

JUSTIFICATION FOR OTHER THAN FULL AND OPEN COMPETITION

1. Contracting Activity: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Office of Acquisition Operations
Technology Acquisition Center
23 Christopher Way
Eatontown, NJ 07724

2. Description of Action: The proposed sole source action is for a firm-fixed price new work modification issued under contract number VA118-14-C-0030 to Avicenna Medical Systems, Inc. (Avicenna).

3. Description of the Supplies or Services: The proposed modification is to provide eight upgraded Medication Reconciliation (MedRec) Tool licenses for VA Medical Centers under VA, Veterans Health Administration (VHA), Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 10. Installation of this upgrade at the Medical Centers will connect and flow to the 30 Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC) also within VISN 10. These Medical Centers and CBOC facilities were formerly under VISN 11 at the time of contract award. VISN 10 and VISN 11 have since been combined into VISN 10 under the MyVA reorganization. The MedRec Tool provides for the ability for VA to combine lists of all medications from multiple sources into a single, easy to manage, master list. The medications are logically ordered so that the user can efficiently and accurately reconcile medications at patient admission and discharge. The MedRec Tool allows the provider to generate patient-friendly lists specifying new, changed, or discontinued medications. This software upgrade under MedRec Tool Version 1.1 will provide for a D/C Navigator. This D/C Navigator contains all the steps required to produce discharge documentation for the patient and physician. In addition, the contractor will provide webinar training of approximately two hours per VA Medical Center site for instruction on the subject navigation tool. The total estimated price of the proposed modification is REDACTED for MedRec Tool Version 1.1 and the webinar training. All software maintenance and technical support for the subject software shall be included and continue concurrently under the existing contract at no additional cost to the Government. The contract's period of performance is April 23, 2014 through April 22, 2017, inclusive of a 12 month base period and two 12 month option periods for continued training and software maintenance support.

4. Authority: The statutory authority permitting other than full and open competition is 41 U.S.C.3304(a)(1) as implemented by the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Subpart 6.302-1 entitled, "Only One Responsible Source and No Other Supplies or Services Will Satisfy Agency Requirements."

Justification and Approval – Medication Reconciliation Tool Software Upgrade

5. Rationale Supporting Use of Authority Cited Above: Contract VA118-14-C-0030 was awarded to Avicenna, located at 3090 DHU Varren Court, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105 on April 23, 2014 to provide for the initial deployment, training, help desk support, and software maintenance support of the MedRec Tool. Avicenna, with assistance from VA software developers, conceived, developed, tested, and implemented the MedRec Tool at the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System. The MedRec Tool was created specifically for the VISN 10 Veteran Health Information Systems Technology and Architecture (VistA) medication reconciliation software tool. The MedRec Tool is the only known tool that can be fully integrated with the VistA/ Computerized Patient Record System (CPRS). The tool also provides the capability to assist with VA specific workflow for all health providers such as special lists for clinical pharmacists that allow them to determine which specific medications a patient may need upon discharge. These lists have been specifically designed to pull information from the VA pharmacy and would not be included in a standard medication reconciliation product. The ability for the tool to interface with VistA/CPRS and incorporate VA specific provider workflow is vital as the end product list needs to pull and push information between VistA/CPRS and the software tool in order to promote patient safety. The proprietary MedRec Tool was customized specifically and uniquely for VA to be used with and integrated into the VistA/CPRS. The MedRec Tool is the only known tool that aggregates medications from multiple VA sites, i.e., other VA medical centers and outpatient clinics, inpatient medications, outpatient medications, suspended/inactive/expired medications, non-VA medications, as well as remote medications found in the separate program VistA Web. The tool then constructs an intuitive single display of medications which allows for a complete, efficient and rational review of a patient's entire prescription medication history and is the basis for perfect reconciliation of these medications. Prior to possessing this capability, pharmacists and physicians using CPRS had to reconcile medications by frequently relying on incongruent medication lists, which increased the potential of committing a significant medication error and jeopardizing patient safety.

The upgrade of the eight MedRec Tool licenses to Version 1.1 will provide for the addition of the D/C Navigator. As stated above, the D/C Navigator contains all the steps required to produce discharge documentation for the patient and physician. It allows for different VA end users to complete different sections of the discharge documentation at different times throughout the discharge process, which no other software tool has the capability of performing. This workflow process allows for a quicker and more reliable way to complete a patient's discharge. At the end of the discharge process, the D/C Navigator sends all generated notation automatically to its corresponding place in CPRS, avoiding potential errors. This software tool upgrade will further VA's Medication Reconciliation Task Force on The Joint Commission National Patient Safety Goal (NPSG) 3.06.01 (Improve the safety of using medications: Maintain and Communicate Accurate Patient Medication Information). To comply with NPSG 3.06.01, VA must define the types of medication information necessary in the

Justification and Approval – Medication Reconciliation Tool Software Upgrade

medication reconciliation process to ensure safe communication of medication information among members of the health care team, Veterans, and caregivers. Hospital admission and discharge are times where the risk of medication error is high because patients often do not have a complete list of prescribed medications, they may be too sick to accurately report what they are taking, and/or multiple changes can occur in prescribed medications during the time period of hospital admission and discharge. This software tool upgrade will provide for the most updated version of the MedRec Tool to healthcare providers to prevent potential adverse medication errors.

6. Efforts to Obtain Competition: Market research was conducted, details of which are in section 8 of this justification. This effort did not yield any additional sources that can meet the Government's requirements. There is no competition anticipated for this acquisition. In accordance with FAR 5.201, the proposed action will be synopsisized on the Federal Business Opportunities website. Any proposals received shall be evaluated.

7. Actions to Increase Competition: In order to remove or overcome barriers to competition in future acquisitions for this requirement, the Government's technical experts will continue to perform market research to determine if there are emerging products available that will enable future requirements to be competed.

8. Market Research: Market research was conducted by the Government's technical experts from October 2015 through December 2015 to determine whether any new medication reconciliation software tool products had been developed that could provide the technical capabilities that VA requires and meet interoperability requirements to integrate with both the existing Avicenna proprietary MedRec Tool currently in use and VistA/CPRS. VHA technical experts reviewed all other similar software tools, specifically the First Data Bank (FDB) MedsTracker and Health Care Systems, Inc. (HCS) Medication Reconciliation applications. While these products offer similar functionality to Avicenna's MedRec Tool, VHA's technical experts determined that none of these products could meet the interoperability requirements with VistA/CPRS. Additionally, neither of these products offer similar functionality to the D/C Navigator that would be compatible with VA's current MedRec Tool already installed throughout VISN 10. In addition, both the FDB MedsTracker and HCS Medical Reconciliation applications do not have the capabilities to perform automatic updates from within VA patient records to the provider for end user viewing and both applications are not capable of retrieving medication history from other VistA locations for consolidation into one record. Additionally, these two applications do not allow for the generation of medication lists that a patient receives prior to their appointment and consolidation upon completion of the appointment. Based upon this research it was determined that these products do not provide for VA's technical requirements.

Justification and Approval – Medication Reconciliation Tool Software Upgrade

9. Other Facts: None.