

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Justification and Approval
For
Other Than Full and Open Competition

1.Contracting Activity: Department of Veterans Affairs, VISN 15 Eastern Kansas Healthcare System- Dwight D Eisenhower VA Medical Center, 4101 4th Street Tfwy, Leavenworth, KS 66048-5014 & Colmery-ONEil VA Medical Center, 2200 SW Gage Blvd, Topeka, KS 66622-0002.
2237#-589-13-2-2751-0029

We wish to renew our subscription with Up-To-Date to provide research capabilities for our providers and Continuing Medical Education (CME) for our medical staff. In addition, staff would be able to earn CME/CE/CPD credit each time they research a clinical question.

UpToDate is the only clinical knowledge resource with scientific studies published in high-quality peer reviewed journals demonstrating an impact on patient safety, reduced hospital complications, improved hospital efficiency, and improved medical knowledge acquisition. An independent study recently published has also demonstrated reduced mortality among hospitals that use *UpToDate* after adjusting for other factors. Furthermore, a number of studies have demonstrated that providers adopt *UpToDate* spontaneously, use it heavily and increasingly over time and save substantial amounts of time each week (40 minutes to more than two hours) compared with other means of finding information. Studies evaluating preferences when many knowledge resources are available have consistently demonstrated a preference for *UpToDate*.

The mission of UpToDate is to help clinicians provide the best possible care for their patients. Their editorial board of over 5,100 authors, editors, and peer reviewers contribute to this mission by writing and continuously updating over 9,500 topics across 19 specialties addressing questions that arise in clinical practice. In addition to comprehensive presentation of the evidence, each topic offers practical, detailed, and evidence-based recommendations that clinicians can use at the point of care. There is no question that UpToDate offers the most current, authoritative and easily accessible information available on a clinical topic.

UpToDate is now available in most internal medicine subspecialties as well as adult primary care, family medicine, obstetrics and gynecology and pediatrics.

The program/contract provides:

1. Unlimited access for all EASTERN KANSAS VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM users from any facility within EASTERN KANSAS VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.
2. Remote access to *UpToDate* for EASTERN KANSAS VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM users from any web-enabled computer via Athens or VPN. * requires additional licensing
3. Unlimited accrual of CME credits for all MD, DO, NP & PA credentialed users.* requires additional licensing

The unlimited accrual of CME credits saves time and money by fulfilling your CME/CE/CPD requirement without having to leave the office or home. Credits can be earned and electronic certificates printed. Accrued credits can be redeemed for up to two years and may be processed at any time during the use of the program. Employees can code these in their TMS training record and/or maintain their certificates for their licensing renewal. This also provides administrators with documentation on credits earned and issues of clinical interest.

Purchase order number: 589-12-2-2751-0029 Period of Performance is 1/1/13-12/31/13. Cost for the year is \$33,476 (quote attached). With 3 option years ultimate end date 12/31/2016; Total cost \$159,992.00.

2. Nature and/or Description of the Action Being Processed:

This program has been used by EKHCS in the past to research clinical information as well as patient education information.

By adding the CME capability, providers can meet CME requirements without travel.

Physicians are under increased pressure, but have limited time, to engage in continuing medical education (CME), so this is a unique solution to this problem. It allows providers to earn CME while researching clinical questions.

This program is especially conducive to a multi-site system as VA Eastern Kansas, with two medical centers located 70 miles apart, as well as 10 separate Community Based Outreach Clinics (CBOCs). The distance learning program specifically suits our needs.

3. Description of Supplies/Services Required to Meet the Agency's Needs:

Up-To-Date will provide clinicians with current answers to clinical questions and access the most current information on any aspect of allergy and immunology, recognize the clinical manifestations of disorders and describe current options for diagnosis, management and therapy, including the efficacy, doses, and interactions of individual drugs. In addition, they can access the treatment and desensitization protocols used by experts in specific disorders.

All of the topics are written exclusively for UpToDate by clinicians for clinicians. Thousands of clinicians serve as authors, editors and peer reviewers. The content is comprehensive and fully referenced and is subject to an extensive peer review process to ensure that the information and recommendations are accurate and reliable.

