9.0%

The baseline cost components related to the household and medical provider component of MEPS for a full panel of 7,000 households over 3 years are provided below:

Cost Components	Baseline
Households	Full MEPS consists of 14,000 households
(1) Sample Selection	\$0.6 M
(2) Management	\$1.1M
(3) Hire/Train Household/Medical Provider Survey Staff	\$3.4M
(4.a) Conduct Household Interviews	\$20.7M
(4.b) Data Collection-Medical Providers	\$10.9M
(5) Data Processing/Production of Analytical Files	\$12.1M
Total Cost	\$48.8M
Cost per Household	\$6,971

Costs associated with (1) the sample frame preparation and sample selections for the MEPS Household and Medical Provider Surveys and (2) the management tasks are fixed, while costs associated with the remaining data collection and data processing components are variable.

In 2007, a marginal cost analysis was completed to determine the marginal cost of increasing the degree of oversampling in the MEPS sample among certain minority sub-groups. This oversampling would allow estimates for these subgroups to be more precise, allowing the implications of program and policies to be more accurately estimated for these groups using MEPS data. As indicated, many estimates for these subgroups have relative standard errors that are higher than the recommended maximum threshold of 10 percent. The marginal cost to reach the recommended RSE of 10 percent for these minority subgroups in 2010 and 2011 is

\$4,300 per additional minority household surveyed, which is lower than the current average cost per household of \$6,971.

The table below indicates the percent reduction in relative standard errors in survey estimates that could be achieved by a targeted MEPS sample augmentation of 1,000 additional households.

Subgroup	RSE (for mean expenditures) with MEPS Sample Augmentation	Reduction in RSE (for mean expenditures) with MEPS Sample Augmentation
Asians	5.9%	24%
Chinese	12.0%	24%
Hispanic Subgroups		
Puerto Rican	9.6%	15%
Cuban	25.7%	23%
Dominican	13.8%	26%
American Indians/Alaskan Natives	10.0%	24%
Multiple Races	7.6%	16%

D. Outputs and Outcomes Tables

Program: Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS)

Long-Term Objective: Achieve a wider access to effective health care services and reduce health care costs.

Measure	FY	Target	Result
1.3.16: Insurance Component tables will be available within months of collection (Output)	2010	TBD	Oct 31, 2010
	2009	Set Baseline	Oct 31, 2009
	2008	6	6 (Target Met)
	2007	6	6 (Target Met)
	2006	N/A	6 (Historical Actual)
	2005	N/A	7 (Historical Actual)
1.3.17: MEPS Use and Demographic Files will be available months after final data collection (Output)	2010	11	Oct 31, 2010
	2009	11	Oct 31, 2009
	2008	11	11 (Target Met)
	2007	11	11 (Target Met)
	2006	N/A	11
	2005	N/A	12 (Historical Actual)
1.3.18: Number of months after the date of completion of the MEPS data will be available (Output)	2010	10.8	Oct 31, 2010
	2009	11	Oct 31, 2009
	2008	11	11 (Target Met)
	2007	11	11 (Target Met)
	2006	12 months	12 months (Target Met)
	2005	12 months	12 months (Target Met)

Measure	FY	Target	Result
1.3.19: Increase the number of topical areas tables included in the MEPS Tables Compendia (TC) (Output)	2010	Add additional variables to MEPS Net	Oct 31, 2010
	2009	Update State level tables	Oct 31, 2009
	2008	Add Prescribed Drug Tables	Prescribed Drug Tables Added (Target Met)
	2007	Add Insurance Tables	Insurance Tables Added (Target Met)
	2006	Add State Tables	State Tables Added (Target Met)
	2005	Add Access Tables	Access Tables added (Target Met)
1.3.20: Increase the number of MEPS data users Baseline FY 2005: 10 Data Center Projects (DCP), 15,900 TC, 13,101 Household Component/Insurance Component (HC/IC) (Outcome)	2010	Exceed baseline standard	Oct 31, 2010
	2009	Exceed baseline standard	Oct 31, 2009
	2008	Exceed baseline standard	41 DCP (Target Met)
	2007	Exceed baseline standard	23 DCP 19,989 TCP 14,809 HC/IC (Target Met)
	2006	Exceed Baseline standard	14 DCP 16,200 TCP 11,600 HC/IC (Target Met)
	2005	Maintain Baseline standard	10 Data Center Projects (DCP) 15,900 Tables Compendia (TC) 13,101 Household Component/Insurance Component (HC/IC)

Measure	FY	Target	Result
1.3.21: The number of months required to produce MEPS data files (i.e., point-in-time, utilization, and expenditure files) for public dissemination following data collection (Outcome)	2010	10.8 months	Oct 31, 2010
	2009	11 months	Oct 31, 2009
	2008	11 months	11 months (Target Met)
	2007	11 months	11 months (Target Met)
	2006	12 months	12 months (Target Met)
	2005	N/A	N/A
1.3.49: The average number of field staff hours required to collect data per respondent household for the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) (at level funding) (Annual Efficiency Measure)	2010	12.8 hours	Oct 31, 2010
	2009	13.0 hours	Oct 31, 2009
	2008	13.5 hours	13.5 hours
	2007	Baseline	14.2 hours
	2006	N/A	N/A
	2005	N/A	N/A

Measure	Data Source	Data Validation
1.3.16	MEPS Web site	Data published on Web site
1.3.17 1.3.18 1.3.21	MEPS Web site	Monthly meetings with contractor, careful monitoring of field progress and instrument design, quality control procedures including benchmarking with other national data sources.
1.3.19	MEPS Web site	Data published on Web site
1.3.20	MEPS data: List of ongoing projects	Publications
1.3.49		The number of field staff hours required to collect data per respondent household for the MEPS is logged by field staff in an automated system. Data quality and validation is monitored in several ways: (1) Validation interviews are conducted for a sample of respondents, in which questions concerning the interview process are asked; (2) Response rates are monitored to ensure that they stay high; and (3) the duration of interviews are tracked to ensure that interviewers are following proper protocol and not skipping questions during the interview.

