

RFP # 2019-LDI-01
State of Alabama Medicaid
Lab Data Integration
Contractor Questions and Agency Answers
4/19/2019

Question ID:	1
Date Question Asked:	3/19/2019
Question:	There is a reference to a data dictionary that must be provided with the test file. Can you elaborate further on the data dictionary and how this should be submitted to the state?
Section Number:	III.2.D
RFP Page Number:	9
Medicaid Answer:	A listing of the Data Dictionary shall be submitted as a part of the RFP Response. Please refer to Appendix D for the minimum data set required.
Question ID:	2
Date Question Asked:	3/19/2019
Question:	There is a reference to a data dictionary that must be provided with the test file. Are there specific data types and fields that would need to be present in the data dictionary?
Section Number:	III.2.D
RFP Page Number:	9
Medicaid Answer:	Please refer to Appendix D for the minimum data set required and HL7 2.0 version or higher message standard for Structured Lab Results. The test file data structure will be finalized after contract award.
Question ID:	3
Date Question Asked:	3/19/2019
Question:	There is a reference to a data dictionary that must be provided with the test file. Is there a specification that can be provided that would delineate the layout of this data dictionary?
Section Number:	III.2.D
RFP Page Number:	9
Medicaid Answer:	Please refer to Appendix D for the minimum data set required and HL7 2.0 version or higher message standard for Structured Lab Results layout. The test file data structure and data dictionary will be finalized after contract award.

Question ID:	4
Date Question Asked:	3/19/2019
Question:	There is a reference to a data dictionary that must be provided with the test file. Are there specific elements in the data dictionary that are required and are there specific elements that are optional?
Section Number:	III.2.D
RFP Page Number:	9
Medicaid Answer:	Medicaid expects the required and appropriate data values to be populated at the time of file transmission from the Vendor. Please refer to Appendix D for the minimum data set required and HL7 2.0 version or higher message standard for Structured Lab Results layout. The test file data structure and data dictionary will be finalized after contract award.
Question ID:	5
Date Question Asked:	3/19/2019
Question:	There is a reference to a data dictionary that must be provided with the test file. Will the values in this dictionary be provided by the state, provided by the vendor or built dynamically as messages or flowing?
Section Number:	III.2.D
RFP Page Number:	9
Medicaid Answer:	Medicaid expects the required and appropriate data values to be populated at the time of file transmission from the Vendor. Please refer to Appendix D for the minimum data set required and HL7 2.0 version or higher message standard for Structured Lab Results layout. The test file data structure and data dictionary will be finalized after contract award.
Question ID:	6
Date Question Asked:	3/19/2019
Question:	There is a reference to a data dictionary that must be provided with the test file. If dynamically, would the vendor be expected to build probabilistic matching logic to map these values in real time?
Section Number:	III.2.D
RFP Page Number:	9
Medicaid Answer:	Medicaid expects the required and appropriate data values to be populated at the time of file transmission from the Vendor. Please refer to Appendix D for the minimum data set required and HL7 2.0 version or higher message standard for Structured Lab Results layout.

Question ID:	7
Date Question Asked:	3/19/2019
Question:	There is a reference to a data dictionary that must be provided with the test file. Can we assume that this data dictionary would need to be stored and treated as a “lookup table” or “translation table” for the incoming messages?
Section Number:	III.2.D
RFP Page Number:	9
Medicaid Answer:	Medicaid expects the required and appropriate data values to be populated at the time of file transmission from the Vendor. Please refer to Appendix D for the minimum data set required and HL7 2.0 version or higher message standard for Structured Lab Results layout.
Question ID:	8
Date Question Asked:	3/19/2019
Question:	There is a requirement to provide a recruitment plan to identify labs. Does the state plan to make participation in this program mandatory for labs receiving Medicaid reimbursement? If not, does the state plan to provide any incentives for the participating labs to contribute data?
Section Number:	III.2.E
RFP Page Number:	9
Medicaid Answer:	As stated in the RFP, Medicaid expects to receive lab data on all its recipient population. Medicaid can provide a list of labs to Vendor after contract award. Medicaid would expect the Vendor to prioritize those labs that would have largest Medicaid recipient populations. The State does not anticipate any incentives at this time.
Question ID:	9
Date Question Asked:	3/19/2019
Question:	There is a requirement to provide a recruitment plan to identify labs. Can the state provide a list of all labs that are being reimbursed by Medicaid?
Section Number:	III.2.E
RFP Page Number:	9
Medicaid Answer:	Yes.
Question ID:	10
Date Question Asked:	3/19/2019

