

NYS SPECIALTY PHARMACY PROGRAM RFP
Questions & Answers - Set 1
December 16, 2008

The responses to questions included herein are the official responses by the State to questions posed by potential bidders and are hereby incorporated into the Request for Proposals (RFP) issued December 1, 2008. In the event of any conflict between the RFP and these responses, the requirements or information contained in these responses will prevail.

Q1. Does our pharmacy need to be currently participating in the NY Medicaid program to bid on the RFP? Would winning the bid automatically grant us a Medicaid provider in the State of New York?

A1. Section C.2, page 11: At minimum, the selected pharmacy must be eligible for enrollment in the NYS MA program provider and agree to comply with all NYS MA program requirements. Winning the bid will NOT automatically grant a pharmacy Medicaid provider status in the State of New York. Failure to meet eligibility requirements will result in forfeiture of the contract.

Q2. Does the dispensing pharmacy need to be located in New York State?

A2. Section C.2, page 11: No, there is no requirement that the dispensing pharmacy be located in NYS. However, the pharmacy must be licensed as a NYS pharmacy and either enrolled or eligible for enrollment in the NYS MA program as a pharmacy provider.

Q3. As part of the requirement to participate in the NYS Specialty Pharmacy Program, the provider needs to be accredited with one of specific acceptable accrediting entities. Will you accept Community Health Accreditation Program (CHAP) as one of those entities?

A3. Section C.2, page 11: Yes. The DOH hereby modifies the list of acceptable accreditation entities found on page 11 of the RFP and accepts CHAP as a viable accrediting entity.

Q4. Can a specialty pharmacy provider that performs services on a national basis but does not have accreditation from JCAHO, ACHC or CHAP participate in this procurement?

A4. Section C.2, page 11: The DOH determined that accreditation by a nationally recognized accrediting entity is an important quality measure and requires current accreditation and maintenance of that accreditation.

Q5. Are bidders required to provide all specialty drugs listed in Attachment 2a?

A5. Section C.2, page 12: Yes.

Q6. Can we receive a copy of the RFP in Microsoft Word format?

A6. The DOH does not release RFPs in Microsoft Word. The RFP is available in PDF format only. However, the Bidders' Technical Response Forms have been reformatted to Microsoft Word and are available on the DOH website.

Q7. Is the pharmacy required to provide bilingual staff?

A7. Section C.3.c) 1): The selected pharmacy must accommodate enrollees who have Limited English Proficiency. The selected pharmacy must provide TTY access and other alternate electronic communication methods for those with hearing impairment. If a voice response system (VRS) is used, speech and the VRS must include an option to speak directly to a person.

Q8. For non-specialty drugs, will the selected pharmacy be able to fill an enrollee's non-specialty pharmacy needs through their standard Medicaid benefit? Can those packages be delivered together?

A8. Yes. The selected pharmacy must enroll in the MA program as a pharmacy provider and can serve as both the preferred provider for specialty drugs and as a MA pharmacy provider. The selected pharmacy can dispense and submit claims through eMedNY for covered non-specialty drugs and be reimbursed at the standard Medicaid rate.

Q9. Please indicate the source of AWP data utilized and how often the data source is updated.

A9. The DOH uses First Data Bank. The information is updated on a weekly basis.

Q10. Will we get a new list of current utilizers of specialty pharmacy drugs that will transition to the specialty pharmacy program?

A10. Section C.3.i) page 25: No. The DOH will notify MA enrollees with recent specialty drug claims history, indicating they have a choice of what specialty pharmacy provider they want to use.

Q11. Performance standards timely turnaround is 99.99% of clean prescriptions. Is this only on interim prescriptions or refills as well?

A11. The performance standard applies to all prescriptions – new and refills.

Q12. The RFP requires the contractors to procure and maintain a \$1 million irrevocable letter of credit. In lieu of the letter of credit, is a performance bond issued by a highly rated surety company licensed to do business in NYS acceptable?

A12. Section E.2.a) 1) page 32: No, a letter of credit is required.