

**MEDICAL EXPENDITURE PANEL SURVEY
MEDICAL PROVIDER COMPONENT
CONTACT GUIDE
FOR
HOMECARE PROVIDERS
FOR
REFERENCE YEAR 2011**

OMB STATEMENT

(Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 5 minutes per response, the estimated time required to complete the survey. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: AHRQ Reports Clearance Officer Attention: PRA, Paperwork Reduction Project (0935-0118) AHRQ, 540 Gaither Road, Room # 5036, Rockville, MD 20850.)

[A] CALL PROVIDER

A1. Hello, have I reached [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 A2b, IF A1 = 2 GO TO CONTACT BLOCK,
IF A1 = 3 GO TO EXIT]

A2b. (READ IF HOSPITAL: Hello, have I reached the home care department?) 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; UNCLER WHO HANDLES BILLING..... = 3

[IF A2b= 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.

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

B2 First, can you confirm that this is a home care organization?

YES, THIS IS A HOME CARE ORGANIZATION OR HOSPITAL..... 1
 NO, THIS IS SOME OTHER KIND OF ORGANIZATION..... 2

[IF B2 = 1 GO TO B3a
 IF B2 = 2 GO TO B2a]

B2a Does your organization include a home care unit or department?

YES 1
 NO 2

[IF B2a = 1 GO TO B3a
 IF B2a = 2 GO TO B2b]

B2b. Does your organization ever make arrangements for *other* organizations or individuals to provide some kind of assistance to people in their homes?

YES 1
 NO 2

[IF B2b = 1 GO TO B3a
 IF B2b = 2 GO TO B3]

B3. Does your organization provide any kind of assistance to people *in their homes*?

YES 1
 NO 2

[IF B3 = 1 GO TO B3a
 IF B3 = 2 GO TO EXIT]

B3a. Are your services provided to persons who need in-home assistance *for health reasons*?

EXPLAIN IF NECESSARY: Health reasons can include either physical or mental health conditions.

YES 1
 NO 2

[IF B3a = 1 GO TO B4
 IF B3a = 2 GO TO B3b]

B3b. What kind of services does your organization provide to people in their homes? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.

CLEANING OR YARD WORK..... 1
 TRANSPORTATION..... 2
 SHOPPING..... 3

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT PERSON OR ONE-ON-ONE BUDDY.....	4
SUPPORT GROUPS.....	5
CHILD CARE.....	6
OTHER (RECORD:) _____	7

[IF any response in B3b = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 GO TO B4
 IF B3b = 7 GO TO EXIT
 IF B3b = 7 provide text box to record response.]

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. {IF B3A=2, FILL "We need information about the services provided to the persons in our study and about the charges and payments for those services.", ELSE FILL "We are collecting information about the in-home services provided to the persons in our study and about the charges and payments for those services."} 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 package. 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 package. 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 C2 = 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 package. 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 form[s] 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 hope you can send the records to our office within two weeks.

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 package. Should I direct it to you?

YES 1

NO 2

[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?

I1. 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]

CONTACT BLOCK

CONTACT FIELDS

PROVIDER NAME:
BILLING SERVICE NAME:
POC FIRST NAME:
POC LAST NAME:
PHONE:
EXT:
TIME ZONE:
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 PACKAGE 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)

PROGRAMMER NOTES

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 FROM HERE]

EXIT SCREEN

PRESS "FINISH" TO EXIT THE CONTACT GUIDE AND GO TO CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.
 DO NOT HANG UP UNTIL YOU REACH THE CALL DISPOSITION SCREEN.

IF POC RECEIVED AUTHORIZATIONS FORMS AND CAN 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.

SAVE EVENT CODE FOR FAX/MAIL PACKET FOR COURTESY OR PERMISSION PACKET

[EXIT TO CMS BY PRESSING FINISH, BREAK-OFF SHOULD BE A SEPARATE FUNCTION.]

[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] for patients 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.

[GO 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]