

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO AND HEALTHCARE COST SOLUTIONS, LLC.**

This Agreement is entered into this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026, by and between the County of San Mateo, a political subdivision of the state of California, hereinafter called "County," and Healthcare Cost Solutions, LLC, hereinafter called "Contractor."

\* \* \*

Whereas, pursuant to Section 31000 of the California Government Code, County may contract with independent contractors for the furnishing of such services to or for County or any Department thereof; and

Whereas, it is necessary and desirable that Contractor be retained for the purpose of providing hospital and professional coding audits.

**Now, therefore, it is agreed by the parties to this Agreement as follows:**

**1. Exhibits and Attachments**

The following exhibits and attachments are attached to this Agreement and incorporated into this Agreement by this reference:

- Exhibit A—Services
- Exhibit B—Payments and Rates
- Exhibit C—Performance Metrics
- Exhibit E—Corporate Compliance SMMC Code of Conduct (Third Parties)
- Attachment H—HIPAA Business Associate Requirements
- Attachment J – Vendor/Contractor Access Policy

**2. Services to be performed by Contractor**

In consideration of the payments set forth in this Agreement and in Exhibit B, Contractor shall perform services for County in accordance with the terms, conditions, and specifications set forth in this Agreement and in Exhibit A.

**3. Payments**

In consideration of the services provided by Contractor in accordance with all terms, conditions, and specifications set forth in this Agreement and in Exhibit A, County shall make payment to Contractor based on the rates and in the manner specified in Exhibit B. County reserves the right to withhold payment if County determines that the quantity or quality of the work performed is unacceptable. In no event shall County's total fiscal obligation under this Agreement exceed TWO MILLION DOLLARS (\$2,000,000). In the event that the County makes any advance payments, Contractor agrees to refund any amounts in excess of the amount owed by the County at the time of contract termination or expiration. Contractor is not entitled to payment for work not performed as required by this agreement. All invoices must be approved by the

Manager of Health Information Management or their designee. Invoices must be sent to: SMMC-Accounts-Payable@smcgov.org. Processing time may be delayed if invoices are not submitted electronically.

#### **4. Term**

Subject to compliance with all terms and conditions, the term of this Agreement shall be from April 1, 2026, through March 31, 2031.

#### **5. Termination**

This Agreement may be terminated by Contractor or by the Chief of San Mateo County Health or his/her designee at any time without a requirement of good cause upon thirty (30) days' advance written notice to the other party. Subject to availability of funding, Contractor shall be entitled to receive payment for work/services provided prior to termination of the Agreement. Such payment shall be that prorated portion of the full payment determined by comparing the work/services actually completed to the work/services required by the Agreement.

County may terminate this Agreement or a portion of the services referenced in the Attachments and Exhibits based upon the unavailability of Federal, State, or County funds by providing written notice to Contractor as soon as is reasonably possible after County learns of said unavailability of outside funding.

County may terminate this Agreement for cause. In order to terminate for cause, County must first give Contractor notice of the alleged breach. Contractor shall have five business days after receipt of such notice to respond and a total of ten calendar days after receipt of such notice to cure the alleged breach. If Contractor fails to cure the breach within this period, County may immediately terminate this Agreement without further action. The option available in this paragraph is separate from the ability to terminate without cause with appropriate notice described above. In the event that County provides notice of an alleged breach pursuant to this section, County may, in extreme circumstances, immediately suspend performance of services and payment under this Agreement pending the resolution of the process described in this paragraph. County has sole discretion to determine what constitutes an extreme circumstance for purposes of this paragraph, and County shall use reasonable judgment in making that determination.

#### **6. Contract Materials**

At the end of this Agreement, or in the event of termination, all finished or unfinished documents, data, studies, maps, photographs, reports, and other written materials (collectively referred to as "contract materials") prepared by Contractor under this Agreement shall become the property of County and shall be promptly delivered to County. Upon termination, Contractor may make and retain a copy of such contract materials if permitted by law.

#### **7. Relationship of Parties**

Contractor agrees and understands that the work/services performed under this Agreement are performed as an independent contractor and not as an employee of County and that neither Contractor nor its employees acquire any of the rights, privileges, powers, or advantages of County employees.

**8. Hold Harmless**

**a. General Hold Harmless**

Contractor shall indemnify and save harmless County and its officers, agents, employees, and servants from all claims, suits, or actions of every name, kind, and description resulting from this Agreement, the performance of any work or services required of Contractor under this Agreement, or payments made pursuant to this Agreement brought for, or on account of, any of the following:

(A) injuries to or death of any person, including Contractor or its employees/officers/agents;

(B) damage to any property of any kind whatsoever and to whomsoever belonging;

(C) any sanctions, penalties, or claims of damages resulting from Contractor's failure to comply, if applicable, with the requirements set forth in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), the terms of the attached Business Associate Agreement if applicable and all Federal regulations promulgated thereunder, as amended; or

(D) any other loss or cost, including but not limited to that caused by the concurrent active or passive negligence of County and/or its officers, agents, employees, or servants. However, Contractor's duty to indemnify and save harmless under this Section shall not apply to injuries or damage for which County has been found in a court of competent jurisdiction to be solely liable by reason of its own negligence or willful misconduct.

The duty of Contractor to indemnify and save harmless as set forth by this Section shall include the duty to defend as set forth in Section 2778 of the California Civil Code.

