

April 1, 2022



MISSISSIPPI DIVISION OF
MEDICAID

PUBLICATION OF SOLE SOURCE AWARD

Contract between the Mississippi Division of Medicaid and the National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information System (NAPHSIS) for Electronic Verification of Vital Events (EVVE) Services

National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information System (NAPHSIS) is the single vendor who can provide access to the Electronic Verification of Vital Events (EVVE) system. Therefore, this service shall be procured under Rule 3-206 Sole Source Procurement of the *Public Procurement Review Board Office of Personal Service Contract Review Rules and Regulations*. This publication is in accordance with PPRB Rule 3-206.04:

The personal or professional service offered in the contract:

The Division of Medicaid intends to award a sole source contract to the National Association of Public Health Statistics and Information Systems (NAPHSIS) to provide electronic verification of vital events services for Medicaid eligibility purposes and fraud prevention services.

An explanation of why the personal or professional service is the only one that can meet the needs of the agency:

To provide access to quality health coverage for vulnerable Mississippians, DOM relies on immediate access to vital birth and death records in an electronic format, as provided by the EVVE system, in its eligibility determination process. DOM requires access to such records from multiple states and jurisdictions. The NAPHSIS EVVE system acts as a secure national clearinghouse that electronically routes queries to the appropriate jurisdiction vital records office where a search is made against the database for a match. Numerous other state Medicaid agencies also use the EVVE system for the same purpose.

An explanation of why the source is the only person or entity that can provide the required personal or professional service:

NAPHSIS is uniquely qualified to provide birth and death record checks and verifications because of the immediate responsiveness of the EVVE system. The EVVE system, owned and trademarked by NAPHSIS, the sole provider, allows immediate confirmation of birth and death records. With the EVVE system, authorized users can submit an electronic query to any participating vital records jurisdiction throughout the country to verify the contents of a paper birth or death certificate or to request an electronic certification (in lieu of the paper birth or death certificate). A real-time, electronic response from the participating vital records jurisdiction either verifies or denies a match with their official records.

An explanation of why the amount to be expended for the personal or professional service is reasonable:

The Division of Medicaid determined that the anticipated price will be fair and reasonable based on a comparison between the NAPHSIS state and local government price list and the LexisNexis VitalChek price list. DOM is charged on a per transaction basis for use of the EVVE system. DOM has a current contract with this vendor for the same services under the same pricing structure. As of this date, the expenditures for the prior contract year were \$25,143.92. DOM has agreed to a total contract price of \$75,000.00 for the contract term. Historically, DOM has not expended the total contract price during the term of the contract. The current NAPHSIS price is consistent with the historical pricing for the Division of Medicaid's contracts with this vendor. All of the foregoing suggests that NAPHSIS pricing is reasonable for the services to be obtained.

The efforts that the agency made to obtain the best possible price for the personal or professional service:

The Division of Medicaid determined that NAPHSIS prices are the best possible price for vital record verification services by comparing the NAPHSIS state and local government price list to the Mississippi price for LexisNexis VitalChek, the closest competitor to the product offered by NAPHSIS. The cost for each birth or death record for Mississippi through LexisNexis VitalChek is \$27.50. Additionally, the LexisNexis VitalChek system is not an electronic system providing real time responses, but rather requires the record be shipped and includes subsequent shipping costs that are in addition to the \$27.50 charged per record request. NAPHSIS EVVE birth/death inquiries are \$0.55 per inquiry plus a monthly subscription fee, an 18% certification fee, and the queried state's jurisdiction fee. DOM's historical monthly transaction volume for EVVE birth/death inquiries has averaged 366 inquiries per month for calendar year 2021 and the associated fees with these inquiries are significantly less than the LexisNexis VitalChek per record request fee.

Instructions for filing objections pursuant to Section 3-206.05 (Objection to Sole-Source Determination) with current contact information for the agency that published the proposed sole-source contract and the PPRB:

Any person or entity who objects and proposes that Contractor is not the sole-source for access to the EVVE system and that the service can be provided by another person or entity shall notify DOM and the Public Procurement Review Board, Office of Personal Service Contract Review, in writing, with a detailed explanation of why the Contractor is not the sole-source service. The objection must be submitted to the following persons no later than seven (7) calendar days of the date of the last publication:

Bryan Wardlaw
Contracts Officer
Mississippi Division of Medicaid
550 High Street, Suite 1000
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

Brittney Thompson
Director
Office of Personal Service Contract Review
501 North West Street, Suite 700
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