

**MEDICAL EXPENDITURE PANEL SURVEY  
MEDICAL PROVIDER COMPONENT  
CONTACT GUIDE  
FOR  
OFFICE-BASED DOCTORS  
FOR  
REFERENCE YEAR 2011**

**OMB**

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**[A] CALL PROVIDER**

**A1.** Hello, have I reached the office of [PROVIDER]?)

PHONE NUMBER: [PROVIDER TELEPHONE NUMBER]

YES..... = 1  
NO, BUT CAN RECORD A NEW NUMBER..... = 2  
NO, NEED TO TRACE THE CASE..... = 3

[IF A1 = 1 GO TO A2,  
IF A1 = 2 GO TO CONTACT BLOCK,  
IF A1 = 3 GO TO EXIT]

**A2.** I have [an] authorization form[s] for the release of billing records and would like to speak to the person that can help me with that process.

- IF RECORDS ARE KEPT BY AN EXTERNAL BILLING SERVICE, ASK TO SPEAK WITH THE PERSON IN THE OFFICE WHO DEALS WITH THE EXTERNAL BILLING SERVICE.

CONTINUE, THIS PERSON CAN HELP = 1  
COLLECT CONTACT INFORMATION FOR SOMEONE ELSE = 2  
NO BILLING DEPARTMENT; UNCLEAR WHO HANDLES BILLING = 3

[IF A2= 1 GO TO B1,  
IF A2=2, GO TO CONTACT BLOCK  
IF A2=3 GO TO EXIT SCREEN]

**[B] IDENTIFY DC POC**

**B1.** My name is (YOUR NAME). I am calling on behalf of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. We are conducting MEPS which is a study about how people in the United States use and pay for health care. For quality assurance and training purposes, this call may be monitored.

POC: [POC NAME]

READ IF NECESSARY: I have [an] authorization form[s] for the release of billing records and would like to speak to the person that can help me with that process.

CONTINUE, THIS PERSON CAN HELP..... = 1  
COLLECT CONTACT INFORMATION FOR SOMEONE ELSE..... = 2

[IF B1=1, GO TO B2,  
IF B1=2, GO TO CONTACT BLOCK;]

**B2.** Thank you. First, can you confirm that this is a doctor’s office and **not** a hospital?

YES, THIS IS A PHYSICIAN’S OFFICE, PUBLICLY-FUNDED CLINIC, OR URGENT CARE CENTER..... 1  
NO, THIS IS A HOSPITAL, SATELLITE CLINIC, HOSPITAL OUTPATIENT DEPT, OR SURGI-CENTER... 2  
NO, THIS IS A HOME CARE PROVIDER..... 3  
NO, THIS IS A LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY SUCH AS A NURSING HOME..... 4  
THIS IS SOMETHING ELSE (SPECIFY)..... 5

[IF B2 = 1 GO TO B3,  
IF B2= 2, 3, 4 or 5 GO TO B3a,  
IF B2 = 5, a text box is required]

**B3.** And is there at least one physician in the practice who is a Medical Doctor or a Doctor of Osteopathy?

ALL SPECIALTIES ARE CONSIDERED MD/DO EXCEPT FOR: DENTISTS, OPTOMETRISTS, CHRIOPRACTORS AND PODIATRISTS

YES..... = 1  
NO..... = 2  
GAVE A SPECIALTY... = 3

[IF B3 = 1 or 3 GO TO B4,  
IF B3 = 2 GO TO B3a]

**B3a.** I’m sorry. The information I was hoping to collect today is specific to doctor’s offices. Because this is not a doctor’s office one of my colleagues will be calling back to collect the necessary information.

CLICK NEXT TO GO TO THE EXIT SCREEN. ONCE YOU EXIT, CODE THE CASE AS “PROVIDER INELIGIBLE”

[GO TO EXIT SCREEN]

**B4.** At this time, [NUMBER FROM PATIENT LIST] patient[s] identified [PROVIDER] as a source of health care during 2011. [The/Each] patient signed an authorization form allowing us to contact you for information about the cost of the care they received from [PROVIDER] in 2011. Much of the information we need is within the billing records. Are the billing records maintained in your office, or is an external billing service used?