Question:	There is a requirement to provide a recruitment plan to identify labs. Are there any known labs that have already agreed to participate?
Section Number:	III.2.E
RFP Page Number:	9
Medicaid Answer:	Yes.
Question ID:	11
Date Question Asked:	3/19/2019
Question:	Would Medicaid be interested in non-discrete data that is available such as in pathology or microbiology reports or does the labs need only to contribute discrete test values (a single positive/negate or a single numeric value)?
Section Number:	General
RFP Page Number:	General
Medicaid Answer:	Medicaid expects the required and appropriate data values to be populated at the time of file transmission from the Vendor. Please refer to Appendix D for the minimum data set required and HL7 2.0 version or higher message standard for Structured Lab Results layout.
Question ID:	12
Date Question Asked:	3/19/2019
Question:	What about reports that are in PDF format?
Section Number:	General
RFP Page Number:	General
Medicaid Answer:	Yes, depending on the nature of the PDF report.
Question ID:	13
Date Question Asked:	3/19/2019
Question:	The RFP seems to imply that these values will be sent in HL7 format, does the state expect data in other formats, like v3 or XML?
Section Number:	IV.2.G
RFP Page Number:	13
Medicaid Answer:	Medicaid expects the required and appropriate data values to be populated at the time of file transmission from the Vendor. Please refer to Appendix D for the minimum data set required and HL7 2.0 version or higher message standard for Structured Lab Results layout.
Question ID:	14

Date Question Asked:	3/19/2019
Question:	Will Medicaid expect the vendor to accept data via any of the IHE Profiles, like XDS.b or DIRECT?
Section Number:	IV.2.G
RFP Page Number:	13
Medicaid Answer:	Medicaid expects the required and appropriate data values to be populated at the time of file transmission from the Vendor. Please refer to Appendix D for the minimum data set required and HL7 2.0 version or higher message standard for Structured Lab Results layout.
Question ID:	15
Date Question Asked:	3/19/2019
Question:	Has the state contemplated a connection to Sequoia for query/retrieve?
Section Number:	General
RFP Page Number:	General
Medicaid Answer:	The Alabama Medicaid Agency does not have a connection to Sequoia.
Question ID:	16
Date Question Asked:	3/19/2019
Question:	There is a requirement of the necessary number of labs. How would Medicaid define success in the recruitment of the necessary number of labs?
Section Number:	III.2.H
RFP Page Number:	9
Medicaid Answer:	As stated in the RFP, Medicaid expects to receive lab data on all its recipient population.
Question ID:	17
Date Question Asked:	3/19/2019
Question:	There is a requirement of the necessary number of labs. The labs could vary in number, size, complexity and this will present a tiered cost and subsequent tiered price. Medicaid has requested a firm fixed fee that is based on a varying cost matrix and the concern is that all vendors are considering and pricing this concept in their final proposal and bid. How would Medicaid like that pricing variability to be presented in the final proposal from the vendors, such that we all account for this variability using similar approved methods? What are the key success criteria for this requirement?

Section Number:	III.2.H
RFP Page Number:	9
Medicaid Answer:	As stated in the RFP, Medicaid expects to receive lab data on all its recipient population. Vendor's price should reflect their cost to achieve this objective.
Question ID:	18
Date Question Asked:	3/19/2019
Question:	There is a requirement to provide a complete environmental scan. Can there be any further details on this requirement, such that some costs for this requirement is represented in the final bid?
Section Number:	III.2.H
RFP Page Number:	9
Medicaid Answer:	No further details on this requirement can be provided.
Question ID:	19
Date Question Asked:	3/19/2019
Question:	There is a requirement for the solution to be hosted by Medicaid. As CMS has indicated in its letter to the State Medicaid Directors (SMD #18-005) that one of the Design Alternatives is SaaS modules or systems and it was our understanding that the cloud option was specifically provided in the "paths to reuse" requirement by CMS, is the state open to reconsidering a cloud-based SaaS solution if it substantially reduces costs?
Section Number:	III.3.G
RFP Page Number:	10
Medicaid Answer:	Please refer to Amendment III on the Medicaid website.
Question ID:	20
Date Question Asked:	3/19/2019
Question:	There is a requirement for the solution to be hosted by Medicaid. If Medicaid cannot reconsider on a cloud-based option, then are there hosting fees that must be paid to the hosting company or other associated hardware costs, other than the cost for the VPN?
Section Number:	III.3.G
RFP Page Number:	10
Medicaid Answer:	Please refer to Amendment III on the Medicaid website.
Question ID:	21

Date Question Asked:	3/19/2019
Question:	The requirements are for the vendor to provide costs for the identification of additional labs, are there criteria that have been defined by Medicaid for these additional labs and can be shared, such that any additional costs of identifying these labs can be accounted for in the final bid?
Section Number:	General
RFP Page Number:	General
Medicaid Answer:	None can be provided at this time.
Question ID:	22
Date Question Asked:	3/19/2019
Question:	There is a requirement for the retention of lab results for a minimum number of months. Can it be assumed that the minimum number of months for this requirement would be twelve, since in sentence L of this Sub-Section there is a requirement for the vendor to produce annual reports? Or, are these two requirements unrelated?
Section Number:	III.4.H
RFP Page Number:	11
Medicaid Answer:	Yes, the minimum number of months to retain lab results is 12 months. All other records and supporting documents are retained in accordance with the requirements stated in Section XI.BB of the RFP.
Question ID:	23
Date Question Asked:	3/19/2019
Question:	There is a requirement to provide reports on participating labs. Besides the number of records parsed and the number of records parsed successfully, what other metrics does the state require on a periodic basis?
Section Number:	III.4.L
RFP Page Number:	11
Medicaid Answer:	Additional metrics are undetermined at this time. Medicaid expects reporting requirements to change over time.
Question ID:	24
Date Question Asked:	3/19/2019
Question:	There is a staffing requirement. Is it the intention of Medicaid that each of the roles in the provided list be staffed (CEO, CFO, CIO/CTO, IT Director) with these named titles? If so, then does the state permit a small business to outsource these