**b. Intellectual Property Indemnification**

Contractor hereby certifies that it owns, controls, and/or licenses and retains all right, title, and/or interest in and to any intellectual property it uses in relation to this Agreement, including the design, look, feel, features, source code, content, and/or other technology relating to any part of the services it provides under this Agreement and including all related patents, inventions, trademarks, and copyrights, all applications therefor, and all trade names, service marks, know how, and trade secrets (collectively referred to as "IP Rights") except as otherwise noted by this Agreement.

Contractor warrants that the services it provides under this Agreement do not infringe, violate, trespass, or constitute the unauthorized use or misappropriation of any IP Rights of any third party. Contractor shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless County from and against all liabilities, costs, damages, losses, and expenses (including reasonable attorney fees) arising out of or related to any claim by a third party that the services provided under this Agreement infringe or violate any third-party's IP Rights provided any such right is enforceable in the United States. Contractor's duty to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless under this Section applies only provided that: (a) County notifies Contractor promptly in writing of any notice of any such third-party claim; (b) County cooperates with Contractor, at Contractor's expense, in all reasonable respects in connection with the investigation and defense of any such third-party claim; (c) Contractor retains sole control of the defense of any action on any such claim and all negotiations for its settlement or compromise (provided Contractor shall not have the right to settle any criminal action, suit, or proceeding without County's prior written consent, not to be unreasonably withheld, and provided further that any settlement permitted under this Section shall not impose any financial or other obligation on County, impair any right of County, or contain any stipulation, admission, or acknowledgement of wrongdoing on the part of County without County's prior written consent, not to be unreasonably withheld); and (d) should services under this Agreement become, or in Contractor's opinion be likely to become, the subject of such a claim, or in the event such a third party claim or threatened claim causes County's reasonable use of the services under this Agreement to be seriously endangered or disrupted, Contractor shall, at Contractor's option and expense, either: (i) procure for County the right to continue using the services without infringement or (ii) replace or modify the services so that they become non-infringing but remain functionally equivalent.

Notwithstanding anything in this Section to the contrary, Contractor will have no obligation or liability to County under this Section to the extent any otherwise covered claim is based upon: (a) any aspects of the services under this Agreement which have been modified by or for County (other than modification performed by, or at the direction of, Contractor) in such a way as to cause the alleged infringement at issue; and/or (b) any aspects of the services under this Agreement which have been used by County in a manner prohibited by this Agreement.

The duty of Contractor to indemnify and save harmless as set forth by this Section shall include the duty to defend as set forth in Section 2778 of the California Civil Code.

## **9. Assignability and Subcontracting**

Contractor shall not assign this Agreement or any portion of it to a third party or subcontract with a third party to provide services required by Contractor under this Agreement without the prior written consent of County. Any such assignment or subcontract without County's prior written consent shall give County the right to automatically and immediately terminate this Agreement without penalty or advance notice.

## **10. Insurance**

### **a. General Requirements**

Contractor shall not commence work or be required to commence work under this Agreement unless and until all insurance required under this Section has been obtained and such insurance has been approved by County's Risk Management, and Contractor shall use diligence to obtain such insurance and to obtain such approval. Contractor shall furnish County with certificates of insurance evidencing the required coverage, and there shall be a specific contractual liability endorsement extending Contractor's coverage to include the contractual liability assumed by Contractor pursuant to this Agreement. These certificates shall specify or be endorsed to provide that thirty (30) days' notice must be given, in writing, to County of any pending change in the limits of liability or of any cancellation or modification of the policy.

**b. Workers' Compensation and Employer's Liability Insurance**

Contractor shall have in effect during the entire term of this Agreement workers' compensation and employer's liability insurance providing full statutory coverage. In signing this Agreement, Contractor certifies, as required by Section 1861 of the California Labor Code, that (a) it is aware of the provisions of Section 3700 of the California Labor Code, which require every employer to be insured against liability for workers' compensation or to undertake self-insurance in accordance with the provisions of the Labor Code, and (b) it will comply with such provisions before commencing the performance of work under this Agreement.

**c. Liability Insurance**

Contractor shall take out and maintain during the term of this Agreement such bodily injury liability and property damage liability, professional errors and omissions, and cyber liability insurance as shall protect Contractor and all of its employees/officers/agents while performing work covered by this Agreement from any and all claims for damages for bodily injury, including accidental death, as well as any and all claims for property damage, damages caused by Contractor's professional work and services, and damages for data loss and/or data theft which may arise from Contractor's operations under this Agreement, whether such operations be by Contractor, any subcontractor of Contractor, anyone directly or indirectly employed by either of them, or an agent of either of them. Such insurance shall be combined single limit bodily injury and property damage for each occurrence, shall not be limited, reduced, or otherwise affected by any limitations of liability in this Agreement and shall not be less than the amounts specified below:

- (a) Comprehensive General Liability.....\$1,000,000
- (b) Professional Liability..... \$1,000,000
- (c) Professional Error & Omissions.....\$1,000,000
- (d) Cyber Liability.....\$5,000,000

County and its officers, agents, employees, and servants shall be named as additional insured on any such policies of insurance, which shall also contain a provision that (a) the insurance afforded thereby to County and its officers, agents, employees, and servants shall be primary insurance to the full limits of liability of the policy and (b) if the County or its officers, agents, employees, and servants have other insurance against the loss covered by such a policy, such other insurance shall be excess insurance only.

In the event of the breach of any provision of this Section, or in the event any notice is received which indicates any required insurance coverage will be diminished or canceled, County, at its option, may, notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement to the contrary, immediately declare a material breach of this Agreement and suspend all further work and payment pursuant to this Agreement.