OFFICE MAINTAINS THE INFORMATION = 1  
OFFICE USES AN EXTERNAL BILLING SERVICE = 2

[IF B4 = 1 GO TO B4b,  
IF B4 = 2 GO TO B4\_1]

**B4\_1.** Are you the person who deals with the external billing service?

YES = 1  
NO = 2

[IF B4\_1 = 1, GO TO C2,  
IF B4\_1 = 2, GO TO B4a]

**B4a.** I’ll need to collect the name and telephone number for the person in your office who deals with the external billing service.

PRESS “NEXT” TO GO TO THE CONTACT BLOCK. ADD THE NEW POC TO THE CONTACT BLOCK AND CALL THEM USING **SECTION C:**

**IDENTIFY BILLING SERVICE.**

[NEXT BUTTON TAKES USER TO CONTACT\_BLOCK]

**B4b.** I would like to fax the authorization form[s] to you, along with additional information explaining the study I need to be sure I have the correct information for the packet. Should I direct it to you?

- READ IF THE PERSON ON THE PHONE WOULD LIKE TO PROVIDE THE DATA PRIOR TO RECEIVING AUTHORIZATION FORM(S): In order to remain HIPAA compliant, I need to send you the authorization form[s] first. Once you have received the form[s], then we can arrange for the collection of the data.

YES..... = 1

NO..... = 2

[GO TO CONTACT BLOCK]

**B5.** Can you please provide the name and number for the person who (needs to receive the courtesy packet/needs to receive the forms) to approve the release of data?

YES..... = 1

NO..... = 2

[IF B5 = 1 GO TO CONTACT BLOCK,  
IF B5 = 2 GO TO EXIT SCREEN.]

**[C] IDENTIFY BILLING SERVICE**

**C1.** Hello, my name is (YOUR NAME).

I am calling on behalf of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. We are conducting MEPS which is a study about how people in the United States use and pay for health care. For quality assurance and training purposes, this call may be monitored.

POC: [POC NAME]

READ IF NECESSARY: I have [an] authorization form[s] for the release of billing records and would like to speak to the person that can help me get in touch with the external billing service that maintains your records.

- IF THIS PERSON CANNOT HELP, ASK TO BE TRANSFERRED TO SOMEONE WHO CAN.

CONTINUE, THIS PERSON CAN HELP..... = 1

COLLECT CONTACT INFORMATION FOR SOMEONE ELSE..... = 2

[IF C1=1, GO TO C2,  
IF C1=2, GO TO CONTACT BLOCK]

**C2.** (READ IF NECESSARY: At this time, [NUMBER FROM PATIENT LIST] patient[s] identified [PROVIDER] as a source of health care during 2011. [The/Each] patient signed an authorization form allowing us to contact you for information about the cost of the care they received from [PROVIDER] in 2011.)

We should be able to get all of the information we need from the billing service.  
We can also fax you a copy of the authorization form[s] for your files.

I need to be sure I have the correct information for the packet. Should I direct it to you?

- READ IF THE PERSON ON THE PHONE WOULD LIKE TO PROVIDE THE DATA PRIOR TO RECEIVING AUTHORIZATION FORM(S): In order to remain HIPAA compliant, I need to send you the authorization form[s] first. Once you have received the form[s], then we can arrange for the collection of the data.

YES..... = 1

NO..... = 2

[GO TO CONTACT BLOCK]

**C3.** Can you please provide the name of the billing service, the name of a contact person, their telephone number and title?

YES..... = 1  
NO..... = 2

- IF THIS PERSON CANNOT HELP, ASK TO BE TRANSFERRED TO SOMEONE WHO CAN AND RESTART THIS SECTION.

[IF C3 = 1 GO TO CONTACT BLOCK,  
IF C3 = 2 GO TO EXIT SCREEN.]