	functions to a designated contractor, whose resume and qualifications can be provided as described in the RFP?
Section Number:	III.5.A
RFP Page Number:	11
Medicaid Answer:	Yes, Yes.
Question ID:	25
Date Question Asked:	3/19/2019
Question:	There is a staffing requirement to submit approval for all hiring or designating any individual to key staff positions. Does this include staff that are assigned to other projects and not directly involved with the Medicaid project?
Section Number:	III.5.B
RFP Page Number:	11
Medicaid Answer:	Medicaid expects the Vendor to list any and all Key Staff who will be engaged on this contract, either directly or indirectly.
Question ID:	26
Date Question Asked:	3/19/2019
Question:	Pricing is contingent on the number of labs that will be participating; has the state considered the variability of many of these requirements dependent upon the number of participating labs? Any specific comments on how that this should be presented in the Pricing Template?
Section Number:	General
RFP Page Number:	General
Medicaid Answer:	As stated in the RFP, Medicaid expects to receive lab data on all its recipient population. Vendor's price should reflect their cost to achieve this objective.
Question ID:	27
Date Question Asked:	3/19/2019
Question:	There is a requirement for the retention of various records for a period of three years and in Section III, Sub-Section 4 there is a requirement for the retention of lab results for a period to be defined. But, in this same Sub-Section 4, there is a requirement for statistics to be produced annually. Can Medicaid please provide some additional clarity on the period to retain records and the types of records that will be required by the state to retain in those periods?
Section Number:	XI.BB
RFP Page Number:	29

Medicaid Answer:	Yes, the minimum number of months to retain lab results is 12 months. All other records and supporting documents are retained in accordance with the requirements stated in Section XI.BB of the RFP.
Question ID:	28
Date Question Asked:	3/19/2019
Question:	Is consent of the patient to send this data to Medicaid implied, with the population of known results only to be sent from Medicaid patients?
Section Number:	General
RFP Page Number:	General
Medicaid Answer:	Yes, consent is both implied and expressed in accordance under HIPAA for TPO activities.
Question ID:	29
Date Question Asked:	3/19/2019
Question:	The specification is for a structured Lab Data Set. Has the state contemplated the possibility of a separate need for demographics data? What about the transmission of a consent record?
Section Number:	Appendix D
RFP Page Number:	52-55
Medicaid Answer:	Medicaid expects the required and appropriate data values to be populated at the time of file transmission from the Vendor. Please refer to Appendix D for the minimum data set required and HL7 2.0 version or higher message standard for Structured Lab Results layout.
Question ID:	30
Date Question Asked:	3/19/2019
Question:	The specification is for a structured Lab Data Set. In this specification, there is no mention of insurance type and assuming that only Medicaid records will be transmitted, has Medicaid considered the need for some type of insurance identifier to be added to this data set as a requirement?
Section Number:	Appendix D
RFP Page Number:	52-55
Medicaid Answer:	Medicaid expects the required and appropriate data values to be populated at the time of file transmission from the Vendor. Please refer to Appendix D for the minimum data set required and HL7 2.0 version or higher message standard for Structured Lab Results layout.

Question ID:	31
Date Question Asked:	3/19/2019
Question:	The specification is for a structured Lab Data Set. Are all of the fields listed in Appendix D required by the state?
Section Number:	Appendix D
RFP Page Number:	52-55
Medicaid Answer:	Medicaid expects the required and appropriate data values to be populated at the time of file transmission from the Vendor. Please refer to Appendix D for the minimum data set required and HL7 2.0 version or higher message standard for Structured Lab Results layout.
Question ID:	32
Date Question Asked:	4/2/2019
Question:	How many Alabama clinical laboratories will ultimately need to be connected?
Section Number:	General
RFP Page Number:	General
Medicaid Answer:	As stated in the RFP, Medicaid expects to receive lab data on all its recipient population.
Question ID:	33
Date Question Asked:	3/28/2019
Question:	Are you currently performing the services outlined in this RFP? If so, what is the current technical infrastructure platform? If so, what are your current volume of results inbound? If so, do you have an existing data normalization process in place?
Section Number:	General
RFP Page Number:	General
Medicaid Answer:	No.
Question ID:	34
Date Question Asked:	3/28/2019
Question:	In the identification of labs to target, is it wholly the responsibility of the vendor to identify and submit a list of labs for approval for interoperability or does the Alabama Medicaid Agency (AMA) have an engagement team that performs the outreach tasks. (9-G)
Section Number:	III.2.G
RFP Page Number:	9

