



PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

COLE COUNTY COMMISSION

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To: All Interested Parties
From: Jessica Bryant, Cole County Purchasing Agent
Date: April 25, 2025
Re: Addendum Two to Cole County RFQ: 2025-PS05 Inmate Medical Services

The following information hereby becomes part of the above-referenced Request for Qualifications and shall be fully considered in the preparation of your response.

1. What is the average number of prescriptions dispensed to Cole County Jail per month for the past 12 months?
 - This is unknown.
2. What percentage of medications are dispensed as patient specific vs. stock?
 - 90%
3. What type of medication packaging (blister cards, vials, strips, other) do you currently use and do you wish to keep the same packaging system?
 - Blister Cards
4. How many days' worth of medication (7, 14, 30 days) is typically dispensed for routine medication orders and do you wish to keep it the same?
 - 30 days
5. Who is the 340B covered entity that your current medical or pharmacy vendor has negotiated with on behalf of Cole County to obtain cost savings on HIV and other costly medications?
 - Cole County currently does not have one
6. How often does your current pharmacy vendor provide, or coordinate, inspections of the medication areas at your facility?
 - Cole County has never been inspected
7. Many correctional institutions within the industry are utilizing electronic order entry and eMAR software to decrease their reliance on time consuming paper processes. Electronic med pass will decrease the time required for med pass by up to 50%, eliminate the need and overtime for end of month changeovers, eliminate transcription errors from faxed orders that are profiled for MAR purposes, improve staff productivity and efficiency, and saves time that can be used by your medical staff to provide other health care services?

What is the name of your current electronic prescription order entry and eMAR software that is provided by your current medical vendor at no additional cost?

- CorEMR

If a software is provided, is the system Electronic Prescribing of Controlled Substances (EPCS) compliant?

- Yes

8. Many correctional institutions within the industry are using electronic check-in and return programs for inventory management. Manual daily order check-in and return processing time can be decreased by up to 75%, medication diversion potential is virtually eliminated, and Cole County will have full accountability of all medications received by, and returned from, your facility for accounting purposes.

What is the name of your current barcode electronic order reconciliation (check-in) and medication return management system that is provided by your current medical vendor at no additional cost?

- No barcode reader

9. Many correctional institutions within the industry have fingertip access to meaningful and actionable electronic reporting available to County administrative personnel monitoring contract expenses. Analyzing prescriber ordering trends and expenditures to better manage facility operations is critical to your County administrative team and dependent upon reliable and accurate pharmacy reporting.

What is the name of the current online reporting dashboard used by facility and county administrative staff to access meaningful and accurate reporting?

- Cole County does not have one

10. Does Cole County Jail currently use an electronic health record (EHR)/electronic medical record (EMR) system?

If so, what is the name of the system and current software version in use?

- CorEMR

If so, is the system also used for prescription order entry and eMAR purposes?

- Yes

If so, is the system Electronic Prescribing of Controlled Substances (EPCS) compliant?

- yes

Can you please provide the name and email of your EHR/EMR contact so that bidders can contact them for system specifications, interface requirements, and capabilities?

- Turn Key Medical

11. What company is your current pharmacy services provider?

- IHS

12. Is the current medical provider responsible for all pharmacy costs; or is there a cost pool regarding pharmaceuticals with an annual contract cap before those expenses become the responsibility of the County?

- In the County's current budget there is \$50,000 for pharmacy costs.

If there is a cost pool, what is the annual cap and how many months into the contract year is the cap typically reached?

- It isn't considered a cost pool. We allocated \$50,000 for pharmacy costs in our current budget.

13. Are there any high-cost medications or medication categories that are always the responsibility of the County?

- Inmates are responsible for the over all cost of medication

14. For calendar or contract years 2022, 2023, and 2024 YTD what is the annual spend for medications at Cole County Jail?

- This was included in the contract with ACH

15. Cooperative procurement contracts (COOPS) create value and enhance cost containment for jails by providing access to an already competitively solicited pharmacy agreement that is accessible to Cole.

Is the County familiar with, and open to considering cooperative procurement contracts (which have already been competitively solicited and are compliant procurement mechanisms available to Cole County) to acquire cost-effective independent correctional pharmacy services?

- The County is familiar with cooperative procurement contracts. We would have to review the specific cooperative contract before considering.

If not, what concern or reservation does Cole County have in utilizing cooperative procurement contracts (membership is completely free) to access these independent pharmacy contracts outside the scope of the current RFP for Health and Mental Health services?

- The County is familiar with cooperative procurement contracts. We would have to review the specific cooperative contract before considering.

16. Independently contracting your pharmacy services has many potential benefits over incorporating pharmacy into a comprehensive health services model. As an individual discipline, a pharmacy will provide a checks and balance system that will independently monitor for and directly report to Cole County, any irregular prescriber ordering habits, excessive medication utilization, cost effectiveness of medication selection, and compliance with local, state, and federal laws, rules and regulations.

Additionally, selecting a pharmacy independently or via a cooperative contract allows Cole County to be the decision maker regarding who you wish to work with; and not, being subject to chance regarding a potentially unqualified pharmacy provider being proposed as a subcontractor to a medical group.

Would Cole County permit an informational response to your RFP along with a cost plus dispensing fee-pricing model from industry-leading vendors that specialize in correctional-based medication dispensing and pharmacy program management?

- At this time, we are only requesting qualifications.

If so, would you consider adding simple RFP addendum language for medical bidders to provide a comprehensive pricing model that includes pharmaceuticals and a pricing option excluding pharmaceuticals so that their proposed pharmacy costs are clearly benchmarked and documented?

- At this time, we are only requesting qualifications.

If not, what concerns or reservations does Cole County have regarding pharmacy services contracted independently?

- Cole County does not have any concerns or reservations at this time. We are only requesting qualifications (RFQ). We are not requesting any pricing information or pharmacy costs.

The qualification receipt date and time HAVE NOT CHANGED; submissions will be received until Friday, May 16, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.

I/We have received Addendum Number Two to Bid No. 2025-PS05 and have fully considered the information provided in preparing a response.

Name of Company

Agent and Title

Authorized Signature