**[D] CALL BILLING SERVICE**

**D1.** Have I reached [BILLING SERVICE]?

PHONE NUMBER: [BILLING SERVICE TELEPHONE NUMBER]

- IF THE PERSON ON THE PHONE SAYS NO, VERIFY THAT YOU DIALED THE CORRECT NUMBER.
- IF THE NUMBER IS CORRECT, ASK IF THE PERSON ON THE PHONE KNOWS OF ANOTHER NUMBER FOR THE BILLING SERVICE. IF THEY DO, GO TO THE CONTACT BLOCK AND EDIT THE INFORMATION FOR THE BILLING SERVICE.
- IF NO BETTER NUMBER IS AVAILABLE, SELECT "NO" BELOW.

YES..... = 1  
NO..... = 2

[IF D1 = 1 GO TO D2,  
IF D1 = 2 GO TO EXIT]

**D2.** We were referred to you by [PROVIDER] about [NUMBER FROM PATIENT LIST] of their patients who received medical service in 2011. I have [an] authorization form[s] for the release of billing records and would like to speak to the person that can help me with that process.

IF THE PERSON YOU NEED TO TALK TO IS UNAVAILABLE ATTEMPT TO GET THEIR CONTACT INFORMATION VIA THE CONTACT BLOCK AND SET AN APPOINTMENT IF POSSIBLE.

CONTINUE = 1  
SERVICE DOES NOT MAINTAIN 2011 RECORDS FOR PROVIDER =2  
NOT CLEAR WHO TO SPEAK TO; WRONG NUMBER = 3

[IF D2= 1 GO TO E1,  
IF D2=2 OR 3, GO TO EXIT SCREEN]

**[E] BILLING SERVICE: IDENTIFY POC**

**E1.** Hello, my name is (YOUR NAME).

I am calling on behalf of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. We are conducting MEPS which is a study about how people in the United States use and pay for health care. For quality assurance and training purposes, this call may be monitored.

POC: [POC NAME]

READ IF NECESSARY: I have [an] authorization form[s] for the release of billing records and would like to speak to the person that can help me with that process.

- IF THIS PERSON CANNOT HELP, ASK TO BE TRANSFERRED TO SOMEONE WHO CAN.

CONTINUE, THIS PERSON CAN HELP..... = 1  
COLLECT CONTACT INFORMATION FOR SOMEONE ELSE..... = 2

[IF E1=1, GO TO E2,  
IF E1=2, GO TO CONTACT BLOCK;]

**E2.** We were referred to you by [PROVIDER] for information about one or more of [his/her/their] patients. At this time, [NUMBER FROM

PATIENT LIST] patient[s] signed an authorization form allowing us to contact you for information about the cost of the care they received from [PROVIDER] in 2011.

I would like to fax the authorization form[s] to you, along with additional information explaining the study.

I need to be sure I have the correct information for the packet. Should I direct it to you?

- READ IF THE PERSON ON THE PHONE WOULD LIKE TO PROVIDE THE DATA PRIOR TO RECEIVING AUTHORIZATION FORM(S): In order to remain HIPAA compliant, I need to send you the authorization form[s] first. Once you have received the form[s], then we can arrange for the collection of the data.

YES..... = 1

NO..... = 2

[GO TO CONTACT BLOCK]

**E3.** Can you please provide the name and number for the person who (needs to receive the courtesy packet/needs to receive the forms) to approve the release of data?

YES..... = 1

NO..... = 2

[IF E3 = 1 GO TO CONTACT BLOCK,

IF E3 = 2 GO TO EXIT SCREEN]

### [F] DC: EXPLAIN NEXT STEPS

**F1.** Once you have received the authorization form[s] [if # of patients is < or =25, show "we will call back to collect the data over the phone", if # of patients is >25, show "you can send us the billing records by either fax or mail, or we can call back to collect the data over the phone."] For each date of service in 2011, we are requesting information about charges, payments, diagnoses, and services provided.