Program Support

	FY 2008 Appropriated	FY 2009 Omnibus	FY 2009 Recovery Act	FY 2010 President's Budget Request	FY 2010 +/- FY 2009 Omnibus
TOTAL					
--BA	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
--PHS Eval	\$2,700,000	\$2,700,000	\$0	\$2,700,000	\$0
FTEs	22	22	22	22	22

FY 2009 Authorization.....Title III and IX and Section 937(c) of the Public Health Service Act.
 Allocation Method.....Contracts, and Other.

A. Program Description and Accomplishments

This budget activity supports the overall direction and management of the AHRQ.

Strategic Management of Human Capital

AHRQ participated in the Federal Human Capital Survey (FHCS) and is assessing the impact of the results at the Office/Center levels and communicating this information to staff. Additionally, Agency staff involved in the Making AHRQ Great Initiative (MAG) has been called upon to foster solutions and ensure issues on a large scale are resolved (e.g., themes which cut across AHRQ). An action plan is currently being developed which will address issues and concerns that were revealed through the survey.

Recently, AHRQ conducted forums to assess the current Performance Management Appraisal Program system (PMAP) and provided responses to the Department suggesting changes to the existing policy. In an effort to ensure full and open conversations, forums and questionnaires were utilized to obtain feedback from managers and employees. Notable suggestions included weighting of the performance elements and implementation of a five tiered appraisal system. AHRQ recently engaged in testing of the new automated performance management application and conducted a pilot test with a small group of staff in the Agency. AHRQ continues to support workforce development programs and initiatives through competency assessment, development and implementation for mission critical activities. The Agency identified a need for, and implemented mandatory Project Management training for all AHRQ staff and participated in the Department-wide effort to identify and establish core competencies across OPDIVs/STAFFDIVs. Finally, AHRQ continues to strive towards meeting the OPM 45-day timeline for hiring and notifying applicants to SES and non-SES vacancies. We are working in collaboration with the Rockville Human Resources Center to ensure timelines are met and we consistently inform selecting officials of this requirement through the issuance of action due dates upon release of certificates identifying eligible applicants.

Improve Financial Performance

AHRQ is working to demonstrate to the Office of Finance at HHS effective use of financial information to drive results in key areas of operations and to develop and implement a plan to continuously expand the scope to additional areas of operations. AHRQ has completed the review and updating of all internal controls in light of the transition to an integrated, department-

wide financial management solution – the Unified Financial Management System (UFMS). In addition, AHRQ continued to participate in the Department’s A-123 internal control efforts and implemented all corrective actions for deficiencies reported as a result of the FMFIA/A-123 internal control processes identified in FY 2008. In FY 2009, AHRQ is also working to update all internal controls based on the transition to the HHS Consolidated Acquisition Solution (HCAS). HCAS is the standardized acquisition system that will be used across multiple OPDIVs, including AHRQ. Finally, AHRQ continues to maintain a low-risk status for improper payments.

Electronic Government

AHRQ’s current activities include:

- Ongoing development of policies and procedures that link AHRQ’s IT initiatives directly to the mission and performance goals of the Agency. Our governance structure ensures that all IT initiatives are not undertaken without the consent and approval of AHRQ Senior Management and prioritized based upon the strategic goals and research priorities of the agency.
- Ensuring AHRQ’s IT initiatives are aligned with departmental and agency enterprise architectures. Utilizing HHS defined FHA and HHS Enterprise Architectures, AHRQ ensures that all internal and contracted application initiatives are consistent with the technologies and standards and adopted by HHS as well as OMB directives. This uniformity improves application integration (leveraging of existing systems) as well as reducing cost and development time.
- Providing quality customer service and operations support to AHRQ’s centers, offices and outside stakeholders. This objective entails providing uniform tools, methods, processes, practices and standards to ensure all projects and programs are effectively managed utilizing industry best practices. These practices include PMI (PMBOK, EVM), RUP (SDLC), CPIC, and EA. These practices have appreciably improved AHRQ’s ability to satisfy project objectives to include cost and schedule.
- Ensuring the protection of AHRQ data; commensurate with current and future legislation and OMB directives. AHRQ’s security program goals focus on executing the defined goals developed in our strategic and tactical plans which are targeted at three key areas: People, Process and Technology. These goals include but are not limited to: implementation of LOB Information and Security and Privacy Awareness training, System Development Life Cycle and FIPS 140-2 compliant encryption solutions. AHRQ continues to ensure 98 percent or higher of AHRQ’s employees will complete the LOB Information Security and Privacy Awareness training. AHRQ will continue to follow the modified systems development life-cycle to ensure that security is addressed throughout each project phase. The Agency will deploy encryption solutions for mobile devices, removable media, and data and will ensure FDCC settings are applied to all desktops, laptops, and ensure servers are deployed with departmental approved standard security settings.

Performance Improvement

General program direction is accomplished through the collaboration of the Office of the Director and the offices and centers that have programmatic responsibility for portions of the Agency’s research portfolio. AHRQ created a framework to provide a more thoughtful and strategic alignment of its activities. This framework represents the Agency’s collaborative efforts on strategic opportunities for growth and synergy. As the result of increased emphasis on strategic planning, the Agency continues the shift from a focus on output and process measurement to a focus on outcome measures where feasible. These outcome measures cascade down from our strategic goal areas of safety/quality, effectiveness, efficiency and organizational excellence.

