

processing and data transmission activities, as described below. Notificant also proposes to engage in activities that it maintains are incidental to permissible digital certification and data processing and data transmission activities.

Other investors in Company would include national banks and state member banks. Company would serve as the rulemaking authority for a network of participating financial institutions (Network), which would include Notificant, future equity investors in Company, and other financial institutions that elect to participate in the Network (collectively, Participants). The Network is designed to allow Participants to certify electronically the identity of parties conducting business or communicating electronically through the internet or otherwise. Participants in the Network would, among other things, issue to customers "digital certificates" that authenticate messages electronically sent by the customer, and confirm the validity of digital certificates issued by Participants. Participants also may issue warranties to customers who request verification of digital certificates issued by Participants, and post collateral to secure claims under any warranty issued by the Participant.

Company would develop, maintain, and enforce the rules governing the operation of, and participation in, the Network, and provide other services designed to facilitate the certification activities of Participants and operation of the Network. These activities would include issuing digital certificates to Participants and maintaining a current database of digital certificates that have been issued. Company and Participants would engage in a wide range of data processing and data transmission activities in connection with their proposed activities. A more complete description of the proposed activities of Company, Notificant, and other Participants is contained in the notices.

Section 4(c)(8) of the BHC Act provides that a bank holding company may, with Board approval, engage in any activity that the Board has determined (by order or regulation) to be so closely related to banking or managing or controlling banks as to be a proper incident thereto. The Board previously has determined that certain data processing and data transmission services are closely related to banking for purposes of section 4(c)(8) of the BHC Act, pursuant to section 225.25(b)(14) of Regulation Y. Notificant contends that all of the proposed activities are so closely related to banking as to be a proper incident

thereto, or are activities that are incidental to permissible activities, pursuant to section 225.25(a)(2) of Regulation Y.

In determining whether the proposal satisfies the proper incident to banking standard of section 4(c)(8) of the BHC Act, the Board must consider whether consummation of the proposal can "reasonably be expected to produce benefits to the public, such as greater convenience, increased competition, or gains in efficiency, that outweigh possible adverse effects, such as undue concentration of resources, decreased or unfair competition, conflicts of interests, or unsound banking practices." 12 U.S.C. 1843(c)(8). Notificant contends that consummation of the proposal will facilitate the development of electronic commerce and will have a beneficial effect on competition for identity certification and related services.

In publishing the proposal for comment, the Board does not take a position on the issues raised by the proposal. Notice of the proposal is published solely to seek the views of interested persons on the issues presented by the proposal and does not represent a determination by the Board that the proposal meets, or is likely to meet, the standards of the BHC Act. The notice is available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated above and at the offices of the Board of Governors. Any request for a hearing on the notices must be accompanied by a statement of reasons explaining why a written presentation would not suffice in lieu of a hearing, identifying specifically any questions of fact that are in dispute, summarizing the evidence that would be presented at a hearing, and indicating how the party commenting would be aggrieved by approval of the proposal.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, September 10, 1999.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Associate Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 99-24118 Filed 9-15-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-F

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[INFO-99-36]

Proposed Data Collections Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations

In compliance with the requirement of Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 for opportunity for public comment on proposed data collection projects, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will publish periodic summaries of proposed projects. To request more information on the proposed projects or to obtain a copy of the data collection plans and instruments, call the CDC Reports Clearance Officer on (404) 639-7090.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques for other forms of information technology. Send comments to Seleda Perryman, CDC Assistant Reports Clearance Officer, 1600 Clifton Road, MS-D24, Atlanta, GA 30333. Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

*Proposed Project: Follow-Up Study of Children With Developmental Disabilities (0920-0436)—RENEWAL—*National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH). In the mid-1980s, a number of 10-year-old children were identified as having one or more of five developmental disabilities: mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, hearing impairment, or vision impairment. These children were identified (mainly from special education records in the public schools) in the metro-Atlanta area as part of a study to develop surveillance methods for these conditions in school-age children. A follow-up study was initiated to trace, locate and interview these children, who are now in their early twenties, to assess their status with regard to educational attainment, employment, living arrangements, services received, functional limitations,

adaptive behavior, social participation, health, and quality of life.