#### **11. Compliance With Laws**

All services to be performed by Contractor pursuant to this Agreement shall be performed in accordance with all applicable Federal, State, County, and municipal laws, ordinances, regulations, and executive orders, including but not limited to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) and the Federal Regulations promulgated thereunder, as amended (if applicable), the Business Associate requirements set forth in Attachment H (if attached), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in programs and activities receiving any Federal or County financial assistance, as well as any required economic or other sanctions imposed by the United States government or under state law in effect during the term of the Agreement. Such services shall also be performed in accordance with all applicable ordinances and regulations, including but not limited to appropriate licensure, certification regulations, provisions pertaining to confidentiality of records, and applicable quality assurance regulations. In the event of a conflict between the terms of this Agreement and any applicable State, Federal, County, or municipal law, regulation, or executive order, the requirements of the applicable law, regulation, or executive order will take precedence over the requirements set forth in this Agreement.

The parties agree that, pursuant to Section 70713 of Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations ("Title 22"), San Mateo Medical Center (SMMC) retains all professional and administrative responsibility for services rendered under this Agreement to the extent that such services are subject to Title 22 and are rendered by a "qualified professional person" as used in Section 70713, and the parties further agree in that instance that this Agreement is otherwise subject to any applicable requirements of Title 22.

Contractor will timely and accurately complete, sign, and submit all necessary documentation of compliance.

#### **12. Non-Discrimination and Other Requirements**

##### **a. General Non-discrimination**

No person shall be denied any services provided pursuant to this Agreement (except as limited by the scope of services) on the grounds of race, color, national origin, ancestry, age, disability (physical or mental), sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital or domestic partner status, religion, political beliefs or affiliation, familial or parental status (including pregnancy), medical condition (cancer-related), military service, or genetic information.

**b. Equal Employment Opportunity**

Contractor shall ensure equal employment opportunity based on objective standards of recruitment, classification, selection, promotion, compensation, performance evaluation, and management relations for all employees under this Agreement. Contractor's equal employment policies shall be made available to County upon request.

**c. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973**

Contractor shall comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, which provides that no otherwise qualified individual with a disability shall, solely by reason of a disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in the performance of any services this Agreement. This Section applies only to contractors who are providing services to members of the public under this Agreement.

**d. Compliance with County's Equal Benefits Ordinance**

Contractor shall comply with all laws relating to the provision of benefits to its employees and their spouses or domestic partners, including, but not limited to, such laws prohibiting discrimination in the provision of such benefits on the basis that the spouse or domestic partner of the Contractor's employee is of the same or opposite sex as the employee.

**e. Discrimination Against Individuals with Disabilities**

The nondiscrimination requirements of 41 C.F.R. 60-741.5(a) are incorporated into this Agreement as if fully set forth here, and Contractor and any subcontractor shall abide by the requirements of 41 C.F.R. 60-741.5(a). This regulation prohibits discrimination against qualified individuals on the basis of disability and requires affirmative action by covered prime contractors and subcontractors to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with disabilities.

**f. History of Discrimination**

Contractor certifies that no finding of discrimination has been issued in the past 365 days against Contractor by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing, or any other investigative entity. If any finding(s) of discrimination have been issued against Contractor within the past 365 days by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing, or other investigative entity, Contractor shall provide County with a written explanation of the outcome(s) or remedy for the discrimination prior to execution of this Agreement. Failure to comply with this Section shall constitute a material breach of this Agreement and subjects the Agreement to immediate termination at the sole option of the County.

**g. Reporting; Violation of Non-discrimination Provisions**

Contractor shall report to the County Executive Officer the filing in any court or with any administrative agency of any complaint or allegation of discrimination on any of the bases prohibited by this Section of the Agreement or the Section titled "Compliance with Laws". Such duty shall include reporting of the filing of any and all charges with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing, or any other entity charged with the investigation or adjudication of allegations covered by this subsection within 30 days of such filing, provided that within such 30 days such entity has not notified Contractor that such charges are dismissed or otherwise unfounded. Such notification shall include a general description of the circumstances involved and a general description of the kind of discrimination alleged (for example, gender-, sexual orientation-, religion-, or race-based discrimination).

Violation of the non-discrimination provisions of this Agreement shall be considered a breach of this Agreement and subject the Contractor to penalties, to be determined by the County Executive Officer, including but not limited to the following:

- i. termination of this Agreement;
- ii. disqualification of the Contractor from being considered for or being awarded a County contract for a period of up to 3 years;
- iii. liquidated damages of \$2,500 per violation; and/or
- iv. imposition of other appropriate contractual and civil remedies and sanctions, as determined by the County Executive Officer.

To effectuate the provisions of this Section, the County Executive Officer shall have the authority to offset all or any portion of the amount described in this Section against amounts due to Contractor under this Agreement or any other agreement between Contractor and County.

**h. Compliance with Living Wage Ordinance**

As required by Chapter 2.88 of the San Mateo County Ordinance Code, Contractor certifies all contractor(s) and subcontractor(s) obligated under this contract shall fully comply with the provisions of the County of San Mateo Living Wage Ordinance, including, but not limited to, paying all Covered Employees the current Living Wage and providing notice to all Covered Employees and Subcontractors as required under the Ordinance.