Portfolios of work (combinations of activities that make up the bulk of our investments) support the achievement of our highest-level outcomes.

Performance data will be tracked electronically using the Agency's electronic performance tracking system and published as soon as it becomes available. Also, work will continue with program staff to establish and display a close alignment of projects and how they support AHRQ's performance measures and the Department's strategic goal areas.

In FY 2008 and FY 2009, AHRQ continued the implementation of strong budget and performance integration practices through the use of structured Project Management processes. AHRQ has begun a campaign to design and implement a quality improvement process for managing major programs that support the Agency's strategic goals and Departmental strategic goals and specific objectives.

AHRQ has successfully completed comprehensive program assessments on six key programs within the Agency: The Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS); the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP); the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Plans Survey (CAHPS®); the Patient Safety portfolio; the Pharmaceutical Outcomes portfolio; and most recently the Health Information and Technology portfolio. These reviews provide the basis for the Agency to move forward in more closely linking high quality outcomes with associated costs of programs. Over the next few years, the Agency will focus on fully integrating financial management of these programs with their performance.

B. Funding History

Funding for the Program Support budget activity during the last five years has been as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
2005	\$2,700,000
2006	\$2,700,000
2007	\$2,700,000
2008	\$2,700,000
2009	\$2,700,000

C. Budget Request

The FY 2010 President's Budget Request for Program Support totals \$2,700,000, the same level of support as the prior year. In FY 2010, AHRQ will:

- Fully implement the Departmental Learning Management System (LMS) for training and development needs (Strategic Management of Human Capital); and
- Complete updating of all internal controls following AHRQ's conversion to HCAS (Improve Financial Management).

D. Outputs and Outcomes Tables

Program: Program Support

Long-Term Objective: Improve performance in all areas of Program Support.

Measure	FY	Target	Result
5.1.1: Improve AHRQ's strategic management of human capital (Output)	2010	Upon Departmental approval, fully implement the new HHS-wide automated performance management system	Oct 31, 2010
	2009	Fully implement Departmental Learning Management System (LMS) for training and development needs	N/A
	2008	Develop core competencies for selected Agency staff and develop strategies for implementation	Core competencies developed and implementation strategies completed (Target Met)
	2007	Implement HHS Performance Improvement Initiative	Completed implementation of HHS Performance Improvement Initiative (Target Met)
	2006	N/A	Completed assessment of core competency and leadership models Identified strategies to infuse new talent into AHRQ (Target Met)
	2005	N/A	Get to Green on Strategic Management of Human Capital Initiative (Target Met)
	5.1.2: Maintain a low-risk improper payment risk status (Output)	2010	Complete updating of all internal controls following AHRQ's conversion to HCAS
2009		Complete updating of all internal controls following AHRQ's conversion to the Unified Financial Management System (UFMS)	Oct 31, 2009
2008		Complete all requirements related to OMB revised Circular A-123 Begin to update internal controls following AHRQ's conversion to UFMS	Requirements related to OMB revised Circular Continued to update internal controls (Target Met)

Measure	FY	Target	Result
	2007	Continue to participate in Department A-123 Internal Control efforts	Continued to participate in Department A-123 Internal Control efforts (Target Met)
	2006	N/A	Participated in Department A-123 Internal Control efforts related to improper payments (Target Met)
	2005	N/A	Updated AHRQ Improper Payment Risk Assessment Increased awareness of risk management within AHRQ (Target Met)
5.1.3: Expand E-government by increasing IT organizational capability (Output)	2010	TBD	Oct 31, 2010
	2009	TBD	Oct 31, 2009
	2008	Extend Project Management Office (PMO) operations and concepts to AHRQ IT investments	Ongoing (Target Met)
	2007	Develop fully integrated PMO with standardized processes and artifact	Ongoing (Target Met)
	2006	N/A	Completed level 3 maturity in EA as directed by HHS (Target Met)
	2005	N/A	Fully implemented integrated EA, capital planning, and investment review processes (Target Met)
5.1.4: Improve IT Security/Privacy Output (Output)	2010	Fully implement FDCC and standard security configurations of all systems Implement FIPS 140-2 encryption solution on all systems to protect sensitive information	Oct 31, 2010
	2009	Integrate and align AHRQ's security program with HHS's Secure One security program	Oct 31, 2009

Measure	FY	Target	Result
	2008	Certify and accredit all Level 3 information systems Review and update security program to reflect current guidance and mandates	Certified and accredited all Level 3 information systems Reviewed and updated security program (Target Met)
	2007	Certify and accredit all Level 2 information systems Begin implementation of Public Key Infrastructure with applications	Certified and accredited all Level 2 information systems Began implementation of Public Key Infrastructure with applications (Target Met)
	2006	N/A	Per-formed required testing to insure maintenance of security level (Target Met)
	2005	N/A	Fully integrated security approach EA and capital planning process (Target Met)
5.1.5: Establish IT Enterprise Architecture (Output)	2010	Comply with HHS EA requirements for FY 2010	Oct 31, 2010
	2009	Comply with HHS EA requirements	N/A
	2008	Implement Level 3 EA plan Comply with EA activity as defined by HHS	Implemented Level 3 EA plan Continued to comply with EA activity set forth by HHS (Target Met)
	2007	Continue Level 3 EA plan	Completed Level 3 EA plan (Target Met)
	2006	N/A	Began work towards Level 3 maturity in EA as defined by HHS (Target Met)
	2005	N/A	Used EA to derive gains in business value and improve performance related to AHRQ mission (Target Met)
5.1.6: Meet all performance goals related to performance and budget integration (Output)	2010	TBD	Oct 31, 2010
	2009	TBD	Oct 31, 2009
	2008	Continue implementation of software within the portfolios	Continued implementation of software within the portfolios (Target Met)

