

**MEDICAL EXPENDITURE PANEL SURVEY
MEDICAL PROVIDER COMPONENT
CONTACT GUIDE
FOR
SEPARATELY BILLING DOCTORS
FOR
REFERENCE YEAR 2016**

[A] CALL PROVIDER

A1.

IF CALLING A DOCTOR'S OFFICE/GROUP PRACTICE:

Hello, have I reached the office of [SBD PROVIDER]?

IF CALLING A BILLING SERVICE:

Hello, have I reached the billing service for [PROVIDER_NAME]?

PHONE NUMBER: [SBD 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 [SBD_PROVIDER_FILL]]] for the release of professional billing records for services rendered at a *Hospital or Institution* and billed separately from that facility during [FILL_YR].

The professional billing records include charges, sometimes referred to as professional fees, for services provided to a patient in the hospital that were not included in the hospital bill.

- **READ IF NECESSARY:** By professional fees, I mean fees that cover services provided by the physician during the patient's hospital stay but are not part of the hospital bill.
- **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 = 1

NO BILLING DEPARTMENT; NOT CLEAR WHO TO SPEAK TO = 2

[IF A2= 1 GO TO B1,

IF A2=2, 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]

I have [an] authorization form[s] for the release of physician billing and payment records. These are records that include charges, sometimes referred to as professional fees, for services provided to a patient in the hospital that were not included in the hospital bill. I would like to speak to the person that can help me with that process.

- **READ IF NECESSARY:** By professional fees, I mean fees that cover services provided by the physician during the patient's hospital stay but are not part of the hospital bill.
- **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. Several patients identified [one or more doctors, including [PROVIDER_NAME], / [PROVIDER_NAME]] as providing health care during [FILL_YR]. Each patient signed an authorization form allowing us to contact you for information about the health care services provided in [FILL_YR] at one or more *hospitals or institutions*.

The information we need is included in the final billing records. Are the final billing records maintained in your office, or is an external billing service used?

- **READ IF NECESSARY:** By professional fees, I mean fees that cover services provided by the physician during the patient's hospital stay but are not part of the hospital bill.
- **OFFICE MAINTAINS THE INFORMATION = 1**
- **OFFICE USES AN EXTERNAL BILLING SERVICE = 2**

[IF B2 = 1 GO TO B2b,

IF B2= 2 GO TO B2_1]

B2_1. Are you the person who deals with the external billing service?

YES = 1

NO = 2

[IF B2_1 = 1, GO TO C2,

IF B2_1 = 2, GO TO B2a]

B2a. 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

B2b. 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]

B3. 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 B3 = 1 GO TO CONTACT BLOCK,

IF B3 = 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]

I have [an] authorization form[s] for the release of physician billing and payment records. These are records that include charges, sometimes referred to as professional fees, for services provided to a patient in the hospital that were not included in the hospital bill. I would like to speak to the person that can help me get in touch with the external billing service that maintains your records.

- By professional fees, I mean fees that cover services provided by the physician during the patient's hospital stay but are not part of the hospital bill.
- **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 SBD PATIENT LIST] patient[s] identified [SBD PROVIDER] as a source of health care during 2016. [The/Each] patient signed an authorization form allowing us to contact you for information about the cost of the care they received from [SBD PROVIDER] in 2016.)

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 [SBD PROVIDER] about [NUMBER FROM SBD PATIENT LIST] of their patients who received medical service in 2016. I have [an] authorization form[s] for the release of billing records containing professional fees and would like to speak to the person that can help me with that process.

- **READ IF NECESSARY:** By professional fees, I mean fees that cover services provided by the physician during the patient's hospital stay but are not part of the hospital bill.

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 2016 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]

I have [an] authorization form[s] for the release of physician billing and payment records. These are records that include charges, sometimes referred to as professional fees, for services provided to a patient in the hospital that were not included in the hospital bill. I would like to speak to the person that can help me with that process.

- **READ IF NECESSARY:** By professional fees, I mean fees that cover services provided by the physician during the patient's hospital stay but are not part of the hospital bill.
- **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. 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 containing professional fees by either fax or mail, or we can call back to collect the data over the phone”. We are requesting information about charges, payments, and services provided for each date of hospital or institution service in [FILL_YR]. We don’t need information about Office Visits. Can you confirm that you have records for the professional services provided by [one or more doctors, including [PROVIDER_NAME], / [PROVIDER_NAME]] at a *hospital or institution* in [FILL_YR]?

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 [30 minutes / 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 may call again if other patients identify your practice as a source of medical services.]

[Instrument logic will be implemented so text only appears on screen when provider verification has not been completed]: Before we send you the form(s) I’ll need to determine that all of the providers I have listed were in fact associated with this health care practice in 2016. I’m going to read you a list of providers; please tell me if each one was associated with this health care practice in 2016.]

[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. Remember, we are interested in information from physician billing and payment records for professional fees. By professional fees, I mean fees that cover services provided during the patient's hospital stay but are not part of the hospital bill

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
TIME ZONE:

[IF COMPLETE, GO TO EXIT SCREEN]

G4.
Our records indicate that you will [fax/mail] the records to us.

