

MBP Request for Proposals for Pharmacy Benefit Manager Audit Services
MBP RFP RFX Number:
Amendment One
Issue Date: September 22, 2023

The Mississippi Board of Pharmacy (MPB) through this Amendment One, modifies the original MBP RFP RFX 3160006166 issued on September 5, 2023.

The **attached Questions and Answers document** is incorporated fully along with this Amendment One as part of the MBP RFP Rfx 3160006166

Please acknowledge receipt of MBP RFP RFX 3160006166 Amendment One by signing and returning this amendment, along with your proposal, **on or before 2:00 PM CST, October 3, 2023**. This acknowledgement should be enclosed in your proposal packet in accordance with the submission instructions located in the RFP. **Failure to submit this acknowledgement may result in rejection of the proposal.**

Company Name: _____

Printed Name of Representative: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

RFP RFx #
RFP for Pharmacy Benefit Manager Audit Services
Procurement Questions and Answers

	RFP Section, Page Number	Date Received	Question (As submitted)	Response
1.	Section 2.1, Audit Services, Page 1	9/19/23 2:52 PM	Does the Board of Pharmacy, either through a direct state relationship or a state vendor relationship, have access through a contractual arrangement that will permit access to claims, payment information to pharmacies, the right to request and receive pharmacy remittance advice documents directly, PBM policies and procedures, and other information that may be considered protected or confidential by the PBM?	The Board of Pharmacy does not have a contractual arrangement with any PBM. Miss. Code Ann., Sections 73-21-155 and 73-21-159 authorize the MBP to conduct financial examinations to ensure compliance and regulatory oversight. The MBP will make an initial request for data to be given to the contractor from the PBM. The contractor shall request specific data after that time. The PBM can designate specific information to be protected or confidential, which will not be released to the public.
2.	Section 2.1, Audit Services, Page 1	9/19/23 2:52 PM	What entity (the PBM or the Board of Pharmacy) will provide access to claims data? What format will the data be provided in? Can the Board of Pharmacy share a data layout or description of fields that can be provided through the claims data?	The MBP will make an initial request for claims data from the PBM and/or pharmacies to be provided to its contractor. The proposer will need to determine the sample size and format of the data needed in order to provide the services of the contract.
3.	Section 2.1, Audit Services, Page 1	9/19/23 2:52 PM	Does the Board of Pharmacy have a review time period that is expected for the scope of the audit? What is the expected claims volume to be audited and used for sampling?	The proposer is to submit a proposed time period from the beginning of the audit to the end of the audit. The contractor is expected to request all claims filed during a specific time period and then audit a sample that the contractor determines will provide a statistically meaningful sample.
4.	Section 2.1.L, Audit Services, Page 5	9/19/23 2:52 PM	What timeframe does the Board of Pharmacy anticipate will be used for the MAC Appeals Process? What is the definition of the “current appeals under review?” What is the anticipated volume of MAC appeals that the sample will be selected from?	Miss. Code Ann., Section 73-21-156(4)(iii) provides a pharmacy has a period of less than 30 days to challenge a MAC list and reimbursement. Section 73-21-156(c) requires a PBM to respond to the challenge within 20 business days after receipt of the challenge.

				Paragraph (d) outlines what the PBMs must also do in response.
5.	Section 2.1.N, Audit Services, Page 5	9/19/23 2:52 PM	Please clarify what is expected in the review of the “financial records of the PBM.” Is this anticipated to be a review of financial statements of the PBM or some other type of review of financial documents such as remittance advice documents and payments to particular pharmacies or pharmacy types (i.e., chain vs. independent; affiliated vs. unaffiliated; etc.)?	Section 73-21-157(5) provides that a PBM shall not reimburse a pharmacy or pharmacist in Mississippi in an amount less than it reimburses a PBM affiliate for the same service. Paragraph (5)(b) states this amount is calculated on a per unit basis based on the same brand and generic identifier or code number. Section 2.1.N requires the proposer to provide a financial review of provider payments to ensure compliance of this statutory requirement.
6.	Section 7, Fee Schedule, Page 14	9/19/23 2:52 PM	Does the Board have an anticipated budget for this project? What is the anticipated range for the budget for this project?	The proposer should provide pricing to the MBP, including a fee schedule and total cost of contract services. Selection and role of pricing is outlined in the RFP.
7.	Section 7, Schedule, Page 14	9/19/23 2:52 PM	The Schedule provided in the RFP contains a line item for PBM Interaction and Audit Field Work. Is the Board anticipating that the auditors will be required to perform audit work on site at the PBM? Does the Board require that the auditor perform the audit work on site, or is it acceptable to conduct the work virtually through electronic communications and video conferencing mechanisms?	The proposer should determine how much, if any, field work will be needed, and the appropriate interaction needed with the PBM being audited.
8.	Section 2.1.G, Page 4	9/19/23 4:17 PM	Will the underlying data set from which a statistically meaningful sample is meant to be drawn be provided to the Contractor by the Board of Pharmacy, or will the Contractor be required to source it from pharmacies directly?	The MBP will make an initial request for claims data from the PBM and/or pharmacies to be provided to its contractor. The proposer will need to determine the sample size and format of the data needed in order to provide the services of the contract.
9.	Section 1.2, Page 3	9/19/23 4:17 PM	If a respondent is providing services to and/or accepting monies from interested parties (e.g., PBMs, drug manufacturers, etc.), would that respondent be considered independent by the Board of Pharmacy’s standards, or would such conflicts exclude them	Please see Section 5.15, which requires disclosure of any work for, services to or receipt of compensation from any PBM, third-party administrator or any insurance company for the Board’s consideration. The presence of a

			from consideration for this independent oversight scope of work?	potential conflict does not result in automatic disqualification. Non-disclosure, however, may result in the disqualification of the proposal.
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