Measure	FY	Target	Result
	2007	Begin implementation of software within the portfolios of work to help facilitate budget and performance integration Conduct internal alignment of measures by strategic goal areas	Began to implement software with the portfolios Completed internal alignment of measures (Target Met)
	2006	N/A	Visual Performance Suite software designed and piloted (Target Met)
	2005	N/A	Implemented additional phases of Planning System (Target Met)

Measure	Data Source	Data Validation
5.1.1	Departmental quarterly updates	As the beta site for the Department's Performance Management Appraisal Program (PMAP), AHRQ was required to complete the Performance Appraisal Assessment Tool (PAAT). Out of 100 total points possible, the Agency scored an 87 which, according to OPM, is considered as having "effectiveness characteristics present" – the highest level possible under this rating system.
5.1.2	Departmental quarterly updates; UFMS, IMPAC II, and Payment Management System	SAS 70 Reviews, A-123 reviews, and A-133 audits
5.1.3 5.1.4 5.1.5	Departmental quarterly updates	Compliance with Departmental standards
5.1.6	Departmental quarterly updates	Compliance with Departmental standards; AHRQ logic models and Portfolio plans

Budget Authority by Object Class

Budget Authority by Object 1/

	2009 <u>Estimate</u>	2010 <u>Estimate</u>	Increase or <u>Decrease</u>
<u>Personnel compensation:</u>			
Full-time permanent (11.1).....	24,182,000	25,233,000	+1,051,000
Other than full-time permanent (11.3).....	7,189,000	7,502,000	+313,000
Other personnel compensation (11.5).....	1,006,000	1,050,000	+44,000
Military Personnel (11.7).....	<u>1,675,000</u>	<u>1,748,000</u>	<u>+73,000</u>
Subtotal personnel compensation.....	34,052,000	35,533,000	+1,481,000
Civilian Personnel Benefits (12.1).....	7,978,000	8,325,000	+347,000
Military Personnel Benefits (12.2).....	<u>1,007,000</u>	<u>1,051,000</u>	<u>+44,000</u>
Total Pay Costs.....	43,037,000	44,909,000	+1,872,000
Travel and transportation of persons (21.0).....	568,000	581,000	+13,000
Rental payments to GSA (23.1).....	4,285,000	4,391,000	+106,000
Communications, utilities, & misc charges (23.3)...	741,000	758,000	+17,000
Printing and reproduction (24.0).....	1,016,000	1,157,000	+141,000
<u>Other Contractual Services:</u>			
Other services (25.2).....	13,133,000	13,421,000	+288,000
Purchases of goods & services from government accounts (25.3).....	17,800,000	17,800,000	0
Research and Development Contracts (25.5).....	197,421,000	197,421,000	0
Operation and maintenance of equipment (25.7)...	<u>665,000</u>	<u>669,000</u>	<u>+4,000</u>
Subtotal Other Contractual Services.....	229,019,000	229,311,000	+292,000
Supplies and materials (26.0).....	305,000	312,000	+7,000
Equipment (31.0).....	1,372,000	1,402,000	+30,000
Grants, subsidies, and contributions (41.0).....	91,710,000	<u>89,232,000</u>	<u>-2,478,000</u>
Total Non-Pay Costs.....	329,016,000	327,144,000	-1,872,000
Total obligations by object class.....	372,053,000	372,053,000	0

1/ Table may not tie to the Budget Appendix due to rounding.

Salaries and Expenses

AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY			
Salaries and Expenses <u>1/</u>			
Total Appropriation			
Object Class	FY 2009 Estimate	FY 2010 Estimate	Increase or Decrease
Personnel compensation:			
Full-time permanent (11.1).....	\$24,182,000	\$25,233,000	+\$1,051,000
Other than full-time permanent (11.3).....	\$7,189,000	\$7,502,000	+\$313,000
Other personnel compensation (11.5).....	\$1,006,000	\$1,050,000	+\$44,000
Military Personnel (11.7).....	\$1,675,000	\$1,748,000	+\$73,000
Civilian Personnel Benefits (12.1).....	\$7,978,000	\$8,325,000	+\$347,000
Military Personnel Benefits (12.2).....	\$1,007,000	\$1,051,000	+\$44,000
Benefits to Former Employees (13.1).....	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal Pay Costs	\$43,037,000	\$44,909,000	+\$1,872,000
Travel (21.0).....	\$568,000	\$581,000	+\$13,000
Transportation of Things (22.0).....	\$0	\$0	\$0
Rental payments to others (23.2).....	\$165,000	\$169,000	+\$4,000
Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges (23.3).....	\$576,000	\$589,000	+\$13,000
Printing and reproduction.....	\$1,016,000	\$1,157,000	+\$141,000
Other Contractual Services:			
Other services (25.2).....	\$13,133,000	\$13,421,000	+\$288,000
Operations and maintenance of equipment (25.7).....	\$665,000	\$669,000	+\$4,000
Subtotal Other Contractual Services	\$13,798,000	\$14,090,000	+\$292,000
Supplies and materials (26.0).....	\$305,000	\$312,000	+\$7,000
Subtotal Non-Pay Costs	\$16,428,000	\$16,898,000	+\$470,000
Total Salaries and Expenses.....	\$59,465,000	\$61,807,000	+\$2,342,000

1/ Table may not tie to the Budget Appendix due to rounding.