PROVIDER WILL RESPOND:

BY PHONE..... 1

BY FAX..... 2

BY MAIL..... 3

[IF F1 = 1 GO TO F2,

IF F1 = 2 GO TO F2,

IF F1 = 3 GO TO F2]

**F2.** Within the next 24 hours we will [fax/mail] you the authorization forms and include an instruction sheet. If you have any questions about what to send us, please call our toll-free number on the instruction sheet. We will call to verify that you received the authorization forms.

[We will work with you to set up a good time to collect the data over the phone.

We may call again if other patients identify your practice as a source of medical services.]

[GO TO EXIT.]

### [G] VERIFY RECEIPT OF AFs

**G\_Intro.** May I please speak to [POC NAME]?

PERSON IS ON THE PHONE..... = 1

PERSON IS NOT AVAILABLE..... = 2

[IF G\_Intro=1, GO TO G1,

IF G\_Intro =2, GO TO APPOINTMENT SCREEN]

**G1.** Hello, my name is (YOUR NAME). I am calling on behalf of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. For quality assurance and training purposes, this call may be monitored. We previously spoke about the MEPS study.

Did you receive the authorization form[s] we [faxed/mailed] to you?

- YES, RECEIVED ALL..... = 1
- YES, BUT PROBLEM REPORTED/NEEDS A RE-SEND..... = 2
- NO..... = 3

[IF G1=1 and F1 = 1 (PHONE) GO TO G2;  
 IF G1=1 and F1 = 2 (FAX) OR 3 (MAIL) GO TO G4;  
 IF G1=2 OR 3, GO TO G5]

**G2.** If it is convenient for you, we can just go ahead and complete the data forms together over the phone right now. I'd be happy to hold on while you get the information you need from your records.

- WILL COMPLETE BY PHONE NOW..... = 1
- WILL COMPLETE BY PHONE IN THE FUTURE..... = 2

[IF G2=1 GO TO EXIT SCREEN;  
 IF G2=2 GO TO G3]

**G3.** I understand. What would be the best day and time to call you back to complete the data forms?

- EARLY MORNING = 9AM
- LATE MORNING = 11AM
- EARLY AFTERNOON = 2PM
- LATE AFTERNOON = 4PM

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 R's TIME: \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM  
 TIMEZONE: \_\_\_\_\_

[IF COMPLETE, GO TO EXIT SCREEN]

**G4.** Our records indicate that you will [fax/mail] the records to us. We hope you can do so within two weeks.

YOUR NEXT STEP WILL BE TO EXIT THE CONTACT GUIDE AND CODE THE CASE AS "AFS RECEIVED. WAITING FOR RECORDS TO BE SENT."

[GO TO EXIT SCREEN]

**G5.** I'm sorry. Let me re-send the authorization form[s] to you.

I need to be sure I have the correct information for the packet. Should I direct it to you?

- YES..... = 1
- NO..... = 2

- IF PERSON ON PHONE WANTS TO PROVIDE DATA BEFORE RECEIVING AUTHORIZATION FORMS: In order to remain HIPAA compliant, I need to send you the authorization form[s] first. Once you have received the form[s], then we can arrange for the collection of the data.

[IF G5=1, GO TO CONTACT\_BLOCK,  
 IF G5=2, GO TO CONTACT\_BLOCK, ]

**[H] BAD BILLING SERVICE INFO.**

**H1.** ASK (BY NAME) TO SPEAK WITH THE POC WHO DEALS WITH THE EXTERNAL BILLING SERVICE

This is (YOUR NAME) calling on behalf of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.  
 For quality assurance and training purposes, this call may be monitored.

We previously spoke about the MEPS study. Thank you for providing the contact information for [BILLING SERVICE NAME]. Unfortunately we were unable to locate [BILLING SERVICE NAME] with the contact information you provided. Could you please verify the contact information we currently have for [BILLING SERVICE NAME]?

[PRESENT BILLING SERVICE CONTACT INFO HERE]

BILLING SERVICE CONTACT INFO IS CORRECT..... = 1  
BILLING SERVICE CONTACT INFO IS NOT CORRECT.... = 2

[IF H1=1, GO TO H2,  
IF H1=2, GO TO CONTACT BLOCK]

**H2.** That is currently the information we have on file. Do you know of any other way we can get in touch with [BILLING SERVICE NAME]?

