### Question 1 - MAGIC

Is the SMRC a state agency that uses MAGIC to electronically pay your monthly invoices?

 **ANSWER: YES**

### Question 2 - E-Payment

The E-Payment section on page 8 of the IFB states, “Contractor agrees to accept all payments in United States currency via the State of Mississippi's electronic payment and remittance vehicle. The agency agrees to make payment in accordance with the Mississippi law on ‘Timely Payments for Purchases by Public Bodies,’ which generally provides for payment of undisputed amounts by the agency within forty-five (45) days of receipt of invoice. Mississippi Code Annotated§ 31-7-305.”

* Is E-payment the same as MAGIC?
* Or, is E-payment the use of a credit card or procurement card for payment?

**ANSWER: YES.**

### Question 3 - Delivery

Section IV - Instructions and Special Conditions, item 2 on page 9 of the IFB indicates a bidder “may not sub-contract delivery and filling of medication orders to another company.”

By requiring contractor-supplied transportation, the IFB greatly restricts pharmacy options to local vendors domiciled near SMRC locations who may not offer many of the cost-effective or quality-oriented solutions in terms of technological, clinical, formulary management, and operational services and efficiencies that your facilities will require.

* To ensure a fair and open procurement process, would you consider repealing this requirement to allow out-of-state pharmacy vendors that provide reliable next-business-day delivery through common carriers such as FedEx and UPS to participate in your IFB?
* If not, what are the SMRC’s reservations regarding the use of carriers such as FedEx and UPS?

**ANSWER: As previously indicated, SMRC will allow sub-contracting for drivers that have proper licensing and insurance requirements.**

### Question 4 - Non-Medicaid/Medicare

The IFB states that the Long Beach Campus’s Average Number of Non-Medicaid/Medicare Prescriptions Filled Per Month (for dispensing fee purposes) is 500.

Our understanding from past procurements that 90% of residents have Medicaid or some other form of insurance.

* Can you provide a list of the Top 25 medications by price for each SMRC location that were considered Non-Medicaid/Medicare Prescriptions that ended up being invoiced to the SMRC?
* On average, how many prescriptions per SMRC location are billed to Medicaid/Medicare each month?

**ANSWER: Utilization data report is attached.**

### Question 5 - Utilization data

The Vendor Transactions by Agency Report from the Transparency MS website ([www.msegov.com/dfa/transparency/default.aspx](http://www.msegov.com/dfa/transparency/default.aspx)), indicates that in the 7-month period from August 3, 2017, through April 6, 2018, the SMRC and the taxpayers of Mississippi have paid Sartin’s Drugs $131,283.79. This seems to be an extraordinarily high amount of money if 90% of residents are on some sort of third party insurance.

Medication utilization data is extremely important for bidders in determining a final and accurate bid rate in their response to your solicitation. Not providing actual utilization data to all bidders would result in an unfair competitive advantage to your incumbent provider who already has this information. All bidders, not just your incumbent provider, need the information to firmly establish their bid rates more accurately and intelligently and in the best interests of SMRC and the taxpayers of Mississippi.

Our understanding is that utilization information is not considered proprietary, and therefore is available without the need for a public records request, since public money is used to pay for pharmacy services and medications under the current contract.

* So that no unfair advantage is imparted to your incumbent pharmacy provider, can you please provide copies of your two most recent monthly pharmacy invoices or a two-month utilization report that includes actual pharmacy utilization data (with patient names redacted to ensure privacy) as this information is readily available from recent invoices or via a report that can be easily provided if requested from your current pharmacy vendor?

**ANSWER: Utilization data report is attached.**

### Question 6 - ADP

What is the average daily population (ADP) for each of the three locations?

 **ANSWER: Average daily population is 20 in Biloxi, 20 in Gautier, and 109 in Long Beach**.

### Question 7 - Credit

Do you currently return medications that are unused or discontinued for credit?

 **ANSWER: No**

### Question 8 - Inspections

Do you currently receive inspections of the medication areas at your facilities?

If so, how frequently?

 **ANSWER: Yes. At least annually by outside licensing agencies.**

### Question 9 - eMAR

Do your facilities currently use an electronic prescription order entry and eMAR system that is provided to you by your pharmacy vendor at no additional cost?

If so, what is the name of the system?

If not, would you consider adding this to your current solicitation, as electronic med pass will decrease the time required for med pass by up to 50% and electronic order entry will increase staff efficiency so that time can be used by your staff to provide other health care services?

**ANSWER: We have a contract with a vendor for electronic health records, including Emar system.**

### Question 10 - Electronic Reconciliation

Do your facilities currently use a barcode electronic order reconciliation (medication check-in) system that is provided at no cost by your pharmacy vendor?

If not, would you consider adding this requirement to your current solicitation, as manual daily order check-in time can be decreased by up to 75% and medication diversion potential will be virtually eliminated?

 **ANSWER: We do not use a barcode reconciliation. The current solicitation will not include this request.**

### Question 11 - Online Reporting

Do your facilities and SMRC management currently have access to an online reporting dashboard provided by your current pharmacy for you to access meaningful and accurate reporting 24/7/365 that is provided at no cost?

If not, would you consider adding this requirement to your current solicitation so your facility-level staff and SMRC administrators can analyze prescriber ordering trends and costs to better manage facility operations through accessible reporting?

**ANSWER: We do not have an online reporting dashboard. We do not plan to modify the current solicitation language.**