Detail of Full-Time Equivalent Employment (FTE)

Detail of Full-Time Equivalent Employment (FTE)

	2008 Actual Civilian	2008 Actual Military	2008 Actual Total	2009 Est. Civilian	2009 Est. Military	2009 Est. Total	2010 Est. Civilian	2010 Est. Military	2010 Est. Total
Office of the Director (OD).....	20		20	20		20	20		20
Office of Performance Accountability, Resources and Technology (OPART).....	54		54	54		54	54		54
Office of Extramural Research, Education, and Priority Populations (OEREPP).....	30	4	34	30	4	34	30	4	34
Center for Primary Care, Prevention, and Clinical Partnerships (CP3).....	23	4	27	23	4	27	23	4	27
Center for Outcomes and Evidence (COE).....	28	6	34	30	6	36	30	6	36
Center for Delivery, Organization and Markets (CDOM).....	25		25	25		25	25		25
Center for Financing, Access, and Cost Trends (CFACT).....	47		47	47		47	47		47
Center for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety (CQUIPS).....	21	1	22	22	1	23	22	1	23
Office of Communications and Knowledge Transfer (OCKT).....	34		34	34		34	34		34
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).....	0	0		0	0	0	38	0	38
	282	15	297	285	15	300	323	15	338

Average GS Grade

2004	12.8
2005	12.6
2006	12.6
2007	12.6
2008	12.6
2009	12.6
2010	12.6

Detail of Positions

	2008 Actual	2009 Estimate	2010 Estimate
Executive Level I.....	0	0	0
Executive Level II.....	0	0	0
Executive Level III.....	0	0	0
Executive Level IV.....	0	0	0
Executive Level V.....	0	0	0
Subtotal.....	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Executive Level Salaries...	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total - SES.....	5	5	5
Total - SES Salaries.....	\$ 211,966	\$218,166	\$ 220,460
GS-15.....	46	46	46
GS-14.....	60	63	63
GS-13.....	44	46	46
GS-12.....	29	30	30
GS-11.....	11	12	12
GS-10.....	3	3	3
GS-9.....	12	11	11
GS-8.....	6	6	6
GS-7.....	10	10	10
GS-6.....	4	4	4
GS-5.....	3	3	3
GS-4.....	0	0	0
GS-3.....	1	1	1
GS-2.....	0	0	0
GS-1.....	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Subtotal.....	229	235	235
Average GS grade.....	12.6	12.6	12.6
Average GS salary.....	\$81,394	\$85,281	\$83,160

Significant Items

FY 2009 HOUSE REPORT NO. 110-XXX

Quality, Effectiveness, and Efficiency Research

1. HOUSE (Rept. 110-XXX)

In addition, the Committee is deeply concerned about declines in the number of and funding for, training grants for the next generation of researchers. Failure to fund such grants stifles the workforce and knowledge base needed to respond to the Nation's growing health care challenges, including aging baby boomers, unsustainable rising costs, and declining health status. The Committee provides AHRQ with additional funding for training grants to ensure America stays competitive in the global research market. In addition, the Committee urges the Department of Health and Human Services to expand funding for AHRQ's investigator-initiated research and training grants in its FY 2010 budget request

Action Taken or to be Taken:

In FY 2010, AHRQ will continue its strong commitment to support the next generation of researchers and investigator-initiated research. In FY 2010, AHRQ will continue support for the National Research Services Award (NRSA) program, which supports approximately 90 new health services research trainees every year. The NRSA program supports a total of 160 trainees annually. AHRQ will also continue support for its career development programs, which will support 10 new research career development awards to clinicians and doctorally prepared trainees. In FY 2010, AHRQ will continue \$1.5 million in support for its infrastructure development program, which provides institutional funding for the development of research capacity to conduct health services research.

In order to ensure support for investigator-initiated research AHRQ has released two new funding opportunity announcements to inform the health services research community of current agency research priorities and to stimulate new investigator-initiated research grant applications. Funding priority will be given to investigator-initiated grant applications responding to these funding announcements. Additionally, the FY 2009 appropriations bill provides for a significant increase in funding for this investigator-initiated research.

Diabetes

2. HOUSE (Rept. 110-XXX)

In order to incentivize and improve long-term health outcomes for Medicare and VA beneficiaries, among others, the Committee encourages AHRQ, in collaboration with CDC and NIH, to prioritize the development of a case mix adjustment methodology that can be used with performance measurement of blood glucose control. The Committee encourages AHRQ to conduct a feasibility study on the state of the art in developing such a tool and a plan, with set timelines, for producing a validated methodology for use by CMS and the VA health care systems, at a minimum, in those program's quality reporting initiatives.

Action Taken or to be Taken:

Intensive management of hemoglobin A1c can reduce the risk of complications of diabetes. Many organizations including the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists/American College of Endocrinology, the American Diabetes Association, and the American Geriatrics Society recommend target A1c levels of 7 percent or less as appropriate clinical goals. However, development of performance measures based on A1c for public reporting or pay-for-performance have been more controversial.

There is general agreement that poor control of A1c can be reliably measured and reported, and the National Quality Forum (NQF) has twice endorsed such a measure for public reporting. The current measure is percentage of patient with most recent A1c level greater than 9 percent. There is also general agreement that risk adjustment of this measure is not needed since almost all patients with diabetes would benefit from an A1c level under 9 percent.

In contrast, NQF has twice failed to endorse a measure of tight control of A1c (less than 7 percent) for public reporting while recognizing this as an appropriate clinical goal. The reason is that different providers may treat patient populations who differ in their severity of diabetes, presence of co-morbidities, and adherence to treatment recommendations. Tight control of A1c may not be appropriate for severely ill patients with limited life expectancy, while providers who care for large numbers of non-adherent patients may be unfairly disadvantaged in comparisons with providers who care for no non-adherent patients.

