

Dear HCUP Partner,

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is pleased to announce that your state data organization has been selected to participate in the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) "Increase Patient Linkage" project. The goal of this project is to develop a patient identifier or to improve the quality of a weak existing patient identifier that can be used in the HCUP data sets. AHRQ is providing \$30,000 to help you achieve success in this important endeavor. The outcome of this project work, to develop robust unique patient identifiers for use in the HCUP data sets, will be used to inform important quality research, specifically to evaluate issues related to hospital acquired infections.

As a selected participant, you will need to provide a plan that includes the components necessary to begin the development or improvement work. Specifically, the plan needs to include the implementation process, a viable methodology for use with the Partners' data, IT programming resources and storage, and testing and quality control. Also, participants need to identify and address any legal impediments such as hospital or Partner organization restrictions. The Thomson Reuters Healthcare team will provide technical advice throughout this project to assist HCUP Partners with implementation of a feasible encryption methodology.

A subcontract with the HCUP Partner is required to participate in the project funding, since the funding is tied to certain deliverables such as delivering a plan and implementing the plan. The subcontract will be sent out later in January with the funding disbursement to begin in February. Participants can start the development of the plan while waiting to complete the contract process. The list of steps and subcontract deliverables are given below which will help to prepare the necessary items for the upcoming funding process.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to working with you on this project.

HCUP Increase Patient Linkage Numbers Project

List of Steps:

1. Execute subcontract between Thomson Reuters and the Partner organization.
2. Planning: Provide initial funds (60% of total) to help Partners develop the plan and establish resources for development or improvement of a unique patient identification number. Partner participants will provide a plan that includes components necessary to begin the implementation, including a viable methodology for use with the Partners' data, IT programming resources and storage, testing and quality control, and any legal impediments such as hospital or Partner organization restrictions.
3. Development, Implementation, Testing and Final Report: A final payment (40% of total) would be made for the process to develop a viable methodology, program the methodology, and implement the methodology for use with Partner data sets, testing the newly created unique patient number by the HCUP Partner, providing a report that documents the development process and evaluation, and providing the newly created number to HCUP reflected in an MOA amendment.

| Performance of Period: 02/01/2010 - 5/15/2011 | | | |
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| Subcontract Deliverables | | Amount | Date Due |
| 1. | Planning and Development: Partner participants will provide a plan that includes components necessary to begin the implementation, including a viable encryption methodology for use with the Partners' data, IT programming resources and storage, testing and quality control, and any legal impediments, such as hospital or Partner organization restrictions. The plan will include a process for development, testing and implementation for use with the current calendar year 2011 data. | \$18000.00 | 02/15/2011 |
| 2. | Development, Implementation, Testing and Final Report: Program development of the feasible encryption methodology, incorporate the programs into the organization's system process for use with Partner data sets, test the results of the encryption process by evaluating the newly created unique patient number for uniqueness and provide a report that documents the development process and evaluation. The HCUP MOA will include approval for the final encrypted unique patient number to be submitted with data provided to HCUP. | \$12000.00 | 05/15/2010 |