Medicaid Answer:	At this time, Medicaid does not have an engagement team for this project. As stated in the RFP, Medicaid expects to receive lab data on all its recipient population.
Question ID:	35
Date Question Asked:	3/28/2019
Question:	What metric is assigned for the prioritization of the lab outreach effort?
Section Number:	General
RFP Page Number:	General
Medicaid Answer:	As stated in the RFP, Medicaid expects to receive lab data on all its recipient population.
Question ID:	36
Date Question Asked:	3/28/2019
Question:	Do you have an approved recruitment plan template? (9-E) If not, what information do you require in the recruitment plan? What is the required quantity of targeted labs required for submission?
Section Number:	III.4
RFP Page Number:	9-11
Medicaid Answer:	No. Medicaid expects to receive lab data on all its recipient population.
Question ID:	37
Date Question Asked:	3/28/2019
Question:	Does the AMA have any quantitative analysis as to the number of Live Labs they expect per month, per year?
Section Number:	III.4
RFP Page Number:	10-11
Medicaid Answer:	No, Medicaid has over 1 million recipients in the various programs. Medicaid may provide an estimated number of labs results per month to the Vendor after the contract has been awarded.
Question ID:	38
Date Question Asked:	3/28/2019
Question:	Does the AMA have a criteria worklist that will be used for lab approval?
Section Number:	III.4
RFP Page Number:	10-11

Medicaid Answer:	No, Medicaid would expect the Vendor to prioritize those labs that would have largest Medicaid recipient populations.
Question ID:	39
Date Question Asked:	3/28/2019
Question:	Does the AMA have a minimum data set template?
Section Number:	Appendix D
RFP Page Number:	52
Medicaid Answer:	Please refer to Appendix D for the minimum data set required and HL7 2.0 version or higher message standard for Structured Lab Results layout.
Question ID:	40
Date Question Asked:	3/28/2019
Question:	What is the Medicaid acceptance recipient population threshold in relation to recruitment? Also, are there any current, live labs that are included in this calculation? (9-H)
Section Number:	III.2.H
RFP Page Number:	9
Medicaid Answer:	Medicaid has over 1 million recipients in the various programs. Medicaid may provide an estimated number of labs results per month to the Vendor after the contract has been awarded.
Question ID:	41
Date Question Asked:	3/28/2019
Question:	Please explain your request for an environmental scan providing additional detail? (10-I)
Section Number:	III.2.I
RFP Page Number:	10
Medicaid Answer:	The environmental scan is a requirement by CMS.
Question ID:	42
Date Question Asked:	3/28/2019
Question:	Do you envision the Vendor will provide data warehousing for data storage? (11-H;11-I; 13-C)
Section Number:	III.3.H, III.3.I, IV.2.C
RFP Page Number:	11 & 13
Medicaid Answer:	No. However, the minimum number of months to retain lab results is 12 months. All other records and supporting documents are retained in accordance with the requirements stated in Section XI.BB of the RFP.

Question ID:	43
Date Question Asked:	3/28/2019
Question:	At what level of operation support do you want the Vendor to engage in? Is it limited to connectivity? (11-J)
Section Number:	III.4.J
RFP Page Number:	11
Medicaid Answer:	As stated in the RFP, Medicaid expects to receive lab data on all its recipient population. Vendor's operational support should reflect their commitment to achieve this objective.
Question ID:	44
Date Question Asked:	3/28/2019
Question:	Does the AMA have a disaster recovery approval of tasks document that details what is required for acceptance of a disaster recovery plan? (11-K)
Section Number:	III.4.K
RFP Page Number:	11
Medicaid Answer:	Yes.
Question ID:	45
Date Question Asked:	3/28/2019
Question:	What data does the AMA require in their annual performance report from the Vendor? (11-L)
Section Number:	III.4.L
RFP Page Number:	11
Medicaid Answer:	Please refer to the RFP for a list reported metrics.
Question ID:	46
Date Question Asked:	3/28/2019
Question:	What result types will be included in the delivery package? Laboratory, Pathology, Microbiology, Blood Bank, etc.?
Section Number:	General
RFP Page Number:	General
Medicaid Answer:	Medicaid expects the required and appropriate data values to be populated at the time of file transmission from the Vendor. Please refer to Appendix D for the minimum data set required and HL7 2.0 version or higher message standard for Structured Lab Results layout.
Question ID:	47

Date Question Asked:	3/28/2019
Question:	Will Radiology results be required in the future for delivery purposes?
Section Number:	General
RFP Page Number:	General
Medicaid Answer:	Medicaid expects the required and appropriate data values to be populated at the time of file transmission from the Vendor. Please refer to Appendix D for the minimum data set required and HL7 2.0 version or higher message standard for Structured Lab Results layout.
Question ID:	48
Date Question Asked:	3/28/2019
Question:	Can you provide your existing result specification document upon request?
Section Number:	General
RFP Page Number:	General
Medicaid Answer:	Medicaid expects the required and appropriate data values to be populated at the time of file transmission from the Vendor. Please refer to Appendix D for the minimum data set required and HL7 2.0 version or higher message standard for Structured Lab Results layout.
Question ID:	49
Date Question Asked:	3/28/2019
Question:	What are the AMA metrics to determine the health of the project?
Section Number:	General
RFP Page Number:	General
Medicaid Answer:	Medicaid expects the required and appropriate data values to be populated at the time of file transmission from the Vendor.
Question ID:	50
Date Question Asked:	3/28/2019
Question:	What are the AMA milestones that will be assigned to this project?
Section Number:	IV.2.B
RFP Page Number:	13
Medicaid Answer:	Medicaid expects these milestones to be determined once the contract is awarded and a specific project plan is developed.
Question ID:	51

