



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
OFFICE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

**CP NO. 16-100**

*Washington All Payer Health Care Claims Database (WA-APCD)  
Lead Organization and Data Vendor Services*

**AMENDMENT NO. ONE (1)**

**OFM RESPONSE TO BIDDER QUESTIONS**

**04.26.2016**

**OFM Answers to Bidders' Questions**

This OFM Answer to Bidders' Questions may only explain or clarify some aspect that is already addressed in the CP. However, some of the answers may also supplement or change what was previously stated in the CP or in an exhibit.

*Therefore it is important that bidders review all questions and answers, and not just those which they may have submitted.*

1) **Question:** *Since we are well qualified for Data Vendor since we have product built around and currently serving several services? Do we need to partner with Lead Organization or we can submit just Data Vendor alone?*

**OFM Answer:** Per the WA-APCD statute Chapter 43.371 RCW, the Bidder must be a Lead Organization that contracts with a Data Vendor.

2) **Question:** *Can bidder submit all content for Phase 1, Phase 2, Phase 3 together? or Phase 1 winner would be notified to write Phase 2 proposal?*

**OFM Answer:** As per the Competitive Procurement instructions, the Bidder submits its Response to Phase 1 and OFM shall invite the Bidders to participate in Phase 2.

3) **Question:** *For Data Vendor services, Can bidder build a system for WA-APCD database from scratch? Meaning writing a software code to support WA-APCD from scratch?*

**OFM Answer:** Yes, the Bidder may bid a solution that includes building a system for the WA-APCD from scratch.

4) **Question:** *Do you allow a Lead Organization and Data Vendor, if they have pre built product which supports majority of WA-APCD needs to perform data collection, processing, aggregation, extracts, and analytics.*

**OFM Answer:** Yes, the Bidder may bid a solution with a pre-built product.

5) **Question:** *Why Non-Profits are required to be part of Lead Organization?*

**OFM Answer:** The funding for this project is from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Rate Review grants. These grants require that the Lead Organization be a non-profit or an academic institution.

6) **Question:** *What type of Non Profits required (Cultural Non Profit / Charity Non Profit / Business Non Profit)?*

**OFM Answer:** There is no specific requirement around the specific type of non-profit for the Lead Organization.

7) **Question:** *Could OFM provide additional detail regarding any bidder responsibilities related to the planned grant extension requests?*

**OFM Answer:** There are no responsibilities regarding the planned grant extension requests for the Bidder or the selected Lead Organization and Data Vendor.

8) **Question:** *Could OFM provide additional detail regarding the anticipated file types beyond eligibility, medical claims, and pharmacy claims that will be collected in support of the WA APCD (e.g., administrative, provider, dental claims, etc.)?*

**OFM Answer:** The WA-APCD rules contain detailed definitions for the different file types that will be collected for the WA-APCD. WAC 82-75-020 Definitions (<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WaC/default.aspx?cite=82-75>) required by Chapter 43.371 Revised Code of Washington (RCW) contains definitions for the following files:

- “claim file”
- “covered medical services file”
- “data file”
- “dental claims file”
- “member eligibility and enrollment data file”
- “pharmacy claims file”
- “provider data with necessary identifiers”.

Aside from what is identified in Chapter 43.371 RCW for the WA-APCD to collect, OFM has not yet identified additional data or file types to collect. OFM does expect that the WA-APCD will be flexible enough to collect, load and store additional data types without re-work or extensive development.

- 9) **Question:** *Could OFM provide additional detail regarding the anticipated schedule (e.g., monthly, quarterly, etc.) of WA APCD data submissions once historical data collection per submitter has been completed?*

**OFM Answer:**

Chapter 82-75 WAC (<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WaC/default.aspx?cite=82-75>) contains the data submission rules for the WA-APCD. WAC 82-75-050 Data submission schedule (<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=82-75-050>) provides the detail for submitting a:

- Test file prior to the first required submission
- Submission file on a quarterly basis on or before April 30th, July 31st, October 31st and January 31st of each year. The submitted data and claim files must contain all nondenied adjudicated claims paid in the preceding three months.
- Resubmission file to correct data and claim files that are rejected for failure to conform to the requirements of WA-APCD rules or data submission guide.
- Claims run-out file if health care coverage is terminated for a Washington covered person.
- Replacement file if the data supplier requests and OFM approves a complete data file, claim file, or both data and claim file replacement.