Please send in the final billing records for all [FILL_YR] dates of service for each patient listed. The information we are attempting to collect from these records includes services, charges, payments, and adjustments for each date of service.

[IF THE POC MENTIONS UB04 OR CMS 1500, SAY:]

We need a final itemized statement that includes payments and adjustments so that we do not have to call back to obtain this information, but we can use UB04/CMS 1500 forms to accompany these final itemized statements.

When will you send us these records?

DATE:

IF DATE IS SELECTED REPEAT THE DATE AND THE DAY OF THE WEEK

OR

(NUMBER OF DAYS/WEEKS)

G4_1: Thank you. We will call you back if we do not receive the records by [FILL DATE FROM G4 (CALCULATE DATE IF DAYS/WEEKS ENTERED)].

YOUR NEXT STEPS WILL BE TO EXIT THE CONTACT GUIDE AND CODE THE CASE AS “AFs RECEIVED. WAITING FOR RECORDS TO BE SENT”. THEN SET A CALL BACK AFTER THE RECORDS ARE EXPECTED SO WE CAN PROMPT AGAIN IF THEY STILL HAVE NOT BEEN RECEIVED.

GO TO EXIT SCREEN

G4_2:

INTERVIEWER: USE THIS SCREEN WHEN PROMPTING FOR RECORDS

We were anticipating receiving billing records from you by [DATE/CALCULATED DATE FROM G4], but my records show we have not received them. Have you sent the records to us?

YES = 1

NO = 2

IF G4_2 = 2 GO G4_5

G4_3: How did you send the records? Did you fax, mail hard copies via express or regular mail, mail CDs via express or regular mail, or use healthport?

- FAX = 1
- MAIL HARDCOPIES VIA EXPRESS MAIL = 2
- MAIL HARDCOPIES VIA REGULAR MAIL = 3
- MAIL CDs VIA EXPRESS MAIL = 4
- MAIL CDs VIA REGULAR MAIL = 5
- HEALTHPORT = 6
- OTHER (Specify:) = 7

IF POC IS SENDING CD: Was the password provided or did you send it separately?

- Provided
- Emailed Separately
- Mailed Separately

G4_4: What date did you send them?

DATE:

Thank you for sending them. The records are received in a separate department and it can take a few days to upload the documents into our system. We will investigate and call you back if we have further questions. We apologize for any inconvenience.

INTERVIEWER:

- Disposition the case at Category: Refusals/Problems/Other with Event code 675-Case Requires Supervisor Review
- Leave a detailed Call History comment after ending the call
- Use “Difficult Case” sheet to capture Case ID and details and have a team lead or supervisor follow up and resolve within 24 hours

NEXT WILL ROUTE TO EXIT SCREEN

G4_5

We need to obtain these records for the study as soon as possible. Is there something that can be done to speed up (or expedite) the process?

INTERVIEWER: LISTEN TO POC TO DETERMINE IF THERE IS ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO HELP FACILITATE THEM SENDING IN RECORDS. OFFER:

- FTP AND SECURE E-MAIL
- A FEDEX PICKUP FOR CASES THAT ARE ABOVE 15 PAIRS

When will you send us these records?

DATE:

IF DATE IS SELECTED REPEAT THE DATE AND DAY OF THE WEEK

OR

(NUMBER OF DAYS/WEEKS)

Please send in the complete medical records and final billing records for all 2016 dates of service for each patient listed. The information we are attempting to collect from these records includes services, charges, payments, and adjustments for each date of service. ***[IF THE POC MENTIONS UB04 OR CMS 1500, SAY:]*** **We need a final itemized statement that includes payments and adjustments so that we do not have to call back to obtain this information, but we can use UB04/CMS 1500 forms to accompany these final itemized statements.**

G4_6: Thank you. We will call you back if we do not receive the records by [FILL DATE FROM G4_5 (CALCULATE DATE IF DAYS/WEEKS ENTERED)].

INTERVIEWER: SET A CALL BACK AFTER THE RECORDS ARE EXPECTED SO WE CAN PROMPT AGAIN IF THEY STILL HAVE NOT BEEN RECEIVED.

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?

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 physician billing and payment records for [SBD PROVIDER(S)] in 2016. Could you please check to see if another billing service maintained physician billing and payment records containing professional fees for [SBD PROVIDER(S)] in 2016?

- By professional fees, I mean fees that cover services provided by the physician during the patient's hospital stay but are not part of the hospital bill.

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:
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. SBD 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

CB3A: COMMENTS

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

TIME ZONE:

[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 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.
3. 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 SBD PATIENT LIST] patient[s] identified [SBD PROVIDER] as a source of health care during 2016. [The/Each] patient signed an authorization form allowing us to contact you for information about the cost of the care they received from [SBD PROVIDER] in 2016. Much of the information we need is within the physician billing and payment records containing professional fees.

{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.

- By professional fees, I mean fees that cover services provided by the physician during the patient's hospital stay but are not part of the hospital bill.

[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.