Date Question Asked:	3/28/2019
Question:	Please explain in detail 13-F. It is our approach that we leverage quality resources required to meet a deadline on a project?
Section Number:	IV.2.B
RFP Page Number:	13
Medicaid Answer:	Medicaid is asking for the Vendor to provide metrics regarding their operation process in creating and submitting the required data files.
Question ID:	52
Date Question Asked:	3/28/2019
Question:	Are you envisioning the Vendor will house all software/hardware for this project in a vendor own or leased facility?
Section Number:	III.3.G
RFP Page Number:	10
Medicaid Answer:	Please refer to Amendment III on the Medicaid website.
Question ID:	53
Date Question Asked:	3/28/2019
Question:	Will interoperability-built interfaces and code be housed on the AMA network?
Section Number:	General
RFP Page Number:	General
Medicaid Answer:	Please refer to Amendment III on the Medicaid website.
Question ID:	54
Date Question Asked:	3/28/2019
Question:	What file format are you currently using to transmit lab results?
Section Number:	General
RFP Page Number:	General
Medicaid Answer:	At this time, Medicaid is not transmitting lab results. Please refer to Appendix D for the minimum data set required and HL7 2.0 version or higher message standard for Structured Lab Results layout.
Question ID:	55
Date Question Asked:	3/28/2019

Question:	We believe you are using InterSystems (ISC) HealthShare Health Connect as an integration engine. Can you please confirm?
Section Number:	General
RFP Page Number:	General
Medicaid Answer:	Alabama One Health Record, the State HIE, uses ISC HealthShare as the HIE platform. Medicaid does not intend to use Alabama OneHealth Record for lab results integration at this time.
Question ID:	56
Date Question Asked:	3/28/2019
Question:	Are you using any other ISC products? IRIS, HSPI, HIE?
Section Number:	General
RFP Page Number:	General
Medicaid Answer:	No.
Question ID:	57
Date Question Asked:	3/28/2019
Question:	Please list all IT systems (including versions), tools, data warehouses, etc. owned/leased by the State and available for use by the vendor.
Section Number:	General
RFP Page Number:	General
Medicaid Answer:	There are not any systems for the Vendor to use.
Question ID:	58
Date Question Asked:	3/28/2019
Question:	What labs are already connected to the Alabama State HIE, One Health Record?
Section Number:	General
RFP Page Number:	General
Medicaid Answer:	There are currently no labs connected.
Question ID:	59
Date Question Asked:	3/28/2019
Question:	Does Alabama have an outreach team that has been reaching out to labs? Or is this a brand-new initiative?
Section Number:	General
RFP Page Number:	General

Medicaid Answer:	No. Yes, this is a new initiative for Medicaid.
Question ID:	60
Date Question Asked:	3/28/2019
Question:	If Alabama has an outreach team, will the team continue its efforts, or will those efforts be discontinued when a vendor is identified?
Section Number:	General
RFP Page Number:	General
Medicaid Answer:	Medicaid does not have a lab outreach team.
Question ID:	61
Date Question Asked:	3/28/2019
Question:	Are the potential labs already identified? Can you please share if yes? There are no participants currently listed on onehealthrecord.alabama.gov even though the website indicates 342 connected facilities and 23 connected hospitals.
Section Number:	General
RFP Page Number:	General
Medicaid Answer:	Medicaid can provide a listing of labs to the Vendor after the contract is awarded. Medicaid does not intend to use Alabama One Health Record for lab results integration at this time.
Question ID:	62
Date Question Asked:	3/28/2019
Question:	Can you please provide any documentation on the extent of outreach already conducted?
Section Number:	General
RFP Page Number:	General
Medicaid Answer:	Medicaid does not have a lab outreach team. Medicaid can provide a listing of labs to the Vendor after the contract is awarded.
Question ID:	63
Date Question Asked:	3/28/2019
Question:	As this is a flat fee contract, we would need to understand what the environmental scan may potentially include. Please advise?
Section Number:	III.2.1
RFP Page Number:	10

Medicaid Answer:	Medicaid will provide details after contract has been awarded, and is open to discuss this environmental scan with the Vendor who is awarded the contract.
Question ID:	64
Date Question Asked:	3/28/2019
Question:	Section III (2) Planning Requirements and III (3) Implementation Requirements suggest a services contract for lab outreach and for integration and file transmission. But Section III (4) suggests the Vendor is also storing the data on Vendor data repository. Is that correct? Is this contract also for the purchase and maintenance of a data warehouse for all lab results?
Section Number:	III.2., III.3, III.4
RFP Page Number:	9, 10, 11
Medicaid Answer:	No. This contract is not for a data warehouse.
Question ID:	65
Date Question Asked:	3/28/2019
Question:	If the contract is for services, does the State already have a location for data storage? If yes, please provide technical specifications of that repository and any analytics tools that would be available to the Vendor. Is this repository currently being used for lab results from participants?
Section Number:	General
RFP Page Number:	General
Medicaid Answer:	Yes. Please refer to Amendment III on the Medicaid website. Currently, there is not a lab results repository.
Question ID:	66
Date Question Asked:	3/28/2019
Question:	III (4) details that Vendor must provide performance statistics. Are you looking for custom reports or dashboards? Is the State providing the reporting/dashboarding tools?
Section Number:	III.4
RFP Page Number:	10-11
Medicaid Answer:	Medicaid is asking for the Vendor to provide metrics regarding their operation process in creating and submitting the required data files. No, Medicaid is not providing the Vendor reporting tools.
Question ID:	67
Date Question Asked:	3/26/2019