YES..... = 1  
NO..... = 2

[IF H2 = 1 GO TO CONTACT BLOCK,  
IF H2=2 GO TO EXIT]

### [I] ANY OTHER BILLING SERVICE?

**I 1.** ASK (BY NAME) TO SPEAK WITH THE POC WHO DEALS WITH THE EXTERNAL BILLING SERVICE

This is (YOUR NAME) calling on behalf of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. For quality assurance and training purposes, this call may be monitored.

We previously spoke about the MEPS study. Thank you for providing the contact information for [BILLING SERVICE NAME]. We were able to locate [BILLING SERVICE NAME] with the information you provided. However, they reported that they did not maintain the billing records for [PROVIDER(S)] in 2011. Could you please check to see if another billing service maintained billing records for [PROVIDER(S)] in 2011?

OTHER BILLING SERVICE MAINTAINED RECORDS..... 1  
NO OTHER BILLING SERVICE MAINTAINED RECORDS.... 2

[IF I1=1, GO TO CONTACT BLOCK,  
IF I1=2, GO TO EXIT SCREEN]

### [J] GAINING PERMISSION

#### INTRODUCTION:

May I please speak to [POC NAME]?  
Hello, my name is (YOUR NAME).

I am calling on behalf of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. We are conducting MEPS which is a study about how people in the United States use and pay for health care. For quality assurance and training purposes, this call may be monitored.

I recently spoke with {POC YOU ARE WORKING WITH FOR DATA COLLECTION} about the study. I explained that at this time, [NUMBER FROM PATIENT LIST] patient[s] identified [PROVIDER] as a source of health care during 2011. [The/Each] patient signed an authorization form allowing us to contact you for information about the cost of the care they received from [PROVIDER] in 2011. Much of the information we need is within the billing records.

{POC YOU ARE WORKING WITH FOR DATA COLLECTION} has agreed to participate and provide us with the information we are looking for, but has requested that we first send you a copy of the authorization form[s] in order to receive permission to release the data to us.

I'm calling to confirm that you are in fact the best person to receive the form[s] and information about the study by fax, and confirm your contact information so that I can address the fax to you.

[NEXT TAKES USER TO CONTACT BLOCK]

#### VERIFY PERMISSION PACKET RECEIPT:

May I please speak to [POC NAME]?

(Hello, my name is (YOUR NAME).) I am calling on behalf of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. We previously spoke about the MEPS study. For quality assurance and training purposes, this call may be monitored. Did you receive the authorization form[s] we sent to you?

- IF THE PERSON ON THE PHONE **DID** RECEIVE THE FORMS, ASK:
  - Do you have any questions or concerns about the study information or the forms we sent?
  - At this point may I follow-up with {POC YOU ARE WORKING WITH FOR DATA COLLECTION} about the release of data?
    - IF YOU ARE CLEARED TO SPEAK WITH THE POC YOU ARE WORKING WITH FOR DATA COLLECTION,
      - EXIT TO THE CMS, MAKE THE POC YOU ARE WORKING WITH FOR DATA COLLECTION THE PRIMARY POC ON THE POC SCREEN
      - CALL THEM USING **SECTION G: VERIFY RECEIPT OF AFs**
    - IF THE PERSON ON THE PHONE DOES NOT GIVE YOU PERMISSION
      - EXIT TO THE CMS TO CODE THE CASE AS "CASE REQUIRES SUPERVISOR REVIEW" AND ENTER A PROBLEM REPORT ON THIS CASE WHEN YOU RETURN TO THE CMS
- IF THE PERSON ON THE PHONE **DID NOT** RECEIVE THE FORMS, SAY
  - I'm sorry. Let me re-send the authorization form[s] to you.
    - GO TO THE CONTACT BLOCK BY PRESSING NEXT AND VERIFY THE CONTACT INFORMATION WE HAVE ON FILE, THEN,
    - EXIT TO THE CMS AND TRIGGER A RE-SEND OF THE PERMISSION PACKET TO THIS PERSON.

