



**Pharmacy Rate Setting Services  
RFP #20110318**

**Responses to Submitted Questions**

Question #	RFP Section #	RFP Page #	Question	Response
1	1.3.3	7	Since the technical and cost proposals are to be separately sealed, should the electronic versions of the technical and cost proposals be submitted on separate CDs?	The Offeror should only include the technical proposal in electronic format. The business proposal is not required to be submitted in electronic form.
2	1.5	9	In RFP Section 1.5, the Division of Medicaid requests that the contractor conduct an “evaluation of the payment of a dispensing fee and include any proposed changes as part of the rate structure design.” This section also references 42 CFR 447.502 which defines the pharmacy overhead and labor costs which should be paid through the dispensing fee. The budget summary document in Appendix A includes a cost line item for “Dispensing Fee Survey.” In order to accomplish the “evaluation of the payment of a dispensing fee” referenced in Section 1.5, should proposers include in their work plan a cost of dispensing survey of pharmacy providers participating in Mississippi Medicaid?	Yes.

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3	1.5	10	Please clarify the statement "pricing of the AWP-based reimbursement methodology." Should this be read as "replacement of the AWP-based methodology?" Or does the original statement imply that DOM is open to purchasing AWP files from a different source other than FDB?	If a replacement of the AWP-based methodology is not in place by this time, then DOM is open to other sources for AWP files.
4	1.1	5	What has the State of Mississippi done up to this point in the development of an alternative reimbursement methodology rate structure for outpatient drugs?	A SMAC was developed in 2008, but due to litigation was withdrawn.
5	1.2	5-6	Is there a list of participating pharmacies in the Mississippi Medicaid program available to the bidders? If yes, where can that be found? If not, will a list of pharmacies participating pharmacies be provided to the selected vendor at the start of the project?	A list of pharmacies participating in the MS Medicaid program will be provided to the selected vendor.
6	1.5	9-10	What actions would the State of Mississippi take in the event that AWP continues to be published by FDB after September 26, 2011?	The services described in this RFP are requested regardless of any action taken by FDB pertaining to AWP.
7	3.2	18	Must vendors participating in the RFP be registered as a vendor with the State of Mississippi? If so, can the required vendor registration process be completed online?	Before entering into a Contract with the state the Contractor should register with the Mississippi Secretary of State. Registration information can be found on their website, <a href="http://www.sos.ms.gov">www.sos.ms.gov</a> .
8	4.1	22	Is the State amenable to vendors submitting exceptions to terms and conditions? Specifically, will the State consider an exception to limit the vendor's liability in the event of award of a contract? If the State is amenable to vendors submitting exceptions to the terms and conditions will the submission of exceptions have any impact on the scoring of proposals? If so, in what way will the scoring be impacted?	DOM is unable to waive or limit liability. Exceptions may result in lower scores or rejection of the proposal as being non-responsive.

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9	2.2.5	19	Section 2.2.5 on page 19 indicates, "After receipt of the proposals, DOM reserves the right to award the contract based on the terms, conditions, and premises of the RFP and the proposal of the selected Contractor without negotiation." Is submission of a proposal tantamount to an offer to contract? That is, is submission of a proposal considered an offer to contract without opportunity for negotiation? Specifically, could a vendor withdraw its proposal if the vendor was selected but could not reach agreement with the State regarding scope or required terms and conditions?	The proposal may be amended or withdrawn before the Proposal due date. Any submitted proposal is considered to be an offer to contract and is valid for 180 days from the proposal due date. By submitting the proposal, the vendor agrees to the terms and conditions of the RFP unless the vendor specifically objects in its proposal. Objecting may result in rejection of the proposal and/or may affect scoring. If the vendor is selected, the vendor will be notified and will have an opportunity to accept the award.
10	1.5	9	Has a vendor provided the services in the scope of work in the past, including pharmacy reimbursement rate setting (e.g., SMAC rates) or dispensing fee survey(s)? If so, who is the current or past vendor(s) and what was the amount paid annually to that vendor for these service?	A contract was awarded to Myers & Stauffer in January 2008 for SMAC development and management. The State contracted with the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy for the most recent dispensing fee survey in 2007.
11	1.4.1	8	Is there a pre-defined or maximum budget the State has for this project including the Major Tasks outlined in Section 1.4.1?	There is no pre-defined budget for the services under this RFP.
12	1.2	5	Please confirm the State currently does not have a SMAC vendor; although the DOM website cited in Section 1.2 indicates there are SMAC rates as part of the Pharmacy Reimbursement Methodology found in the Medicaid Provider Policy Manual. If the State does utilize SMAC rates, what entity currently maintains the SMAC rate list? What is the methodology for the development and updating as presented in the Medicaid Provider Policy Manual?	The State does not have a SMAC vendor at this time. Section 31.04 of the Provider Policy Manual has not been revised since the resolution of litigation, which resulted in the removal of the SMAC prices.

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13	1.3.1	6	Please provide a list of the firms/organizations which submitted a Letter of Intent to Bid.	This information will not be released during the Procurement Process.