Question:	Please confirm the Vendor will issue HIPAA Business Associate Agreements (BAA) and Data Use and Reciprocal Support Agreements (DURSA) on behalf of the State Medicaid Agency, who is the covered entity.
Section Number:	General
RFP Page Number:	General
Medicaid Answer:	Yes. Vendor will be required to sign all required Medicaid documents as a condition of performance.
Question ID:	68
Date Question Asked:	3/26/2019
Question:	The RFP states “Within the last three years, describe the overall ability to perform the Retrospective Inpatient Hospital Services Review Program including the technologies, special techniques, skills or abilities of the organization necessary to accomplish the project requirements, data processing and analysis capabilities.” Please clarify expectations for responding to this requirement and how it will support this contract.
Section Number:	VI.1.D
RFP Page Number:	16
Medicaid Answer:	Please refer to Amendment III posted on the Medicaid website.
Question ID:	69
Date Question Asked:	3/26/2019
Question:	This RFP requirement states “Provide a detailed plan to manage Medicaid data sources, including acquisition, storage, maintenance, and reporting of the following of milestones.” Please explain the reference to these milestones.
Section Number:	IV.2.B
RFP Page Number:	13
Medicaid Answer:	Medicaid expects these milestones to be determined once the contract is awarded and project plan is developed.
Question ID:	70
Date Question Asked:	3/26/2019
Question:	Please clarify the entity described as “contract awardee” in requirement III.3.G. Is the “contract awardee” a separate entity from the “Vendor” defined in this RFP?

Section Number:	III.3.G
RFP Page Number:	10
Medicaid Answer:	The contract awardee is defined as the contractor that is awarded the RFP. Yes, the Vendor is defined as a person or entity that provides goods and/or services and not the awarded Vendor.
Question ID:	71
Date Question Asked:	3/26/2019
Question:	The RFP Schedule indicates that RFP question responses will be posted on March 27, 2019 and a proposal due date of April 5, 2019. This time frame may not allow time to adjust proposal content based on RFP question responses. Will the State consider extending the proposal response due date?
Section Number:	Section B
RFP Page Number:	3
Medicaid Answer:	Please refer to Amendment II posted on the Medicaid website.
Question ID:	72
Date Question Asked:	3/26/2019
Question:	To ensure the State can fairly evaluate pricing proposals, please level set the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The number of labs expected to be connected at the end of the 2-year implementation period. b. The number of labs expected to be connected at the end of each subsequent option year.
Section Number:	III.2.E
RFP Page Number:	9
Medicaid Answer:	Question ID 72 does not ask a question.
Question ID:	73
Date Question Asked:	3/26/2019
Question:	There appears to be a requirement in this checklist that is not reflected in the RFP Scope of Work. <p>“The Proposal includes a detailed description of the plan to design, implement, monitor, and address special situations related to a new Inpatient Hospital Quality Assurance program as outlined in the request for proposal regarding each element listed in the scope of work.”</p> <p>Please clarify.</p>

Section Number:	Appendix A – Proposal Compliance Checklist, Item 9
RFP Page Number:	31-32
Medicaid Answer:	Please refer to Amendment III on the Medicaid website.
Question ID:	74
Date Question Asked:	3/25/2019
Question:	I am reviewing the RFP and noticed on the Procurement System (STAARS), it states that the due date for this RFP is April 1st and in the actual RFP it states that the due date is April 5th. Can you please clarify the due date for this RFP response?
Section Number:	General
RFP Page Number:	General
Medicaid Answer:	Please refer to Amendment II posted on the Medicaid website.
Question ID:	75
Date Question Asked:	3/27/2019
Question:	Are toxicology labs included in the scope?
Section Number:	General
RFP Page Number:	General
Medicaid Answer:	As stated in the RFP, Medicaid expects to receive lab data on all its recipient population.
Question ID:	76
Date Question Asked:	3/27/2019
Question:	What is the approximate number of individual labs currently within the state?
Section Number:	General
RFP Page Number:	General
Medicaid Answer:	Medicaid estimates the number of independent labs in Alabama to be at least 110.
Question ID:	77
Date Question Asked:	3/27/2019
Question:	Does the awarded vendor have access to the state lab licensing database?
Section Number:	General
RFP Page Number:	General
Medicaid Answer:	No.