- 10) **Question:** *Appendix J, “WA-APCD SOW DRAFT,” notes that data submissions to the WA APCD will be divided into two groups of submitters, with Activity #4A comprised of Group 1 and funded by the Cycle III grant and Activity #4B comprised of Group 2 and funded by the Cycle IV grant. Could OFM provide additional detail on the number and type of submitters (e.g., commercial, Medicaid managed care, Medicaid fee for service, Medicare managed care, Medicare fee for service, etc.) included in each group?*

**OFM Answer:** In Phase 2, OFM expects the Bidder to provide its approach to grouping the data submitters in order to successfully complete the collection and storing of the required historical claims data and the establishment of the ongoing data extract, transfer and load functions under the #4A deliverable (under the Cycle III grant funding) and under the #4B deliverable (under the Cycle IV grant funding) considering the grants’ respective end dates as identified in *Appendix J – WA-APCD*

SOW Draft. OFM requires (*Requirement 9, Appendix L, WA-APCD Requirements List*) that those data suppliers with the largest amounts of historical Washington state claims be included first. See *Appendix J – WA-APCD SOW Draft, Attachment 1 – 2011 Insurance Commissioner’s Annual Report*, to identify the number of annual enrollees between 2011 – 2014 by company. Note that Medicaid claims will be supplied by the Health Care Authority and is expected to be included under deliverable #4A.

Additionally, note that Deliverables 11 and 12 under the Cycle IV grant must be completed using the data collected under deliverable #4a. Therefore, the data collected under deliverable #4a must provide enough information from enough data submitters to be useful and meaningful.

- 11) **Question:** *Could OFM clarify whether data submitters will adhere to a single standard format that is collaboratively developed with OFM during implementation or whether mapping of data feeds will be required for Medicare, Medicaid, or any of the commercial submitters? If mapping will be required, could OFM provide any detail on the anticipated number of feeds requiring this service?*

**OFM Answer:**

Yes, there will be a single standard format to which all data suppliers adhere. In the WA-APCD rules, WAC 82-75-070 Data Submission Guide (<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=82-75-070>) requires the data submitters to submit data files and claim files according to requirements set forth in the rules and the data submission guide. The Lead Organization develops the data submission guide with input from stakeholders and final approval by OFM and is a deliverable under Part 1, Activity #1 in the SOW.

- 12) **Question:** *Requirement 41 in Appendix L, “WA-APCD REQUIREMENTS LIST,” notes that “Data set matching of WA-APCD data sets and external data sets shall be provided as a fee-eligible service.” Could OFM provide additional detail regarding the anticipated types of data sets and quantity covered by this requirement?*

**OFM Answer:** One example of an external dataset to match is a list of patients with certain characteristics who were identified through an outside source, such as the Washington State Cancer Registry.

OFM cannot say how many data sets this may cover, as it depends on the number of data requests received by the Lead Organization with this type of request.

- 13) **Question:** *Requirement 91 in Appendix L, “WA-APCD REQUIREMENTS LIST,” notes that “The WA-APCD shall include encounter data from those submitters that do not use health care claims forms.” Could OFM provide additional detail regarding this requirement, including the anticipated types and volume of submitters who would supply encounter data and any anticipated limitations?*

**OFM Answer:** Group Health is the largest insurer that uses encounter data. See *Appendix J – WA-APCD SOW Draft, Attachment 1 – 2011 Insurance Commissioner’s Annual Report*, to understand the number of enrollees Group Health had each year between 2011 – 2014. OFM is not certain if other data submitters will have encounter data.

