

Waiver Notice

Pursuant to section 319 of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act, 42 U.S.C. 247d, Acting Secretary Hargan determined on October 26, 2017, that a PHE exists as a result of the consequences of the opioid epidemic affecting the Nation and renewed that determination on January 24, 2018. Secretary Azar renewed this determination on the following dates: April 24, 2018; July 23, 2018; October 21, 2018; January 19, 2019; April 19, 2019; July 18, 2019; October 16, 2019; January 14, 2020; April 13, 2020 and July 12, 2020. The Secretary's determination to declare the PHE was made after consultation with public health officials, as necessary. As a result of the PHE, the Secretary also determined pursuant to section 319(f) of the PHS Act that circumstances of the PHE necessitate a waiver from the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. § 3501 *et seq.*, effective as of the date of this notice. The waiver is justified to collect information to support the Department of Health and Human Services' investigation of and response to the opioid crisis. This waiver applies to information to be collected during this public health emergency by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration from health care practitioners who received a waiver through the Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000.

Pursuant to the waiver, the requirements of 44 U.S.C. § 3501 *et seq.* shall not be applicable with respect to voluntary collection of information during the effective time period.

The Paperwork Reduction Act waiver is effective as of September 1, 2020 and is anticipated to remain in effect throughout the time period of the immediate investigation of and response to the emergency declared pursuant to section 319(a) of the PHS Act, and for a reasonable length of time for immediate post response review regarding the public health emergency.

Any initiative subject to this waiver that is ongoing after the termination of the effective period shall be subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act within 30 days of expiration of the waiver. The waiver applies to the voluntary information collection related to the opioid epidemic undertaken by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

This notice will be updated as needed.