



Dear (Fill Director Name):

(Fill Health Center Name) has been selected to participate in the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS), the Nation's foremost study of the provision and use of ambulatory medical care services. Participation in NAMCS is voluntary. Success of the survey depends on the willingness of health centers like yours to provide important data.

What is NAMCS?

NAMCS is an annual survey of health centers and physicians in the United States. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) has fielded NAMCS since 1973 and sampled health centers since 2006. NAMCS data have informed physicians, health care researchers, and policy makers about the changing characteristics of ambulatory health care in the United States. The Health Center Component of NAMCS collects critical data (including patient identifiers) via health center's electronic health records (EHR) system to produce national statistics on health care. To learn more, about how these data will be collected and protected, please visit

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/namcs/hcc/participant.htm>

Why should your health center participate?

Participation in NAMCS is voluntary. You or your staff may discontinue participation at any time without penalty or loss of benefits. Your decision to provide responses to this survey and/or your decision to allow a designee to provide responses for this survey will be considered your act of consent. Your consent allows for your de-identified information being made available for future research by NCHS or other investigators. Success of the study depends on the willingness of health centers like yours to provide important data. Benefits for participating include:

- **National description of health care.** Your center may contribute to the national description of health center-based patient care. NAMCS fulfills an ongoing need for national statistics on ambulatory care that can be used to formulate health policy, inform medical practice management, and evaluate quality of care.
- **Compensation.** Your health center can receive a set-up fee of up to \$10,000 to assist with the preparation and transmission of patient-level EHR data.
- **Help your family members, friends, and community.** NAMCS data help researchers evaluate current health care practices, assess quality of care, and identify ways to improve health outcomes and equity in our communities.

Is your health center's data protected?

Information collected in this study will not be published in any manner that will allow identification of individual health centers or patients. The Ethics Review Board (ERB) at CDC's NCHS has reviewed and approved this study to be in compliance with the NCHS Practices and Procedures. Please be assured that we are required by law to keep all data regarding patients and facilities strictly confidential and to use these data only for statistical purposes.

What's next?

A NAMCS representative from the recruitment contractor, will contact you soon to discuss how your health center can participate. If you have any questions, please refer to the frequently asked questions (FAQs) included in this welcome packet. For additional questions please contact us at 1-800-307-0134 or email NAMCSHealthCenters@cdc.gov. We look forward to working with you on this crucial data collection effort!

Sincerely,

Brian C. Moyer, PhD
Director, National Center for Health Statistics

You may have questions about your rights as a participant in this research study. If so, please call the National Center for Health Statistics ERB toll-free at 1-800-223-8118. Please leave a brief message with your name and phone number. Say that you are calling about Protocol #2021-03.