Risk adjustment was recognized as one way to level the playing field when comparing providers based on tight control of A1c. Studies have identified a number of patient characteristics associated with A1c level including age, gender, race, ethnicity, BMI, severity of diabetes, duration of diabetes, type of treatment for diabetes, co-morbidities, life expectancy, medication adherence, and self-monitoring adherence. However, to date, no one has developed a risk adjustment methodology for use with A1c measurement. Alternatives to risk adjustment for A1c have also been advanced. These include using a continuous weighted measure rather than a dichotomous measure, focusing on good control (A1c < 8%) rather than tight control, or stratifying by risk rather than seeking to adjust for it.

AHRQ could seek to advance A1c measurement in a number of ways. First, AHRQ could convene experts to propose consensus methods for measuring, adjusting, or stratifying A1c. However, when this was last done in 2006, experts did not come to agreement of a single methodology. Second, AHRQ could provide support to a research group to develop a new methodology. This could be in the form of support to groups that have large A1c databases such as the VA system or one of AHRQ's ACTION partners.

Hydrocephalus Research.

3. HOUSE (Rept. 110-XXX)

Congress has expressed its support for increased public awareness, professional education, and research on hydrocephalus. The Committee encourages AHRQ to support research projects to increase awareness of the medical issues, prevalence, and societal cost associated with hydrocephalus

Action Taken or to be Taken:

To date, AHRQ has not funded research directly related to hydrocephalus. However, two of the priority conditions under our Effective Health Care program include functional limitation and disability and pregnancy, including preterm birth. As we continue to expand our research portfolio, we will consider the merits of supporting research projects associated with hydrocephalus.

Viral Hepatitis

4. HOUSE (Rept. 110-XXX)

Much remains to be learned on the costs, quality, and outcomes of treatments for hepatitis B and C. The Committee urges AHRQ to develop and disseminate evidence-based information to health care providers and patients as a significant step in reducing the incidence and improving the access to and outcomes from treatments for these epidemic diseases.

Action Taken or to be Taken:

The AHRQ Evidence-Based Practice Centers (EPC) program has several recent products on the topic of hepatitis B. The EPC Report *Management of Chronic Hepatitis B* was published in October 2008 (<http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/tp/hepbtp.htm>) and presented in three sessions at an NIH Consensus Development Conference on October 20-22, 2008 (<http://consensus.nih.gov/2008/2008HepatitisBCDC120main.htm>). In addition, a manuscript was published electronically on January 6, 2009 in *Annals of Internal Medicine* and the print publication date is January 20, 2009. Additional manuscripts are in preparation and submission to professional journals focusing on liver disease.

Previously, AHRQ published an evidence report on *Management of Chronic Hepatitis C* in June 2002. Additionally, several research grants have produced the following findings that show that self-reported hepatitis B and C virus infections had low sensitivity among HIV-infected patients and there is limited effectiveness of antiviral treatment for hepatitis C in an urban HIV clinic.

AHRQ will continue to support research to help develop and disseminate evidence-based information to health care providers and patients on treatments for conditions such as hepatitis B and C, so that providers and patients can make informed decisions on what treatments work best.

FY 2009 SENATE REPORT NO. 110-410

Spina Bifida

1. **SENATE (Rept. 110-410), p. 141**

The Committee encourages AHRQ to continue and expand the development of a National Spina Bifida Patient Registry in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Action Taken or to be Taken:

A Professional Advisory Committee on Spina Bifida has agreed upon registry items. In late FY 2008, academic centers with expertise in spina bifida (research and practice) were awarded cooperative agreements to work with CDC to determine the registry items and begin to submit data. There is a paucity of evidence on efficacious and effective clinical treatment and management strategies for people with spina bifida, and there is a potential that the registry data can provide a basis for posing clinical research questions that could be addressed.

In FY 2009, AHRQ funded a conference grant to the Spina Bifida Association in support of the First World Congress on Spina Bifida Research and Care, which provided a forum for developing and examining basic and clinical research on spina bifida. Building on this activity, in FY 2010, AHRQ will continue to collaborate with the CDC in the development of a National Spina Bifida Patient Registry.

Training Grants

2. **SENATE (Rept. 110-410), p. 141**

The Committee is deeply concerned about declines in the number of, and funding for, training grants for the next generation of researchers. Failure to fund such grants stifles the workforce and knowledge base needed to respond to the Nation's growing health care challenges, including aging baby boomers, unsustainable rising costs, and declining health status. The Committee urges the administration to expand funding for AHRQ's training grants in its FY 2010 budget request.

Action Taken or to be Taken:

In FY 2010 AHRQ will continue its strong commitment to support the next generation of researchers. In FY 2010 AHRQ will continue support for the National Research Services Award (NRSA) program, which supports approximately 90 new health services research trainees every year. The NRSA program supports a total of 160 trainees annually. AHRQ will also continue support for its career development programs, which will support 10 new research career development awards to clinicians and doctorally prepared trainees. In FY 2010 AHRQ will continue \$1.5 million in support for its infrastructure development program, which provides institutional funding for the development of research capacity to conduct health services research.

Additionally, AHRQ plans to expand training opportunities to build intellectual and organizational capacity in the field as the Agency increases its investment in comparative effectiveness research.

Viral Hepatitis

3. **SENATE (Rept. 110-410), p. 141**

The Committee believes that much remains to be learned about the costs, quality and outcomes of treatments for hepatitis B and C. The Committee encourages AHRQ to develop and disseminate evidence-based information to health care providers and patients as a significant step in reducing the incidence of hepatitis, as well as improving access to, and outcomes from, treatments for these epidemic diseases

Action Taken or to be Taken:

The AHRQ Evidence-Based Practice Centers (EPC) program has several recent products on the topic of hepatitis B. The EPC Report *Management of Chronic Hepatitis B* was published in October 2008 (<http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/tp/hepbtp.htm>) and presented in three sessions at an NIH Consensus Development Conference on October 20-22, 2008 (<http://consensus.nih.gov/2008/2008HepatitisBCDC120main.htm>). In addition, a manuscript was published electronically on January 6, 2009 in *Annals of Internal Medicine* and the print publication date is January 20, 2009. Additional manuscripts are in preparation and submission to professional journals focusing on liver disease

Previously, AHRQ published an evidence report on *Management of Chronic Hepatitis C*, in June 2002. Additionally, several research grants have produced the following findings that show that self-reported hepatitis B and C virus infections had low sensitivity among HIV-infected patients and there is limited effectiveness of antiviral treatment for hepatitis C in an urban HIV clinic.