**13. Compliance with County Employee Jury Service Ordinance**

Contractor shall comply with Chapter 2.85 of the County's Ordinance Code, which states that Contractor shall have and adhere to a written policy providing that its employees, to the extent they are full-time employees and live in San Mateo County, shall receive from the Contractor, on an annual basis, no fewer than five days of regular pay for jury service in San Mateo County, with jury pay being provided only for each day of actual jury service. The policy may provide that such employees deposit any fees received for such jury service with Contractor or that the Contractor may deduct from an employee's regular pay the fees received for jury service in San

Mateo County. By signing this Agreement, Contractor certifies that it has and adheres to a policy consistent with Chapter 2.85. For purposes of this Section, if Contractor has no employees in San Mateo County, it is sufficient for Contractor to provide the following written statement to County: "For purposes of San Mateo County's jury service ordinance, Contractor certifies that it has no full-time employees who live in San Mateo County. To the extent that it hires any such employees during the term of its Agreement with San Mateo County, Contractor shall adopt a policy that complies with Chapter 2.85 of the County's Ordinance Code." The requirements of Chapter 2.85 do not apply unless this Agreement's total value listed in the Section titled "Payments", exceeds two-hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000); Contractor acknowledges that Chapter 2.85's requirements will apply if this Agreement is amended such that its total value exceeds that threshold amount.

#### **14. Access and Retention of Books and Records**

Upon written request of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Comptroller General, or County, or any of their duly authorized representatives, Contractor shall make available those contracts, books, documents, and records necessary to verify the nature and extent of the costs of providing services under this Agreement. Such inspection shall be available for up to four (4) years after the rendering of such services. If Contractor carries out any of the duties of this Agreement through a subcontract with a value of \$10,000 or more over a twelve (12) month period with a related individual or organization, Contractor agrees to include this requirement in any such subcontract. This section is included pursuant to and is governed by the Social Security Act's requirements pertaining to "reasonable costs" set forth in 42 U.S.C. Section 1395x(v)(1)(I) and related regulations. No attorney-client, accountant-client, or other legal privilege will be deemed to have been waived by County, Contractor, or any Contractor's representative by virtue of this Agreement.

#### **15. Merger Clause; Amendments**

This Agreement, including the Exhibits and Attachments attached to this Agreement and incorporated by reference, constitutes the sole Agreement of the parties to this Agreement and correctly states the rights, duties, and obligations of each party as of this document's date. In the event that any term, condition, provision, requirement, or specification set forth in the body of this Agreement conflicts with or is inconsistent with any term, condition, provision, requirement, or specification in any Exhibit and/or Attachment to this Agreement, the provisions of the body of the Agreement shall prevail. Any prior agreement, promises, negotiations, or representations between the parties not expressly stated in this document are not binding. All subsequent modifications or amendments shall be in writing and signed by the parties.

#### **16. Controlling Law; Venue**

The validity of this Agreement and of its terms, the rights and duties of the parties under this Agreement, the interpretation of this Agreement, the performance of this Agreement, and any other dispute of any nature arising out of this Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of California without regard to its choice of law or conflict of law rules. Any dispute arising

out of this Agreement shall be venued either in the San Mateo County Superior Court or in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California.

**17. Notices**

Any notice, request, demand, or other communication required or permitted under this Agreement shall be deemed to be properly given when both: (1) transmitted via facsimile to the telephone number listed below or transmitted via email to the email address listed below; and (2) sent to the physical address listed below by either being deposited in the United States mail, postage prepaid, or deposited for overnight delivery, charges prepaid, with an established overnight courier that provides a tracking number showing confirmation of receipt.

In the case of County, to:

Name/Title: San Mateo Medical Center  
Attn: Chief Operations Officer  
222 W 39th Ave  
San Mateo, CA 94403

In the case of Contractor, to:

Name/Title: Healthcare Cost Solutions, Inc.  
Address: 1200 Newport Center Drive, Suite 190  
Newport Beach, CA 92660  
Telephone: 866-427-7828  
Email: [bgallagher@hcsstat.com](mailto:bgallagher@hcsstat.com)

**18. Electronic Signature**

Both County and Contractor wish to permit this Agreement and future documents relating to this Agreement to be digitally signed in accordance with California law and County's Electronic Signature Administrative Memo. Any party to this Agreement may revoke such agreement to permit electronic signatures at any time in relation to all future documents by providing notice pursuant to this Agreement.

**19. Payment of Permits/Licenses**

Contractor bears responsibility to obtain any license, permit, or approval required from any agency for work/services to be performed under this Agreement at Contractor's own expense prior to commencement of said work/services. Failure to do so will result in forfeit of any right to compensation under this Agreement.

**20. Disentanglement**

Contractor shall cooperate with County and County's other contractors to ensure a smooth transition at the time of termination of this Agreement, regardless of the nature or timing of the termination. Contractor shall cooperate with County's efforts to effectuate such transition with the goal of minimizing or eliminating any interruption of work required under the Agreement and any adverse impact on the provision of services or the County's activities; provided, however, that County shall pay Contractor on a time and materials basis, at the then-applicable rates, for all additional services performed in connection with such cooperation. Contractor shall deliver to County or its designee, at County's request, all documentation and data related to County, including, but not limited to, patient files, held by Contractor, and after return of same, Contractor shall destroy all copies thereof still in Contractor's possession, at no charge to County. Such data delivery shall be in an electronic format to facilitate archiving or loading into a replacement application. County and Contractor shall mutually agree to the specific electronic format.

Upon any termination of the Agreement, regardless of the nature or timing of the termination, County shall have the right, for up to twelve (12) months (the "Transition Period"), at County's option and request, to continue to receive from Contractor all maintenance and support services, at the then-applicable rates provided, however, that the annual support and maintenance fee shall be prorated and paid in advance on a monthly basis during such time, and the amount of such support and maintenance fee shall remain subject to the limitations set forth in the Agreement regarding any increase in such fee.