- 14) **Question:** *Could the OFM provide additional clarity regarding whether the language in Part 2’s Activity #7 (Appendix J, p.8) referencing “information about ... health care cost, quality and*

*utilization" is (a) metadata about any measures that are developed, (b) actual reporting to be published prior to the development of data products, or (c) the data products developed in Part 2's activities 11 and 12?*

**OFM Answer:** No, it is not metadata. This ties directly to Part 2, Activity #10 Health Care Price Schedule and Quality Database deliverable and the data product deliverables developed under Part 2, Activities #11 and #12, as well as the ongoing role of the Lead Organization under operations and maintenance that will be negotiated later to continue to provide health care price, quality and utilization data.

15) **Question:** *Could the OFM provide additional detail regarding the anticipated specifications for the "health care price schedule and quality database" cited in Part 2's Activity #10 (Appendix J, p.9)?*

**OFM Answer:** At a minimum, to meet the requirements of the grant funding, OFM requires that price, quality and utilization information about the most common procedures and diagnosis related groups (DRGs) be included in the published database. OFM will provide the initial data set to the Lead Organization to use to complete the database deliverable. Updates and additions to the database is considered a part of the Lead Organization's ongoing operations, the scope of which will be negotiated at a later date.

16) **Question:** *Could the OFM provide any examples of Washington State or federal websites or services currently selling data that the OFM considers a possible model for this initiative (e.g., the specific education data resource mentioned in Part 2's Activity 12 (Appendix J, p.10))?*

**OFM Answer:**

While not selling the data, the United States Census Bureau's American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) files (referenced in the SOW Part 2, Activity #12) are examples of the types of possible data products from the WA-APCD that could be produced and potentially sold to support the WA-APCD. PUMS records are individual level, but many variables are modified through coding, aggregation and other methods, to protect the confidentiality of the individual. Ultimately, OFM is interested in innovative data products Bidders propose to create as deliverables under this Activity based on their experience and expertise with what is most successful in generating revenue.

17) **Question:** *Does the \$5,500,000 represent the total budget? Is the allotted money for one year or all 5?*

**OFM Answer:** The \$5,500,000 comes from three different CMS grants. Specific deliverables are funded under each grant (*Appendix O – Cost Worksheet* identifies which deliverables are covered under which grant.) *Appendix J – WA-APCD SOW Draft* provides an overall timeline for the project and grant funding. All deliverables must be successfully completed by the end of its respective grant's funding. A summary of OFM's anticipated timeline of each grant funding is as follows:

- \$1,900,000 is available under the Cycle III grant. If OFM's second request in July 2016 for a no-cost one-year extension is approved by CMS, then the availability of these funds will end on 9/30/2017. OFM does not anticipate another extension to be made available for these grant funds.
- \$600,000 is available under the Cycle IV grant. If OFM's first request in July 2016 for a no-cost one-year extension is approved by CMS, then the availability of these funds will end on

9/30/2017. If a second no-cost one-year extension is allowed and approved by CMS, then the availability of these funds will end on 9/30/2018.

- \$3,000,000 is available under the SIM grant. This funding ends in February 2019. Note that at the end of each year, the state must seek approval from CMS for the next year's budget.

18) **Question:** *Is Appendix L considered the Administrative Requirements?*

**OFM Answer:** No, Appendix L is not the Administrative Requirements. It is titled *Appendix L – WA-APCD Requirements List* and contains the Statement of Work Requirements. The Administrative Requirements are in *Appendix N: Competitive Procurement Submission Content* under Phase 1.

