

April 1, 2022



MISSISSIPPI DIVISION OF
MEDICAID

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION: SOLE-SOURCE PROCUREMENT

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) Fact of Death (FOD) Queries

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) Fact of Death (FOD) 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 DOM, as a Credentialed Customer, access to its Electronic Verification of Vital Events Fact of Death Nationwide System (EVVE FOD System) database so that DOM can send fact-of-death queries (“Queries”) to participating vital records offices (“JVROs”) and receive fact-of-death reports (“Reports”) in response to those queries from applicable JVROs.

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

NAPHSIS can provide accurate death information by using an innovative death matching system that matches queries against the most accurate death data in the nation. As a credentialed customer of the NAPHSIS EVVE FOD System, DOM can ensure proper compliance in maintaining its beneficiary roles as required by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148), as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-152). The NAPHSIS EVVE FOD 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. Using this system, users can send records to jurisdictions across the nation and receive matches in seconds, finding out who among the records submitted is deceased, and when and where they died. Numerous other state Medicaid agencies also use the EVVE FOD 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:

Ever since the Death Master File removed state protected records from its database, there has been a strong need for a system that contains accurate death information. The EVVE FOD System, owned and trademarked by NAPHSIS, the sole provider, allows immediate confirmation of queries for death records. NAPHSIS is uniquely qualified to provide Fact of Death (FOD) record checks and verifications because of the immediate responsiveness of the EVVE FOD System. With the EVVE FOD system, authorized users can submit an electronic query to any participating vital records jurisdiction throughout the country to verify death records. 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 FOD system. DOM has a current contract with this vendor for electronic verification and certification of birth and death records under a similar pricing structure. As of this date, the expenditures for that similar contract for the prior contract year were \$25,143.92. Historically, DOM has not expended the total contract price during the term of that contract. DOM has agreed to a total contract price of \$75,000.00 for EVVE FOD contract term.

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 EVVE FOD 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 inquiry. NAPHSIS FOD inquiries are \$0.64 per inquiry based on queries totaling between 101-500 per month, plus a one-time application fee of \$50.00 and a one-time enrollment fee of \$250.00. DOM's projected transaction volume for FOD inquiries plus the associated application fee plus the enrollment fee are significantly less than the LexisNexis VitalChek per record request fee. The anticipated cost per FOD inquiries is significantly lower than the \$27.50 per record request fee that LexisNexis VitalChek offers.

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 FOD 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
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Brittney Thompson
Director
Office of Personal Service Contract Review
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