Question ID:	78
Date Question Asked:	3/27/2019
Question:	Are the fixed costs calculated per lab?
Section Number:	Appendix C
RFP Page Number:	51
Medicaid Answer:	The Vendor has to determine their own fixed cost calculation.
Question ID:	79
Date Question Asked:	3/27/2019
Question:	How can the vendor account for the individual charges from the LIMS vendor for each integration?
Section Number:	General
RFP Page Number:	General
Medicaid Answer:	As stated in the RFP, Medicaid expects to receive lab data on all its recipient population. Medicaid would expect the Vendor to prioritize those labs that would have the largest Medicaid recipient populations.
Question ID:	80
Date Question Asked:	3/27/2019
Question:	The STAARS site states the closing date is 4/1/2019, which conflicts with the PDF RFP which states 4/5/2019. Which one is correct?
Section Number:	General
RFP Page Number:	General
Medicaid Answer:	Please refer to Amendment II posted on the Medicaid website.
Question ID:	81
Date Question Asked:	3/27/2019
Question:	Is there an incumbent vendor?
Section Number:	General
RFP Page Number:	General
Medicaid Answer:	No.
Question ID:	82
Date Question Asked:	3/27/2019
Question:	What is the anticipated ramp up time (e.g. from award to first lab data transmission)?
Section Number:	General
RFP Page Number:	General

Medicaid Answer:	Medicaid expects these milestones to be determined once the contract is awarded and project plan is developed.
Question ID:	83
Date Question Asked:	3/27/2019
Question:	What process is being used currently to satisfy this need?
Section Number:	General
RFP Page Number:	General
Medicaid Answer:	There is not a current process being used.
Question ID:	84
Date Question Asked:	3/27/2019
Question:	Can you clarify the requirement regarding the ability to perform the Retrospective Inpatient Hospital Services Review Program?
Section Number:	VI.1.D
RFP Page Number:	16
Medicaid Answer:	Please refer to Amendment III posted on the Medicaid website.
Question ID:	85
Date Question Asked:	4/2/2019
Question:	Though lab data is a sub-set of an inpatient record, can you please clarify the correlation of the Retrospective Inpatient Hospital Services Review Program with this RFP? What specific tasks within the RFP are related to the Review Program and what part of the Review Program is necessary in order to perform the work outlined within the RFP?
Section Number:	VI.1.D
RFP Page Number:	16
Medicaid Answer:	Please refer to Amendment III posted on the Medicaid website.
Question ID:	86
Date Question Asked:	4/5/2019
Question:	Section IV.2.I asks for the same information as Sections IV.2.N, IV.2.O, IV.2.Q, IV.2.P, and IV.2.J. Please confirm that we should we place the detailed plans in Section IV.2.I and reference it in the remaining sections.
Section Number:	IV.2.I and IV.2.N, IV.2.O, IV.2.Q, IV.2.P, and IV.2.J
RFP Page Number:	13,14

Medicaid Answer:	Confirmed.
Question ID:	87
Date Question Asked:	4/5/2019
Question:	The RFP states “Respond to all items presented in this section. Alternate solutions will be reviewed and may be considered.” If a bidder elects to propose alternative solutions can they respond to each requirement for the first solution and list the differences for the alternatives?
Section Number:	IV.2
RFP Page Number:	12-13
Medicaid Answer:	The Vendor must submit a separate proposal for the alternate solutions.
Question ID:	88
Date Question Asked:	4/5/2019
Question:	Will the State please consider providing answers to questions earlier than April 17, either in part or in their entirety, to allow bidders enough time to make proposal adjustments if necessary based on the answers received and the impact to the response?
Section Number:	Amendment I, II Schedule B, revised Schedule of Events
RFP Page Number:	4
Medicaid Answer:	No, Medicaid will post answers to questions in accordance with the Schedule of Events.
Question ID:	89
Date Question Asked:	4/5/2019
Question:	We understand that Alabama currently has approximately 110 independent clinical labs. How many clinical labs are currently feeding into Medicaid in AL? How many of these labs are “LOINCed”? What types of interfaces do these labs currently have? Can AL Medicaid Agency provide this information now, or is type of information intended to be gathered during the Environmental Scan performed in the first 6 months of the project)?
Section Number:	General
RFP Page Number:	General
Medicaid Answer:	Alabama Medicaid is not currently receiving lab results data. Please refer to Appendix D for the minimum data set required

	and HL7 2.0 version or higher message standard for Structured Lab Results layout.
Question ID:	90
Date Question Asked:	4/5/2019
Question:	Is the vendor required to build interfaces to each of the participating labs or is that included in the current HIE platform?
Section Number:	General
RFP Page Number:	General
Medicaid Answer:	Yes, please refer to Amendment III on the Medicaid website.
Question ID:	91
Date Question Asked:	4/5/2019
Question:	Is it a requirement to integrate with the current MPI?
Section Number:	General
RFP Page Number:	General
Medicaid Answer:	No. Alabama Medicaid does not intend to use the HIE for lab results integration at this time.
Question ID:	92
Date Question Asked:	4/5/2019
Question:	Under Scope of Work – Requirements: ‘Implementation’ G. Vendor must agree to a Medicaid-hosted solution implted and managed by the contract awardee. Please clarify what is meant by Medicaid-hosted solution. Will the Vendor deploy the solution on environments (and servers) hosted by Medicaid? Or should our price include the cost of servers?
Section Number:	III.3.G
RFP Page Number:	10
Medicaid Answer:	Please refer to Amendment III on the Medicaid website.
Question ID:	93
Date Question Asked:	4/5/2019
Question:	Under Scope of Work – Requirements: ‘Ongoing’ I. Vendor must have the capability to provide historical data to the Agency within a reasonable time frame upon request. Please clarify. Does this refer to our capability to capture information from labs or source systems?
Section Number:	III.4.I
RFP Page Number:	11