**21. Hospital and Clinics Credentialing Program**

Contractor and Contractor representatives visiting or entering the San Mateo Medical Center (SMMC) main campus or any of its satellite clinics are required to register with SMMC's Vendor Credentialing Program prior to conducting business onsite. It is important that each Contractor representative registers individually in order to maintain the confidentiality of their personal credentials and to ensure ongoing access to our facilities. More information regarding SMMC's updated credentialing and on-site visit requirements can be found on SMMC's profile page through <https://login.ghx.com>

\* \* \*

In witness of and in agreement with this Agreement's terms, the parties, by their duly authorized representatives, affix their respective signatures:

For Contractor: HEALTHCARE COST SOLUTIONS, LLC

*Bridget Gallagher*      1/14/2026  
Contractor Signature                      Date

Bridget Gallagher  
Contractor Name (please print)



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

By:  
President, Board of Supervisors, San Mateo County

Date:

ATTEST:

By:  
Clerk of Said Board

## Exhibit A

In consideration of the payments set forth in Exhibit B, Contractor shall provide the following services:

The Healthcare Cost Solutions Operations Manager will work with the San Mateo Medical Center contact to:

1. **Identify Sample** - Sample size is predetermined by the facility. Data file will be sent to the Healthcare Cost Solutions' Operations Manager and records will be randomly selected according to criteria established by San Mateo Medical Center.
2. **Review** – Once the records to be audited have been identified, the Healthcare Cost Solutions auditor(s) will be assigned at the start of each month to review the records.
3. **Submit Initial Findings** – Initial findings will be submitted to San Mateo Medical Center within 10 working days.
4. **Rebuttals** – San Mateo Medical Center to submit any rebuttals by the following week.
5. **Educational Session** – Healthcare Cost Solutions Auditor(s) will provide an education session to be held the last Thursday of every month or as convenient for San Mateo Medical Center.
6. **Finalization** – Healthcare Cost Solutions will provide a Finalized Report(s), individual coder reports, and CEU certificates the following day of the education session.

For Professional Coding Audits, some slight modifications to the above are:

- San Mateo Medical Center would provide a schedule of clinics to be audited by Healthcare Cost Solutions each month.
- Once all clinics are audited, Healthcare Cost Solutions will send a packet by facility at the end of the month which includes the individual Provider reports. San Mateo Medical Center would forward the appropriate reports to the physicians. The Healthcare Cost Solutions auditing staff is also available to provide education to the Providers if necessary or requested.

## Exhibit B

In consideration of the services provided by Contractor described in Exhibit A and subject to the terms of the Agreement, County shall pay Contractor based on the following fee schedule and terms:

Complimentary Physician Queries and access to the Healthcare Cost Solutions Online Library of Anatomy & Physiology, CPT, and ICD-10 Tutorials is provided to all HCS Clients:  
<https://www.hcsstat.com/course-menu/>

<b>Hospital Compliance Audits/ Reviews</b>	<b>Fee</b>
INPATIENT: MS-DRG Facility Charts (3-4 reviewed per hour)	\$195 / hour
INPATIENT: APR-DRG Facility Charts (2.5-4 reviewed per hour)	\$195 / hour
OUTPATIENT SURGERY: Facility Charts (5-6 reviewed per hour)	\$195 / hour
EMERGENCY: Facility Charts (8 reviewed per hour)	\$195 / hour
LONG TERM CARE (non-RUG Review): Facility Charts (3-4 per hour)	\$195 / hour
OBSERVATION (Non-Full APC): Facility Charts (3-4 per hour)	\$195 / hour
CODESTATS REVIEW: (impacts productivity by 15%)	\$195 / hour
Full APC with UB Review: (3-4 per hour)	\$195 / hour
<b>Physician Professional Fee Audits/ Reviews</b>	<b>Fee</b>
Review: (2-4 charts per hour)	\$195 / hour
<b>Education</b>	<b>Fee</b>
Online Tutorials and Physician Query Forms (clients only)	No Charge
Post-Audit Exit Conference with CEU (one hour per audit)	No Charge
Inquiries / Questions (email or phone support)	No Charge
Additional HIM Coding Staff Education with CEU / Consulting Services	\$195 / hour
Physician / Provider Education	\$195 / hour
<b>HIM Services</b>	<b>Fee</b>
RAC Reviews and Appeals	\$195/hour
Medical Necessity Review	TBD
Clinical Data Improvement (CDI)	\$125 / hour
Interim HIM Staffing at all levels	TBD

As of March 31, 2028, prices will increase by 4% to account for cost-of-living increases.

Productivity is presented as an estimate only. Contractor and facility reserve the right to revise the productivity, which may be affected by the number of findings, complexity of the chart, length of stay, speed of the facility system and/or remote connections. Outpatient PCS codes will not be reviewed unless requested and will further impact productivity.

Emergency Department Coding Audits that include infusions/injections and/or E&M level review will have lower productivity.

There are no up-front or advance fees. Invoicing will occur upon completion of each review. Payment terms are Net 30 days.

## **Exhibit C**

### Performance Metrics

County will measure Contractor performance of the services in accordance with the procedures set forth by the performance indicators below. Contractor acknowledges that the performance indicators are a reasonable minimum standard by which to measure Contractor performance of the services.

Monthly reports will be given to SMMC showing performance of audits 100% of the time.

## **EXHIBIT E**

### **CORPORATE COMPLIANCE SMMC CODE OF CONDUCT (THIRD PARTIES)**

Contractor recognizes and is fully dedicated to advancing San Mateo Medical Center's (SMMC) commitment to full compliance with all Federal, State, and other governmental health care program requirements, including its commitment to prepare and submit accurate claims consistent with such requirements.

