



Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association

January 20, 2009

OMB Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Attention: Bridget Dooling, CMS Desk Officer
New Executive Office Building
Room 10235
Washington, DC 20503

RE: Disclosure of Financial Relationships Report (“DFRR”): Form Number: CMS-10236 (OMB#: 0938—New), Vol. 73, No. 245 Fed. Reg., December 19, 2008

Dear Ms. Dooling:

On behalf of the Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association (AzHHA) and our member organizations, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ (CMS) proposal to establish a mandatory Disclosure of Financial Relationships Report (DFRR) for hospital relationships with physicians. These comments augment comments preciously submitted by AzHHA, dated October 12, 2007.

We urge the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to deny CMS authorization to proceed with DFRR information collection as proposed. We support comments made by the American Hospital Association that CMS has repeatedly failed to meet its burden under the *Paperwork Reduction Act* to demonstrate the proposed collection “is the least burdensome necessary.” CMS’ explanation of the purpose and need continues to be insufficient to justify the time, effort and dedication of resources that would be required of community hospitals.

Specifically, CMS continues to underestimate the burden imposed by their proposed instrument. After reviewing CMS’ estimates with hospital representatives, we find that the estimated \$30 per hour accounting assistance and \$57 per hour legal fee are substantially understated. The legal fee estimate is of particular concern given the experience and knowledge of self-referral regulations required to perform these evaluations.

Furthermore, as stated in previous correspondence, we do not believe the Deficit Reduction Act mandates nor does it justify the information collection regarding community hospitals' compensation arrangements imposed by the proposed DFRR instrument. In summary, AzHHA urges OMB to deny CMS authorization to proceed with the DFRR as proposed. If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Johnston at djohnston@azhha.org or 602-445-4300.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debbie Johnston". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Debbie Johnston
Director of Regulatory Affairs and Policy