AHRQ will continue to support research to help develop and disseminate evidence-based information to health care providers and patients on treatments for conditions such as hepatitis B and C, so that providers and patients can make informed decisions on what treatments work best.

HIV Early Diagnosis

4. **SENATE (Rept. 110-410), p. 141**

The Committee recognizes the high economic burden associated with a positive diagnosis of HIV/AIDS. The Committee encourages AHRQ to prepare a study comparing the economic burden of an early diagnosis to that of a later diagnosis.

Action Taken or to be Taken:

AHRQ has developed a study to compare the economic burden of an early HIV diagnosis to that of a late HIV diagnosis and submitted it to the Committee on March 10, 2009.

The results of this study show that patients with HIV infection who present for care late incur higher direct HIV treatment costs per year than those who initially present earlier in the disease process.

MRSA

5. SENATE (Rept. 110-410), p. 141

Of the total amount provided for HCQO the Committee has included \$5,000,000 for activities to identify and reduce the spread of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and other health care-associated infections. The Committee is concerned about the prevalence of these preventable infections and has provided a second year of funding for this initiative at AHRQ due to its expertise with patient safety and quality of care issues. The Committee encourages AHRQ to continue its collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Action Taken or to be Taken:

In 2007, AHRQ was asked to work in close collaboration with CMS and CDC to identify and reduce the spread of MRSA and other health care-associated infections. A working committee was established and the group met at least two times per month and identified a portfolio of specifically-targeted projects. Brief descriptions of the projects follow:

1. Testing Spread and Implementation of Novel MRSA-Reducing Practices

\$1,800,000 – Using AHRQ's ACTION Network that helps translate research into practice:

- Reduce rates of MRSA infection by at least 30 percent from baseline.
- Develop measures of organizational barriers and facilitators that inhibit or facilitate spread of the MRSA interventions.

2. Optimizing the Initial Evaluation and Treatment of Suspected Community-Acquired MRSA Infections in Primary Care Practice

\$1,200,000 – Using AHRQ's network of primary care practices:

- Establish baseline and increase clinician adherence to recommended CDC management guidance to greater than 75 percent for treatment of skin/soft tissue infections in 75 primary care practices.
- Reduce number of unscheduled return visits to a practice and/or ER for skin/soft tissue infections by 20 percent.
- Reduce number of hospitalizations related to skin infections initially treated in the ambulatory setting by at least 30 percent.

3. Identifying Potentially Modifiable Factors Associated with Hospitalization for Community-Acquired MRSA

\$750,000 – Augmenting AHRQ’s State and Regional Demonstration Project in Health Information Technology:

- Identify potentially modifiable risk factors in patients hospitalized with community-acquired MRSA.
- Describe ambulatory care patterns for patients with community-acquired MRSA prior to hospitalization.
- Develop statistical models to identify ambulatory care practices that could be modified to prevent hospitalizations related to community-acquired MRSA infections.

4. Determining the Contribution of MRSA Originating in the Community and Long-term Care Facilities to the Rapidly Rising Occurrence of MRSA in Hospitalized Patients

\$75,000 – Using AHRQ's State-level database on hospital discharges (HCUP):

- Identify the factors that are contributing to the rapid rise of MRSA in hospitalized patients.

5. Producing Rapid Cycle State and National Estimates to Support and Evaluate the MRSA Initiative

\$375,000 – Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project:

- Establish a baseline infection rate for MRSA and use rapid cycle estimates to measure and evaluate MRSA-initiative interventions at the hospital, community, regional, State, and national levels.

6. Understanding MRSA Reservoirs in Assessing MRSA Solutions

\$1,100,000 – Using AHRQ's network on evidence-based care:

- Describe the role of nursing homes in the propagation and maintenance of MRSA
- Develop a tool for identifying critical points of MRSA transmission within a community to improve prevention resource allocation.

Funding awards were made in September 2008 and AHRQ expects to start receiving progress reports from the project officers in early spring 2009.

AHRQ will continue to work closely with CDC and CMS in this MRSA effort.

Health Cost, Quality, and Outcomes

6. SENATE (Rept. 110-410), p. 141

To advance discovery and the free marketplace of ideas, the Committee believes AHRQ must dedicate more funding to investigator-initiated research. For this reason, the Committee does not provide the \$6,000,000 requested by the administration for a Health Insurance Decision Tool. Instead, the Committee strongly urges AHRQ to redirect these funds toward expanding its investment in investigator-initiated research.

Action Taken or to be Taken:

The FY 2009 appropriations bill provides AHRQ with resources to significantly increase its investment in investigator-initiated research. AHRQ greatly appreciates the Committee's efforts to enable us to invest in this critical area of research. Investigator-initiated research provides the foundation for which many of our current programs are built upon.

Ambulatory Patient Safety

7. SENATE (Rept. 110-410), p. 141

The Committee notes that while the scope, volume and complexity of ambulatory care has increased over the past decade, little is known about patient safety in ambulatory care settings. Few safety practices have been identified, and limited data exist on the nature of risk and hazards to patients and the threat to quality in ambulatory care settings. In light of the growing number of incidents involving syringe reuse and hepatitis C transmission across the country, the Committee urges AHRQ to expand the ambulatory safety and quality program [ASQ] to identify the inherent risks in ambulatory settings and to develop potential solutions for protecting patients.