[NEXT TAKES USER TO CONTACT BLOCK]

## CONTACT BLOCK

### CONTACT FIELDS

PROVIDER NAME:  
 GROUP/PRACTICE NAME:  
 BILLING SERVICE NAME:  
 POC FIRST NAME:  
 POC LAST NAME:  
 PHONE:  
 TIME ZONE:  
 EXT:  
 FAX:  
 VERIFY FAX:  
 E-MAIL:  
 TITLE:  
 DEPARTMENT:  
 ADDRESS:  
 CITY:  
 STATE:  
 ZIP:

### FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

**CB1.** WILL YOU BE CALLING THIS PERSON NEXT?

1. YES
2. NO

**CB2.** WHAT TYPE OF POC IS THIS PERSON?

1. PROVIDER LEVEL GATEKEEPER
2. HANDLES RELEASE OF IN-HOUSE RECORDS
3. DEALS WITH EXTERNAL BILLING SERVICE
4. EXTERNAL BILLING SERVICE GATEKEEPER
5. HANDLES RELEASE OF RECORDS FOR EXTERNAL BILLING SERVICE
6. COURTESY PACKET RECIPIENT
7. PERMISSION PACKET RECIPIENT

**CB3.** WHAT TYPE OF PACKET ARE YOU SENDING?

1. FAX
2. MAIL
3. N/A

**CB4.** ADD ANOTHER POC?

1. YES
2. NO



## BRANCH

### TYPICAL CONTACT SEQUENCE BY SECTION:

*INTERNAL BILLING: A, B, Contact Block, F, end call*

*EXTERNAL BILLING SERVICE: Call provider, A, B, C, Contact Block, end call.*

*Call billing service: D, E, edit Contact Block, F, end call*

*VERIFY AFs WERE RECEIVED: Go to G*

#### **CLICK ON YOUR NEXT STEP:**

- IDENTIFY A POC AT THIS PROVIDER'S OFFICE (SECTION B)
- IDENTIFY A POC WHO WORKS WITH EXTERNAL BILLING SERVICE (SECTION C)
- CALL THE EXTERNAL BILLING SERVICE (SECTION D)
- VERIFY AUTHORIZATION FORMS WERE RECEIVED (SECTION G)

[IF FIRST RADIO BUTTON IS SELECTED, GO TO B1.

IF SECOND RADIO BUTTON IS SELECTED, GO TO C1.

IF THIRD RADIO BUTTON IS SELECTED, GO TO D1.

IF FOURTH RADIO BUTTON IS SELECTED, GO TO G1.]

## SET CALLBACK/APPOINTMENT

Can you **please provide me with a better time to call** back in order to reach him/her?

- EARLY MORNING = 9AM
- LATE MORNING = 11AM
- EARLY AFTERNOON = 2PM
- LATE AFTERNOON = 4PM

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

R's TIME: \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM

TIMEZONE: \_\_\_\_\_

[ALL GO TO EXIT SCREEN FROM HERE]

## EXIT SCREEN

PRESS FINISH TO EXIT CONTACT GUIDE AND GO TO CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.

DO NOT HANG UP UNTIL YOU GET TO CALL DISPOSITION SCREEN.

IF POC RECEIVED AUTHORIZATION FORMS AND REPORT DATA BY PHONE NOW, ENTER EVENT CODE **441: AFs Received – Ready for Phone Data Collection**

IF YOU NEED TO SEND A COURTESY OR PERMISSION PACKET:

1. SAVE EVENT CODE FOR FAX/MAIL PACKET TO THIS POC FIRST
2. RE-ENTER CONTACT GUIDE AND CALL THE BILLING SERVICE OR PERMISSION POC.
3. SAVE EVENT CODE FOR FAX/MAIL PACKET FOR COURTESY OR PERMISSION PACKET

[EXIT TO CMS BY PRESSING FINISH.]