This study proposes to continue with the one-time, in-person interview and includes a contemporaneous comparison group of persons who, at age 10 years, were in regular education

classes in the same schools as were the persons with developmental disabilities. The data generated from this study will continue to be used to estimate the burden of secondary health conditions, limited social participation, and economic disadvantage among young

adults with long-standing, developmental impairments. The total cost to recipients is \$0.00.

This request is for a one-year renewal of the currently-approved study.

Data Collection:

Respondents	No. of respondents	No. of responses/respondent	Avg. burden of response (in hrs.)	Total burden (in hrs.)
Contacting	1,056	1	10/60	176
Interview	898	1	60/60	898
Call Backs	90	1	10/60	15
Total				1,089

Dated: September 10, 1999.

Nancy Cheal,

Acting Associate Director for Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

[FR Doc. 99-24143 Filed 9-15-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4163-18-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care Financing Administration

[HCFA-1039-CN2]

RIN 0938-A187

Medicare Program; Hospice Wage Index; Correction

AGENCY: Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), HHS.

ACTION: Notice; correction notice.

SUMMARY: This document corrects a typographical error that appeared in the notice published in the **Federal Register** on October 5, 1998, entitled "Medicare Program; Hospice Wage Index."

EFFECTIVE DATE: This correction is effective October 1, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carol Blackford, (410) 786-5909.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 5, 1998, we published a notice in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 53446) announcing the annual update to the hospice wage index. The wage index is used to reflect local differences in wage levels. That update was effective October 1, 1998 and is the second year of a 3-year transition period. The provisions in this correction notice are effective as if they had been included in the document published in the **Federal Register** on October 5, 1998.

On November 1, 1998, we published a notice (63 FR 63326) correcting the October 5, 1998 notice. In that correction notice, we inadvertently failed to make one typographical

correction. Therefore, in FR Doc. 98-26501 of October 5, 1998, we are now making the following correction:

- On page 53448, in Table A, under the MSA code number 1303 for Burlington, VT, the wage index "1.1037" is corrected to read "1.0137".

Authority: Section 1814(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395f(i)(1)).

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.773 Medicare—Hospital Insurance Program; and No. 93.774, Medicare—Supplementary Medical Insurance Program)

Dated: September 8, 1999.

Brian P. Burns,

Deputy Assistant, Secretary for Information, Resources Management.

[FR Doc. 99-24096 Filed 9-15-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4120-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Government-Owned Inventions; Availability for Licensing

AGENCY: National Institutes of Health, Public Health Service, DHHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The inventions listed below are owned by agencies of the U.S. Government and are available for licensing in the U.S. in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 207 to achieve expeditious commercialization of results of federally-funded research and development. Foreign patent applications are filed on selected inventions to extend market coverage for companies and may also be available for licensing.

ADDRESSES: Licensing information and copies of the U.S. patent applications listed below may be obtained by contacting John Peter Kim, J.D., M.B.A., Technology Licensing Specialist, at the

Office of Technology Transfer, National Institutes of Health, 6011 Executive Boulevard, Suite 325, Rockville, Maryland 20852-3804; telephone: 301/496-7056 ext. 264; fax: 301/402-0220; e-mail: jk141n@nih.gov. A signed Confidential Disclosure Agreement will be required to receive copies of the patent applications.

Oligonucleotides Which Specifically Bind Retroviral Nucleocapsid Proteins

Alan Rein, Jose Casas-Finet, Robert Fisher, Matthew Fivash, Louis E. Henderson (NCI)

Serial No. 09/180,903 filed 12 Jul 1999; PCT/US97/08936 filed 19 May 1997; Serial No. 60/017,128 filed 20 May 1996

The human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is the causative agent of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). A retroviral protein species, the gag polyprotein, is involved in the assembly of retrovirus particles and capable of specific interactions with nucleic acids. After the virion is released from the cell, the polyprotein is cleaved by the virus-encoded protease. One of the cleaved products, the nucleocapsid (NC) protein, then binds to genomic RNA, forming the ribonucleoprotein core of the mature particle. The interaction between gag and genomic RNA is known to involve the NC domain of the polyprotein. In addition, the NC protein plays crucial roles in both the reverse transcription and integration steps in the viral life cycle.

The present invention relates to retroviral nucleocapsid proteins, such as NC and the gag precursor, and their ability of bind to specific nucleic acid sequences with high affinity. The high affinity of this interaction has potential applications in the design of new antiviral approaches and in sensitive detection of HIV particles. Accordingly, the invention provides for oligonucleotides which bind to