Action Taken or to be Taken:

AHRQ has recognized the need to expand its research and development in the area of ambulatory patient safety. AHRQ has invested in this area from the outset of our work in patient safety. Several projects such as, clarifying the impact of chaotic practice environments on the likelihood of patient safety events, can inform our future investments in this critical area.

AHRQ has pursued a two pronged effort by focusing on risk assessment and risk informed design of safe practices in ambulatory care. Because so little is known about where and in what manner there are risks and hazards in ambulatory care, AHRQ funded 20 risk assessment planning grants in FY 2008. The purpose of these one year R18 planning grants was to support proactive risk assessments and to model risks and known hazards that threaten patient safety in ambulatory care settings and in transitions of care. The use of proactive risk assessment has been widely used in high hazard institutions such as aviation, aerospace and nuclear power. The risk assessments and modeling lead to the identification of preventable patient injuries/harm and inform the development and deployment of intervention strategies that eliminate, mitigate, or minimize those harms and threats in ambulatory care settings.

A second part of AHRQ's approach to ambulatory patient safety has been to apply the results of risk models to projects to develop risk informed interventions in ambulatory care. AHRQ awarded 13 Risk Informed Design Projects in FY 2008 to design and implement new safe practices in ambulatory care. These projects are about one third of the way to completion. However the Agency believes that the combination of risk assessment and risk informed design of new safe practices will yield important results to improve the care of patients in ambulatory settings of care.

Additionally, AHRQ has invested about \$21 million in health information technology (health IT) grants as part of its Ambulatory Safety and Quality program. The program's goal is to improve the safety and quality of ambulatory health care through health IT improvements, such as computerized surveillance of adverse drug events in the outpatient setting. A variety of ambulatory settings and organizations are addressed, from large integrated delivery systems to small provider practices and from urban settings to small rural communities.

FY 2010 HHS Enterprise Information Technology Fund: E-Gov Initiatives

The AHRQ will contribute \$194,904 of its FY 2010 budget to support Department enterprise information technology initiatives as well as E-Government initiatives.

Operating Division contributions are combined to create an Enterprise Information Technology (EIT) Fund that finances both the specific HHS information technology initiatives identified through the HHS Information Technology Capital Planning and Investment Control process and E-Government initiatives. These HHS enterprise initiatives meet cross-functional criteria and are approved by the HHS IT Investment Review Board based on funding availability and business case benefits. Development is collaborative in nature and achieves HHS enterprise-wide goals that produce common technology, promote common standards, and enable data and system interoperability.

Of the amount specified above, \$53,884.93 is allocated to support E-Government initiatives for FY 2010. This amount supports the E-Government initiatives as follows:

FY 2010 HHS Contributions to E-Gov Initiatives*	AHRQ
Line of Business - Federal Health Architecture (FHA)	\$50,131.22
Line of Business - Human Resources	\$609.76
Line of Business - Grants Management	\$880.14
Line of Business - Financial	\$812.86
Line of Business - Budget Formulation and Execution	\$540.55
Line of Business - IT Infrastructure	\$910.40
E-Gov Initiatives Total	\$53,884.93

*The total for all HHS FY 2010 inter-agency E-Government and Line of Business contributions for the initiatives identified above, and any new development items, is not currently projected by the Federal CIO Council to increase above the FY 2009 aggregate level. Specific levels presented here are subject to change, as redistributions to meet changes in resource demands are assessed.

Prospective benefits from these initiatives are:

Lines of Business-Federal Health Architecture: Creates a consistent Federal framework that improves coordination and collaboration on national Health Information Technology (HIT) Solutions; improves efficiency, standardization, reliability and availability to improve the exchange of comprehensive health information solutions, including health care delivery; and, to provide appropriate patient access to improved health data. HHS works closely with federal partners, state, local and tribal governments, including clients, consultants, collaborators and stakeholders who benefit directly from common vocabularies and technology standards through increased information sharing, increased efficiency, decreased technical support burdens and decreased costs.

Lines of Business-Human Resources Management: Provides standardized and interoperable HR solutions utilizing common core functionality to support the strategic management of Human

Capital. HHS has been selected as a Center of Excellence and will be leveraging its HR investments to provide services to other Federal agencies.

Lines of Business-Grants Management: Supports end-to-end grants management activities promoting improved customer service; decision making; financial management processes; efficiency of reporting procedure; and, post-award closeout actions. An HHS agency, Administration for Children and Families (ACF), is a GMLOB consortia lead, which has allowed ACF to take on customers external to HHS. These additional agency users have allowed HHS to reduce overhead costs for internal HHS users. Additionally, NIH is an internally HHS-designated Center of Excellence and has applied to be a GMLOB consortia lead. This effort has allowed HHS agencies using the NIH system to reduce grants management costs. Both efforts have allowed HHS to achieve economies of scale and efficiencies, as well as streamlining and standardization of grants processes, thus reducing overall HHS costs for grants management systems and processes.

Lines of Business –Financial Management: Supports efficient and improved business performance while ensuring integrity in accountability, financial controls and mission effectiveness by enhancing process improvements; achieving cost savings; standardizing business processes and data models; promoting seamless data exchanges between Federal agencies; and, strengthening internal controls.

Lines of Business-Budget Formulation and Execution: Allows sharing across the Federal government of common budget formulation and execution practices and processes resulting in improved practices within HHS.

Lines of Business-IT Infrastructure: This initiative provides the potential to leverage spending on commodity IT infrastructure to gain savings; to promote and use common, interoperable architectures that enable data sharing and data standardization; secure data interchanges; and, to grow a Federal workforce with interchangeable skills and tool sets.