19) **Question:** *CP, General, How many submitters anticipated?*

**OFM Answer:** OFM does not know how many submissions it will receive.

20) **Question:** *CP, General, What is the desired timeframe for implementation?*

**OFM Answer:** *Appendix J – WA-APCD SOW Draft* provides a timeline with end dates for each grant and its funding. *Appendix O – Cost Worksheet*, groups each of the deliverables under its respective funding grant. The Implementation of the system (Deliverables #3, #4a) falls under the Cycle III grant and its timeline and must be successfully completed by the end of the Cycle III grant. OFM anticipates that the Cycle III grant and its funding will end on September 30, 2017, as long as CMS approves OFM's request in July 2016 of a one-year no-cost extension.

21) **Question:** *CP, Page 2 - Scope, What is the expectation for the nature of the free public data sets - e.g. downloadable zips reports on the public portal?*

**OFM Answer:** Under the Cycle III and Cycle IV grants, OFM is required to provide data products that increase the general public's awareness and use of health care pricing and quality information to the public. Although OFM is willing to be flexible on the nature of these products, they should be of use to and usable by the general public.

22) **Question:** *CP, Page 2 – Scope, Does the last bullet imply that the portal would be updated quarterly – if so does that also require quarterly provider outreach?*

**OFM Answer:** The Common Measure Set for Health Care Quality and Cost Performance Outcomes must be updated quarterly. Outreach to providers may, however, be conducted less frequently, if quarterly updates are found to not add value.

23) **Question:** *Appendix L – Requirement 91 is an incomplete sentence/requirement and (91) is also a duplicated requirement number. Could this be clarified?*

**OFM Answer:** Appendix L was reposted as an Excel spreadsheet on 4/20 so that Bidders may see the entire verbiage for each requirement. We see the duplication of the number 91 on two different requirements and will make an update.

24) **Question:** *Appendix L – Requirement 40, Will 11 years of data be retained by the proposed system?*

**OFM Answer:** Requirement 40 states that “No claims data shall be purged from the WA-APCD database without the approval of OFM”. OFM will, however, discuss with the Data Vendor options for maintaining WA-APCD records and develop a plan for records retention.

25) **Question:** *Appendix L – Requirement 41, Is unclear, could an example of an external data set to match be provided?*

**OFM Answer:** One example of an external dataset to match is a list of patients with certain characteristics who were identified through an outside source, such as the Washington State Cancer Registry.

26) **Question:** *Appendix L – Requirement 51, How would fee-schedule be determined for extracts: hours, records, value-add components, etc.?*

**OFM Answer:** RCW 43.371.070 (f) requires OFM to develop a rule for procedures for establishing appropriate fees. OFM has scheduled this rule to be developed in Phase 3 of the rule making after the lead organization is selected. See the Rule making timeline (revised March 2016) at <http://www.ofm.wa.gov/healthcare/pricetransparency/>. The Lead Organization, as required by law and following the process to be established in rule, will create the fee schedule for data products.

27) **Question:** *Appendix L – Requirement 68, Does that include 2016? How many reports are expected? Is there a requirement for POCs for any reports prior to 10/31?*

**OFM Answer:** No, 2016 is not included. Requirement 68 will start following the completion of the implementation of the WA-APCD system. OFM anticipates that an initial report will be produced by March 2018.

28) **Question:** *Appendix L – Requirement 72, What is the source for subsidization and teaching expense data?*

**OFM Answer:** No source for subsidization and teaching expense data has been identified at this time. The law states that incorporating this information is required when feasible and with available data.

29) **Question:** *Appendix L – Requirement 76, Could you clarify if actual potential third party grouper algorithms will be made public or would this just be the methodologies associated with grouping?*

**OFM Answer:** OFM will accept release of the methodologies associated with the groupers if the Lead Organization and Data Vendor are unable to release a third-party grouper.

30) **Question:** *Document – WA Common Measure Set, What is “WA IIS”? Referenced as a data set for several measures but not defined in document.*

**OFM Answer:** WA IIS refers to the Washington State Immunization Information System run by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH).

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ForPublicHealthandHealthcareProviders/HealthcareProfessionalsandFacilities/DataReportingandRetrieval/ImmunizationInformationSystem>

31) **Question:** Document – WA Common Measure Set, Are there any restrictions on the collection of Behavioral Health, Substance Abuse, and/or other sensitive claims data? As this may affect production of some of these measures.

