

## **MO-HITECH RFI Questions and Answers**

### **Responses to Questions April 14, 2010**

**22. Is the pricing information provided in RFI responses subject to Missouri's sunshine law? If so, what options do vendors have to protect this sensitive information?**

Yes –all information provided in responses to the RFI, including pricing information, can be requested under Missouri statute and will be provided, if requested. When responding to questions about pricing, vendors may offer a range, cite costs found in other historical scenarios, or provide costs for analogous situations that might already be known to the public. Since this is an RFI, any pricing information provided is not binding and will not be considered in any future RFP process.

### **Responses to Questions April 6, 2010**

**20. Does the upfront RFI response material (including the cover letter and table of contents) count toward the 30 page limit?**

No – the cover letter and table of contents do not count toward the 30 page limit for RFI response material.

**21. Can respondents submit attachments? If so, do attachments count toward the 30 page limit?**

Yes – Responses may include either urls or attachments (with urls being preferred) to provide additional material or references. Please note that additional information in either form may or may not be reviewed.

### **Responses to Questions March 31, 2010**

**1. It may be difficult to respond to the breadth of information requested in 30 pages; any guidance?**

Please choose key areas for elaboration. Focus on information about core competencies, core functions and how to scale operations. Consider providing less information about the company and optional services. Responses may include hotlinks to extended information such as white papers, or may have appendices attached as a way of providing additional information. Please note, however, these additional materials will not necessarily be reviewed.

**2. The timeframes in the RFI are different than those that appear on the slide presentation today; please clarify.**

The correct dates are shown in slide #7, which is reproduced below.

RFI Event	Target RFI Date(s)
MO-HITECH releases RFI	March 26th
MO-HITECH provides webinar on RFI to potential respondents	March 31st, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm CDT
Intent to respond due via email <i>Please email</i> <a href="mailto:George.L.Oestreich@dss.mo.gov">George.L.Oestreich@dss.mo.gov</a>	April 2nd
Questions accepted <i>Answers to questions submitted by April 9th will be posted on the MO-HITECH website</i> <a href="http://dss.mo.gov/hie/faq.shtml">http://dss.mo.gov/hie/faq.shtml</a>	Through April 12 <sup>th</sup> , 5:00 pm CDT Please send questions to <a href="mailto:George.L.Oestreich@dss.mo.gov">George.L.Oestreich@dss.mo.gov</a>
Responses due <i>Please send responses to</i> <a href="mailto:George.L.Oestreich@dss.mo.gov">George.L.Oestreich@dss.mo.gov</a>	April 16th by 8:00 am CDT
Review responses (MO-HITECH)	April 19 – April 30 <sup>th</sup>
Report to Workgroup(s)	May 4 <sup>th</sup>

**3. Will a copy of today’s webinar presentation be made available?**

Yes, a copy will be posted on the MO-HITECH website at <http://www.dss.mo.gov/hie/index.shtml> under the “Action Items” tab.

**4. Who is the consultant for this project and what is their role?**

Manatt Health Solutions has been consultant to Missouri for planning its statewide health information exchange since fall of 2009. They are consulting on both Missouri’s response to ONC’s funding opportunity for health information exchange and developing its Medicaid provider incentive program. They have a significant role in our HIE initiative and are working with the state team to develop documents, enlist stakeholder involvement and evaluate responses to this RFI. Melinda Dutton is the project director, supported by Kier Wallace, Bill Bernstein and other subject experts as needed. Additional information about Manatt can be found at <http://www.manatthealthsolutions.com/>.

**5. For identity management, are you looking for a statewide Master Patient Index?**

The Master Patient Index is a core function – it could be accomplished either statewide or regionally. No final decision has been made but the current thinking is that a statewide solution may be preferable.

**6. What are the existing regional health information exchanges in Missouri?**

Resources available in the state are inventoried in the Strategic Plan and are in various stages of development. It is envisioned that all these efforts will be incorporated, as well as other provider-aggregating organizations. The Strategic Plan can be found at <http://www.dss.mo.gov/hie/index.shtml> under the Action Items tab.

**7. Will there be any consideration of normalization or translation?**

Yes, services such as LOINC are listed on pages 8 & 9 of the RFI.

**8. Is discreet data contemplated?**

Yes, both pull as in XDS transport and push as in NHIN Direct.

**9. How many doctors and how many patients are in Missouri?**

Information about the number of physicians in the state is in the Strategic Plan. Missouri has approximately 6 million residents. It is envisioned that no provider and no patient will be left out of the exchange. We do not have a firm estimate of the proportion which will connect through aggregating nodes vs. those which will need to connect directly.

**10. Clarify the prototype with two different models or options shown on slide #11.**

The Enterprise Service Bus (ESB) shown on the left side of the slide is the proposed connection for institutional entities. The HIE solution shown on the right side of the slide is the proposed connection for providers in communities without a regional or institutional HIO, such as a small rural provider.

**11. Is the connectivity at the provider level or through a regional HIE (follow up to question 9 on slide #11)? Is the right-hand side of the model envisioned as a RHIO?**

There must be connectivity that links several aggregated nodes, including nodes for regional exchanges. The right hand side of the diagram is not restricted to a region other than the state of Missouri. This is not envisioned to include deployment of EHRs to practices, but rather an intermediate on-ramp to participation in HIE.

**12. What additional guidance can be provided regarding a) connecting physicians versus groups/nodes, 2) adoption of EHRs by providers, and c) incentives from the state (follow up on slide #11)?**

a) It is hoped that most physician offices will be aggregated by regional systems/nodes, but some will not.

- b) We are in the process of collecting information about EHR adoption. At this point it is assumed that Missouri's adoption rate lags behind national numbers.
- c) The Medicaid incentive program is being developed in parallel to this effort. There are not state funds available beyond the incentives through the Medicaid program.

**12. Will the statewide HIO manage data sharing? BAA agreements?**

Probably yes.

**13. Will the information need to include pricing of partners?**

Yes.

**14. Will the list of attendees be shared in order to explore partnerships?**

Yes, an attendees list comprised of those who identify themselves as attending this meeting will be posted on the website. It will be updated as attendees identify themselves so you may wish to check back a time or two.

**15. For small practices with no EHRs, are vendors expected to provide EHR-lite capability or only web viewer capability?**

The web viewer capability is requested and likely within resource constraints. The EHR-lite offering could be an optional value added service.

**16. Could the service be a web portal?**

Yes, that is one way to offer the client viewer. It is not a core service, but rather an acceptable added service.

**17. Given the interest in participating and the requirement to offer a complete solution, vendors will need time to discuss partnerships. Is there any flexibility in the April 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline for notice of intent to respond?**

Respondents are asked to notify [George.L.Oestreich@dss.mo.gov](mailto:George.L.Oestreich@dss.mo.gov) by April 2, 2010, if you intend to respond to the RFI. This will give an indication of the information we may expect, but is not a requirement nor is it binding. You may express an intention and ultimately not respond; or, if no notice is provided, this will not preclude acceptance of a response.

**18. Are we looking for a vendor to "host" the solution?**

We are interested in a vendor agnostic hosted solution, and are open to non-hosted solutions as well. We likely don't know enough to answer definitively at this time.

**19. Are there any updates to the implementation dates?**

Missouri plans to submit its operational plan by July 31, 2010. Implementation will begin following approval of our plan by ONC, with the earliest start date likely being October 1, 2010.