The program covers the following areas:

- Adult and Pediatric Emergency Medicine
- Adult Primary Care and Internal Medicine
- Allergy and Immunology
- Cardiovascular Medicine
- Dermatology
- Endocrinology and Diabetes
- Family Medicine and General Practice
- Gastroenterology and Hepatology
- General Surgery
- Geriatrics
- Hematology
- Hospital Medicine
- Infectious Diseases
- Nephrology and Hypertension

- Neurology
- Obstetrics; Gynecology; and Women's Health
- Oncology
- Pediatrics
- Psychiatry
- Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine
- Rheumatology

This meets our agency needs, by providing accessibility to Continuing Medical Education and Continuing Education units for physicians, psychiatrists, nurses, nurse practitioners and physician assistants. Training modules are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, so it also reaches staff on all tours.

4. Statutory Authority Permitting Other than Full and Open Competition:

- (1) Only One Responsible Source and No Other Supplies or Services Will Satisfy Agency Requirements per FAR 6.302-1;
- (2) Unusual and Compelling Urgency per FAR 6.302-2;
- (3) Industrial Mobilization, Engineering, Developmental or Research Capability or Expert Services per FAR 6.302-3;
- (4) International Agreement per FAR 6.302-4
- (5) Authorized or Required by Statute FAR 6.302-5;
- (6) National Security per FAR 6.302-6;
- (7) Public Interest per FAR 6.302-7;

5. Demonstration that the Contractor's Unique Qualifications or Nature of the Acquisition Requires the Use of the Authority Cited Above (applicability of authority):

UpToDate currently has over 9,000 unique Topic Reviews with 7,700 graded recommendations spanning over 57 medical specialties and subspecialties. The number and breadth of *UpToDate*'s topic reviews is far greater than other resources. The quality and accuracy of *UpToDate* has been recognized through the endorsement of several leading U.S. medical societies.

UpToDate patient information is unique in that the material is evidence-based, regularly revised, state-of-the-art, written at two reading levels and concordant with our professional level material. Thus, patients and doctors can actively participate in shared decision making. *UpToDate* currently provides over 830 unique patient information topics.

Unlike many other knowledge resources, *UpToDate* presents the clinician with synthesized content; one-stop shopping for a clear and concise answer. *UpToDate* is unique in that we provide evidenced based, graded *recommendations* throughout our content. By contrast, other services offer aggregation of many information resources such as textbooks or journal articles, leaving the clinician to choose among them.

UpToDate includes over 5,000 fully integrated Drug Monographs and a drug-drug/drug-herb interaction module provided in conjunction with Lexi-Comp databases Lexi-Drugs, Pediatric Lexi-Drugs, Lexi-Interact, Lexi-Patient Education, Lexi-Natural Products and Lexi-Drugs International. Our Drug Monographs include pricing information,

UpToDate provides 125 evidenced-based medical calculators.

Only *UpToDate* provides integrated and direct links from our topic search results to VisualDX. Users are redirected from *UpToDate* directly into VisualDX to relevant images.

UpToDate authors and editors review over 460 different medical journals to make sure we are providing the most current, evidenced based, peer reviewed information. Every topic in *UpToDate* is reviewed for accuracy and updated as changes in medicine occur. At the top of each Topic Review *UpToDate* clearly states when the literature was last reviewed and when the topic itself was last updated. Many resources claim to be continuously updated but do not provide this level of disclosure.

UpToDate is the only clinical knowledge system associated with improved health outcomes!

A 2011 Study by Harvard University researchers showed an association between the adoption of UpToDate and improved outcomes:

- Lower mortality - 11,500 lives saved over a three-year period
- Shorter length of stay - 372,500 hospital days saved per year
- Improved hospital quality - better quality performance for every condition on the Hospital Quality Alliance metrics

Up-To-Date is cost efficient compared to bringing in a speaker for a program (at least \$750 per episode) or attending an outside conference (at least \$1500 on average in travel costs and tuition costs substantially higher per credit hour). This program also satisfies the growing state requirements for re-licensure, maintenance of certification required for the various specialties and documents the CME/CEU activities.