Contractor will comply with all Federal, State or other governmental health care program requirements.

Contractor, to the extent its contractual duties require it to submit the reports covered in this paragraph, will promptly submit accurate information for Federal health care cost reports including, but not limited to, the requirement to submit accurate information regarding acute available bed count for Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payment.

Contractor will report to the SMMC Compliance Officer any suspected violation of any Federal health care program requirements within fifteen (15) days of discovery of the violation.

Contractor has the right to use the SMMC Disclosure Program by calling the Compliance Hotline at (800) 965-9775 or reporting incidents directly to the Compliance Officer. SMMC is committed to non-retaliation and will maintain, as appropriate, confidentiality and anonymity with respect to such disclosures.

Contractor understands that non-compliance with Federal and State health care program requirements, and failing to report any such violations, could result in termination of the Agreement and/or any other penalties as permitted by law.

Contractor is responsible for acquiring sufficient knowledge to recognize potential compliance issues applicable to the duties outlined in the Agreement and for appropriately seeking advice regarding such issues.

Contractor will not offer, give, or accept any "kickback," bribe, payment, gift, or thing of value to any person or entity with whom SMMC has or is seeking any business or regulatory relationship in relation to said business or regulatory relationship (other than payments authorized by law under such relationships). Contractor will promptly report the offering or receipt of such gifts to the SMMC Compliance Officer.

Contractor will not engage in any financial, business, or other activity which may interfere or appear to interfere with the performance of the duties under the Agreement or that involve the use of SMMC/County property, facilities, or resources.

Contractor will cooperate fully and honestly in the event that SMMC and/or County is audited by an outside agency including, but not limited to, compliance audits regarding enforcement of Federal and State regulations, any applicable accreditation standards, and/or SMMC system-wide policies.

***TO REPORT VIOLATIONS,  
CALL THE COMPLIANCE HOT LINE: (800) 965-9775***

Contractor, in executing this Agreement, certifies that an authorized representative has received this Code of Conduct, understands it, has authority to commit Contractor to this Code of Conduct, and has committed Contractor to comply with this Code of Conduct.

## Attachment H

### Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Business Associate Requirements

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#### DEFINITIONS

Terms used, but not otherwise defined, in this Schedule shall have the same meaning as those terms are defined in 45 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) sections 160.103, 164.304, and 164.501. All regulatory references in this Schedule are to Title 45 of the Code of Federal Regulations unless otherwise specified.

- a. **Business Associate.** "Business Associate" shall generally have the same meaning as the term "business associate" at 45 CFR 160.103, and in reference to the parties to this agreement shall mean Contractor.
- b. **Covered Entity.** "Covered entity" shall generally have the same meaning as the term "covered entity" at 45 CFR 160.103, and in reference to the party to this agreement shall mean County.
- c. **HIPAA Rules.** "HIPAA rules" shall mean the Privacy, Security, Breach Notification and Enforcement Rules at 45 CFR part 160 and part 164, as amended and supplemented by Subtitle D of the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.
- d. **Designated Record Set.** "Designated Record Set" shall have the same meaning as the term "designated record set" in Section 164.501.
- e. **Electronic Protected Health Information.** "Electronic Protected Health Information" (EPHI) means individually identifiable health information that is transmitted or maintained in electronic media; it is limited to the information created, received, maintained or transmitted by Business Associate from or on behalf of Covered Entity.
- f. **Individual.** "Individual" shall have the same meaning as the term "individual" in Section 164.501 and shall include a person who qualifies as a personal representative in accordance with Section 164.502(g).
- g. **Privacy Rule.** "Privacy Rule" shall mean the Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information at 45 CFR Part 160 and Part 164, Subparts A and E.
- h. **Protected Health Information.** "Protected Health Information" (PHI) shall have the same meaning as the term "protected health information" in Section 160.103 and is limited to the information created or received by Business Associate from or on behalf of County.
- i. **Required By Law.** "Required by law" shall have the same meaning as the term "required by law" in Section 164.103.
- j. **Secretary.** "Secretary" shall mean the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services or his or her designee.
- k. **Breach.** The acquisition, access, use, or disclosure of PHI in violation of the Privacy Rule that compromises the security or privacy of the PHI and subject to the exclusions set

forth in Section 164.402. Unless an exception applies, an impermissible use or disclosure of PHI *is presumed* to be a breach, unless it can be demonstrated there is a low probability that the PHI has been compromised based upon, at minimum, a four-part risk assessment:

1. Nature and extent of PHI included, identifiers and likelihood of re-identification;
  2. Identity of the unauthorized person or to whom impermissible disclosure was made;
  3. Whether PHI was actually viewed or only the opportunity to do so existed;
  4. The extent to which the risk has been mitigated.
- i. **Security Rule.** "Security Rule" shall mean the Security Standards for the Protection of Electronic Protected Health Information at 45 CFR Part 160 and Part 164, Subparts A and C.
- m. **Unsecured PHI.** "Unsecured PHI" is protected health information that is not rendered unusable, unreadable, or indecipherable to unauthorized individuals through the use of a technology or methodology specified by the Secretary in relevant HHS guidance.
- n. **Security Incident.** "Security Incident" shall mean the attempted or successful unauthorized access, use, disclosure, modification, or destruction of information or interference with systems operations in an information system. "Security Incident" includes all incidents that constitute breaches of unsecured protected health information.