Medicaid Answer:	Yes. The minimum number of months to retain lab results is 12 months. All other records and supporting documents are retained in accordance with the requirements stated in Section XI.BB of the RFP.
Question ID:	94
Date Question Asked:	4/5/2019
Question:	Under “Proposed Solution” B. Provide a detailed Plan to manage Medicaid data sources, including acquisition, storage, maintenance, and reporting of the following milestones. There appears to be an error in the RFP here –as the milestones are not listed. What are the milestones?
Section Number:	I
RFP Page Number:	11
Medicaid Answer:	Medicaid expects these milestones to be determined once the contract is awarded and a specific project plan is developed.
Question ID:	95
Date Question Asked:	4/5/2019
Question:	Provide the organization’s average performance level in meeting processing deadlines. Please clarify. Do you have a specific performance measure(s) or benchmarks you are referring to? (For example, In another part of the RFP, performance statistics examples include: error rate per lab, each lab’s percentage of the total number of records received, etc.)
Section Number:	IV.2.F
RFP Page Number:	Page 13
Medicaid Answer:	Additional metrics are undetermined at this time. Medicaid expects reporting requirements to change over time and is open to discussion with Vendor after contract award.
Question ID:	96
Date Question Asked:	4/3/2019
Question:	Can the State provide an updated RFP document—in Addendum 3, a portion of the RFP pages has been cut off in the PDF?
Section Number:	General
RFP Page Number:	General
Medicaid Answer:	Yes, please refer to the Medicaid website.
Question ID:	97
Date Question Asked:	3/19/2019

Question:	Implementation Requirements, Bullet G states “Vendor must agree to a Medicaid hosted solution implemented and managed by the contract awardee”. Can the state clarify what “Medicaid hosted solution” means? Please confirm that remote access to the infrastructure will be provided as needed to manage the solution.
Section Number:	III.3.G
RFP Page Number:	10
Medicaid Answer:	Yes, please refer to Amendment III on the Medicaid website.
Question ID:	98
Date Question Asked:	3/19/2019
Question:	Evaluation Criteria, Subsection 2 Proposed Solution, Bullet J states “Provide a detailed plan for data migration involving distributed (e.g., multi-lab) data sources to a central solution platform”. Can the State elaborate on the expectation for data migration? Is there existing data which will have to be converted? Does this include data migration from existing state systems to the propose data integration tool?
Section Number:	IV.2.J
RFP Page Number:	13
Medicaid Answer:	Medicaid expects the required and appropriate data values to be populated at the time of data file transmission from the Vendor. Please refer to Appendix D for the minimum data set required and HL7 2.0 version or higher message standard for Structured Lab Results layout. No, data migration from other state systems are expected under the contract.
Question ID:	99
Date Question Asked:	3/19/2019
Question:	There is a quarterly connection charge for this connection. As the solution will be hosted at the state, please clarify the need for the DXC SITE-TO-SITE VPN? Are there alternative means for exchange such as using the bidder’s or DXC’s SFTP site?
Section Number:	Attachment J DXC SITE-TO-SITE VPN AGREEMENT
RFP Page Number:	49-50
Medicaid Answer:	The need for a DXC VPN is not planned for this effort. Please refer to Amendment III on the Medicaid website.
Question ID:	100
Date Question Asked:	3/19/2019

Question:	Evaluation Criteria, Part 1. Vendor Experience, Bullet C states “Describe any existing expertise with any independent labs in Alabama including clinical data services provided.” Can the State consider changing the requirement to allow the ability for proposed staff’s experience working with independent labs around the country?
Section Number:	IV.1.C
RFP Page Number:	12
Medicaid Answer:	No, Medicaid will not change the requirement. Vendor may submit proposed Staff’s experience or whomever the Vendor feels is appropriate to address the requirement.
Question ID:	101
Date Question Asked:	3/19/2019
Question:	Scope of Work outlines the items included in the proposed scope of work. Please confirm that in our written response, the vendor is required to outline the planning process that they would undertake to complete the requirements listed in A-J.
Section Number:	III.2.A-J
RFP Page Number:	9-10
Medicaid Answer:	Confirmed
Question ID:	102
Date Question Asked:	3/19/2019
Question:	“Provide a detailed plan to manage Medicaid data sources, including acquisition, storage, maintenance, and reporting of the following milestones.” Is there a missing list of milestones? If so, can the state provide the listing of milestones?
Section Number:	III.2.B
RFP Page Number:	13
Medicaid Answer:	Medicaid expects these milestones to be determined once the contract is awarded and a specific project plan is developed.
Question ID:	103
Date Question Asked:	3/19/2019
Question:	Does the solution integrate with Medicaid systems? If so, which systems is the solution required to exchange data and integrate with?
Section Number:	General
RFP Page Number:	General

Medicaid Answer:	No, no data exchange or integration from other state systems are expected under the contract.