This is a unique opportunity of learning for our providers. It is available for them at their desk top or at home at any time of day and provides easily accessible and up to date clinical information and can be used while researching clinical questions. The programs help physicians remain current and improve their patient outcomes.

Many resources offer CME credit accrual but *UpToDate* has the distinction of being an accredited provider of point-of-care CME by the ACCME. Users are awarded ACCME Accredited AMA Category I CME for each search performed. There are no third party submissions, no additional fees and no testing required. UpToDate is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians, accredited by The College of Family Physicians of Canada to provide continuing medical education to Mainpro® participants, and is approved as a provider of nurse practitioner continuing education by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. We offer AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™, AAFP Prescribed credit, AANP contact hours, AAP credit, AAPA equivalent credit, ACEP credit, ACOG cognate credit, AOA credit, CFPC Mainpro®-M1 credit, RACP credits, and RANZCOG points.

UpToDate has been accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education since 2000. In 2012, UpToDate received Accreditation with Commendation. This is ACCME's highest award status, reflecting compliance with not only ACCME's core criteria, but also the additional commendation criteria which demonstrate engagement with the environment to further physician learning and change.

In addition, we know that our computer system is compatible with the Up-to-Date system. Other opportunities have been researched in the past. Dynamed is another program similar to Up-to-date; however it doesn't offer Continuing Medical Education. Other programs such as MD Consult has textbooks and journals, however does not have the research capabilities that Up-To-Date has available. It will be beneficial and less intrusive to add CME services through Up-to-Date. Up-to -Date online services is preferred by physician and medical staff at the facility. It is used at all the VAMC and CBOC's in VISN 15.

6. Description of Efforts Made to ensure that offers are solicited from as many potential sources as deemed practicable:

UpToDate is the exclusive online diagnostic and treatment tool that is used by clinicians and those involved in direct patient care. It is used exclusively within VISN 15 and in a continuing effort to standardize the resources within the eastern side of the VISN we have chosen UpToDate as the tool to provide this type of information.

7. Determination by the Contracting Officer that the Anticipated Cost to the Government will be Fair and Reasonable:

Over the past years, this program has provided EKHS with a valuable and flexible research tool. We are requesting to add the CME/CEU program. The price is set for the facility for one year and isn't dependent on usage. The base price for an annual subscription for on On-Site Plus Password-Authenticated Remote Subscription to UpToDate is \$47,031.00. This price quote reflects a 25% federal discount. This is the first year adding CME/CEU's to the subscription.

8. Description of the Market Research Conducted and the Results, or a Statement of the Reasons Market Research Was Not Conducted:

Up-To-Date is cost efficient compared to bringing in a speaker for a program (at least \$750 per episode) or attending an outside conference (at least \$1500 on average in travel costs and tuition costs substantially higher per credit hour). This program also satisfies the growing state requirements for re-licensure as well as documents the CME/CEU activities.

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10. Listing of Sources that Expressed, in Writing, an Interest in the Acquisition: N/A

11. A Statement of the Actions, if any, the Agency May Take to Remove or Overcome any Barriers to Competition before Making subsequent acquisitions for the supplies or services required

No actions are planned at this time as this program has met EKHCS needs and is supported by our Medical Center Director and Chief of Staff. We are not aware of any other vendors offering the quality of programs we need for our providers and that offer the appropriate and necessary accreditations. Also, it is compatible with our computer system.

12. Requirements Certification: I certify that the requirement outlined in this justification is a Bona Fide Need of the Department of Veterans Affairs and that the supporting data under my cognizance, which are included in the justification, are accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Rosemarie Adkins

Name

Title Librarian

Facility

Eastern Kansas Health Care System

Dec 14, 2012

Date

13. Approvals in accordance with FAR 6.304

a. Contracting Officer's Certification: (required) I certify that the foregoing justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.


CLIFFORD LAWSON
CONTRACTING OFFICER
VISN 15

12-14-12
Date

b. NCM/PCM : I certify the justification meets requirements for other than full and open competition.


BERNADETTE COTHERN
NETWORK CONTRACT MANAGER
VISN 15

12-19-2012
Date