#### **OBLIGATIONS AND ACTIVITIES OF CONTRACTOR AS BUSINESS ASSOCIATE**

- a. Business Associate agrees to not use or further disclose Protected Health Information other than as permitted or required by the Agreement or as required by law.
- b. Business Associate agrees to use appropriate safeguards to comply with Subpart C of 45 CFR part 164 with respect to EPHI and PHI, and to prevent the use or disclosure of the Protected Health Information other than as provided for by this Agreement.
- c. Business Associate agrees to make uses and disclosures requests for Protected Health Information consistent with minimum necessary policy and procedures.
- d. Business Associate may not use or disclose protected health information in a manner that would violate subpart E of 45 CFR part 164.504 if used or disclosed by Covered Entity.
- e. Business Associate agrees to mitigate, to the extent practicable, any harmful effect that is known to Business Associate of a use or disclosure of Protected Health Information by Business Associate in violation of the requirements of this Agreement.
- f. Business Associate agrees to report to County any use or disclosure of Protected Health Information not authorized by this Agreement.
- g. Business Associate agrees to ensure that any agent, including a subcontractor, to whom it provides Protected Health Information received from, or created or received by Business Associate on behalf of County, agrees to adhere to the same restrictions and conditions that apply through this Agreement to Business Associate with respect to such information.

- h. If Business Associate has Protected Health Information in a Designated Record Set, Business Associate agrees to provide access, at the request of County, and in the time and manner designated by County, to Protected Health Information in a Designated Record Set, to County or, as directed by County, to an Individual in order to meet the requirements under Section 164.524.
- i. If Business Associate has Protected Health Information in a Designated Record Set, Business Associate agrees to make any amendment(s) to Protected Health Information in a Designated Record Set that the County directs or agrees to make pursuant to Section 164.526 at the request of County or an Individual, and in the time and manner designed by County.
- j. Business Associate agrees to make internal practices, books, and records relating to the use and disclosure of Protected Health Information received from, or created or received by Business Associate on behalf of County, available to the County at the request of County or the Secretary, in a time and manner designated by the County or the Secretary, for purposes of the Secretary determining County's compliance with the Privacy Rule.
- k. Business Associate agrees to document such disclosures of Protected Health Information and information related to such disclosures as would be required for County to respond to a request by an Individual for an accounting of disclosures of Protected Health Information in accordance with Section 164.528.
- l. Business Associate agrees to provide to County or an Individual in the time and manner designated by County, information collected in accordance with Section (k) of this Schedule, in order to permit County to respond to a request by an Individual for an accounting of disclosures of Protected Health Information in accordance with Section 164.528.
- m. Business Associate shall implement administrative, physical, and technical safeguards that reasonably and appropriately protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of EPHI that Business Associate creates, receives, maintains, or transmits on behalf of County.
- n. Business Associate shall conform to generally accepted system security principles and the requirements of the final HIPAA rule pertaining to the security of health information.
- o. Business Associate shall ensure that any agent to whom it provides EPHI, including a subcontractor, agrees to implement reasonable and appropriate safeguards to protect such EPHI.
- p. Business Associate shall report to County any Security Incident within three (3) business days of becoming aware of such incident. Business Associate shall also facilitate breach notification(s) to the appropriate governing body (i.e. HHS, OCR, etc.) as required by law. As appropriate and after consulting with County, Business Associate shall also notify affected individuals and the media of a qualifying breach.
- q. Business Associate understands that it is directly liable under the HIPAA rules and subject to civil and, in some cases, criminal penalties for making uses and disclosures

of Protected Health Information that are not authorized by this Attachment, the underlying contract as or required by law.

#### **PERMITTED USES AND DISCLOSURES BY CONTRACTOR AS BUSINESS ASSOCIATE**

Except as otherwise limited in this Schedule, Business Associate may use or disclose Protected Health Information to perform functions, activities, or services for, or on behalf of, County as specified in the Agreement; provided that such use or disclosure would not violate the Privacy Rule if done by County.

#### **OBLIGATIONS OF COUNTY**

- a. County shall provide Business Associate with the notice of privacy practices that County produces in accordance with Section 164.520, as well as any changes to such notice.
- b. County shall provide Business Associate with any changes in, or revocation of, permission by Individual to use or disclose Protected Health Information, if such changes affect Business Associate's permitted or required uses and disclosures.
- c. County shall notify Business Associate of any restriction to the use or disclosure of Protected Health Information that County has agreed to in accordance with Section 164.522.

#### **PERMISSIBLE REQUESTS BY COUNTY**

County shall not request Business Associate to use or disclose Protected Health Information in any manner that would not be permissible under the Privacy Rule if so requested by County, unless the Business Associate will use or disclose Protected Health Information for, and if the Agreement provides for, data aggregation or management and administrative activities of Business Associate.

#### **DUTIES UPON TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT**

- a. Upon termination of the Agreement, for any reason, Business Associate shall return or destroy all Protected Health Information received from County, or created, maintained, or received by Business Associate on behalf of County, that Business Associate still maintains in any form. This provision shall apply to Protected Health Information that is in the possession of subcontractors or agents of Business Associate. Business Associate shall retain no copies of the Protected Health Information.
- b. In the event that Business Associate determines that returning or destroying Protected Health Information is infeasible, Business Associate shall provide to County notification of the conditions that make return or destruction infeasible. Upon mutual agreement of the Parties that return or destruction of Protected Health Information is infeasible, Business Associate shall extend the protections of the Agreement to such Protected Health Information and limit further uses and disclosures of such Protected Health

Information to those purposes that make the return or destruction infeasible, for so long as Business Associate maintains such Protection Health Information.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

- a. **Regulatory References.** A reference in this Schedule to a section in the HIPAA Privacy Rule means the section as in effect or as amended, and for which compliance is required.
- b. **Amendment.** The Parties agree to take such action as is necessary to amend this Schedule from time to time as is necessary for County to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Rule and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, Public Law 104-191.
- c. **Survival.** The respective rights and obligations of Business Associate under this Schedule shall survive the termination of the Agreement.
- d. **Interpretation.** Any ambiguity in this Schedule shall be resolved in favor of a meaning that permits County to comply with the Privacy Rule.
- e. **Reservation of Right to Monitor Activities.** County reserves the right to monitor the security policies and procedures of Business Associate.