**OFM Answer:** Access to behavioral health and substance abuse claims data are restricted at this point. If the restriction continues, reporting on measures utilizing that data will not be required.

32) **Question:** Document – WA Common Measure Set, How would the data below be acquired, and in what format and frequency?

- Measures 2 ,3 ,4, 12, 23, 40, indicate use of “Survey” data
- Measures 8, 11, 14, 15, 16,44,45,46,47 indicate use of “Clinical” data
- Measures 19,20,21,27 indicate use of “Registry” data

**OFM Answer:** See the information below pertaining to each Measure questioned.

Measure 2: Data are from the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) conducted by the DOH and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). More information about the survey can be found at:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/DataandStatisticalReports/HealthBehaviors/PregnancyRiskAssessmentMonitoringSystem>.

Measures 3 and 4: Data are from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) conducted by the DOH and the CDC. More information about the survey can be found at:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/DataandStatisticalReports/DataSystems/BehavioralRiskFactorSurveillanceSystemBRFSS>.

Measure 12: Currently the data are expected to come from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) health plan accreditation survey

Measure 23: Currently the data are expected to come from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) patient experience survey.

Measure 40: Data are from the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ (CMS) Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) survey. The hospital compare dataset can be found at: <https://data.medicare.gov/data/hospital-compare>.

Measures 8, 11, 14, 15, and 16: These measures require access to clinical data. OFM will work with the Lead Organization and Data Vendor to obtain the necessary data to complete these measures.

Measures 44, 45, 46, and 47: These measures are currently reported by the Washington State Hospital Association (WSHA) and available on their Hospital Quality website:

<http://www.wahospitalquality.org/compare-health-data>.

Measures 19, 20, 21, and 27: Data for these measures is from the Washington State Immunization Information System run by the DOH.

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ForPublicHealthandHealthcareProviders/HealthcareProfessionsandFacilities/DataReportingandRetrieval/ImmunizationInformationSystem>.

OFM will assist the Lead Organization and Data Vendor with gaining access to required data when necessary. If certain data sources are not available, the State will work with the Lead Organization and Data Vendor on a revised reporting plan.

Additionally:

- The link in Appendix J – SOW Activity #12 to the Washington State Common Measure Set for Health Care Quality and Cost, approved December 2014 should actually be:  
[http://www.hca.wa.gov/hw/Documents/pmcc\\_final\\_core\\_measure\\_set\\_approved\\_121714.pdf](http://www.hca.wa.gov/hw/Documents/pmcc_final_core_measure_set_approved_121714.pdf)  
The link currently referenced is to the NQF-Endorsed voluntary consensus standards, some of which are included in the Common Measure Set and can be found in the following document:  
([http://www.ncqa.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=POLoMIAi3Mo%3d&tabid=59&mid=1604&force\\_download=true](http://www.ncqa.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=POLoMIAi3Mo%3d&tabid=59&mid=1604&force_download=true))
- On January 22, 2016, the WA State Performance Measure Coordination Committee made the following updates to the Common Measure Set:  
[http://www.hca.wa.gov/hw/Documents/pmcc\\_summary012216.pdf](http://www.hca.wa.gov/hw/Documents/pmcc_summary012216.pdf)
- Additional information around the Common Measure Set by the state's Performance Measure Coordination Committee may be found on the HCA's Healthier Washington's Webinars and Meeting Materials webpage:  
[http://www.hca.wa.gov/hw/Pages/webinars\\_and\\_meeting\\_summaries.aspx](http://www.hca.wa.gov/hw/Pages/webinars_and_meeting_summaries.aspx)

33) **Question:** *Does Lead Organization be a Non Profit or Academic institution to be the as Prime vendor when it subcontracts with Data Vendor?*

**OFM Answer:** Yes.