# COUNTY OF SAN MATEO



## Vendor/Contractor Access Policy

Policy Update: 10/22/2018

### Overview

Vendors/Contractors play an important role in the support of hardware and software management for San Mateo County. They may be required to access, configure, maintain, and provide emergency support for systems. As a result, the vendor/contractor can be exposed to sensitive data or the need to connect to the County's network may expose the County to unwanted virus or security threats.

### Policy Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish rules and responsibilities for the vendors/contractors who require not only physical access but also access to the County's network and information resources. This policy is intended to minimize potential exposure from damages and to mitigate any liability to the County as a result of unauthorized use.

### Scope

This policy applies to all vendors/contractors who require access to County facilities as well as access to the County's network using non-County owned computing devices to perform work on behalf of the County. This policy also applies to all portable computers (laptops) and portable computing devices (devices that have similar hardware and software components used in personal computers such as a tablet PC).

### Policy

Vendor/contractors shall:

- A. Only use information and systems for the purpose of the business agreement with County and any information acquired in the course of the agreement shall not be used for personal purposes or divulged to others.
- B. All contractors and vendors contracting with the County shall provide a list of its employees that require access to the County's system and data pursuant to the agreement
  1. The list shall be updated and provided to the Departments and Chief Information Officer (CIO) or his/her designee within 24 hours of staff changes.
- C. Safeguard all County data by:
  1. Utilizing data encryption to protect information on computing devices.
  2. Securing the computing device at all times; especially if the device is left unattended for any length of time.

3. Implementing precautions to prevent others from viewing on-screen data in public areas.
  4. Notifying the County immediately if the mobile device containing County data or used in the performance of County activities is lost or stolen.
  5. Not downloading, uploading, or maintaining, on a computing device, any information that is considered sensitive without authorization of his/her Project Manager or Department Head or his/her designee.
- D. Vendor/contractor shall use unique accounts and password management that complies with the County's Information Technology (IT) Security Policy.
1. All passwords and accounts shall be unique to the vendor/contractor and shall not be shared.
- E. Vendor/Contractor shall take reasonable steps to protect against the installation of unlicensed or malicious software.
1. All commercial software installed must have a valid license and that the terms, conditions, and copyright laws shall be strictly followed.
- F. All County-owned software installed on the computing device must be removed when the vendor/contractor services are terminated.
1. Upon termination of work, the vendor/contractor shall return or destroy all County information and data as well as provide written certification of that return or destruction within 24 hours.
- G. Remote access rules and procedures shall be strictly adhered to.
1. Remote access usage must be confined to provide support for County systems; personal use shall be strictly prohibited.
- H. In the event that a vendor/contractor disposes of a computing device containing County's confidential information and/or data, the device must be sanitized in such a way that does not allow for the retrieval of data and by Department of Defense (DOD) standards.
1. Alternatively, computing devices may be physically destroyed by a method that leaves the device's data unrecoverable.
- I. Vendor/contractor understands that its written security protocols for County-related business shall be available for inspection by the County upon request.
1. For the period that the computing device is on the County's network, there is no expectation of privacy with regard to the contents of the device despite the fact that it is a privately-owned equipment.
- J. Vendors/contractors must wear visible identification and if issued a County cardkey, the cardkey must be visible at all times. Use of another individual's cardkey is expressly prohibited.
- K. Vendor/Contractor access to County data center(s) must be authorized and approved in writing by the Chief Information Officer (CIO) or his/her designee.

## **Responsibilities**

The vendor/contractor will be responsible for assuring that anti-virus software, with scanning and update services be applied, is installed on its computing device used for County business and that the anti-virus software meets the requirements as set forth in the County's IT Security Policy and the Virus, Patch, and Vulnerability Management Policy. Vendor must also ensure that all computing devices have operating system security patches installed and are updated on a regular basis.

Additionally, computing devices, such as laptops and/or tablets, must include an approved encryption program with configuration that meets or exceeds the County's IT Security Policy.

Vendor/Contractor device(s) may connect directly to the County network with express written approval from the CIO or his/her designee. The Vendor/Contractor must verify to the County that the device(s) have been patched, virus protected, and encrypted. Vendors using devices without approved software and encryption will not be permitted to connect to the County's network.

It is also the responsibility of the vendor/contractor to be familiar with the following policies to ensure its adherence:

- IT Security Policy
- Internet Usage Policy
- Email Policy (if applicable)
- Virus, Patch, and Vulnerability Management Policy
- Data Center Policy

### **Policy Enforcement**

The Director of ISD (CIO) is the policy administrator for information technology resources and will ensure this process is followed. Additionally, Division Directors, Department Heads, and managers are responsible for compliance with County policy within their respective administrative areas.

Those vendors who violate this policy may be subject to contract termination, denial of service, and/or legal penalties, both criminal and civil.

### **Revision History**

<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>Changes Made</b>
November 1, 2004	Policy established
October 22, 2018	Policy updated