

Exhibit 1. NHIS Pretest Sample – Round 1 Pre-Notification Letter

February 1, 2006

Dear Resident:

Last year, your household was interviewed by the Census Bureau for a study about health and medical care conducted for the U.S. Public Health Service. We sincerely thank you for your participation in that important effort. Results from that survey are being used to monitor the state of the nation's health.

We are sending this letter because we need your help again in a companion study, the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS). Getting and paying for health care is a matter of continuing concern to people in all parts of the country. This study – MEPS – provides the most detailed and reliable information available today about health care services and their costs. Because MEPS collects data over an extended period of time, it can provide up-to-date information on changes occurring in our health care system. MEPS data help researchers and public officials understand these changes and how they affect the way people get and pay for health care.

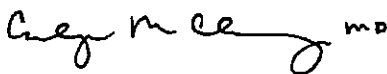
Your household was chosen for the study through a scientific process that enables us to build an accurate picture of health care experiences of people in all parts of the country. Each selected household is extremely valuable to the study. Once selected, a household – and the story of its health care experience – cannot be replaced. Participation in the study is voluntary, but accurate results depend on the willing cooperation of households like yours.

MEPS households participate in a series of interviews spread over a year and a half to two year period. Households receive \$25 for the time and effort associated with each interview. The privacy of the survey participants is protected throughout the study. By law, any information collected in the study that would identify individual participants must be kept confidential.¹

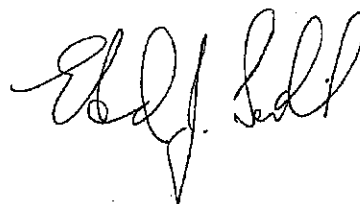
The enclosed brochure answers some commonly asked questions about MEPS. We will be contacting you again soon with more information. In the meantime, you can learn more about MEPS by visiting our web site at <http://www.meps.ahrq.gov> or by calling Alex Scott, a study representative, at the following toll-free number: 1-800-945-6377. You may also send an email to AlexScott@westat.com.

We look forward to having you as part of this important study.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Clancy, M.D.
Director
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality



Edward J. Sondik, Ph.D.
Director
National Center for Health Statistics
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

P.S. Please use the enclosed change of address card to notify us of any change or correction to your address

¹ This survey is authorized under Section 902(a) of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 299a]. The confidentiality of personal information is protected by Federal Statutes, Section 924(c) and Section 308(d) of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 299c-3(c) and 242m(d)]. This law prohibits release of personal information outside the public health agencies sponsoring the survey or their contractors without first obtaining permission from the person who gave the information.

Exhibit 2. NHIS Pretest Sample – Round 1 Monthly Planner and Video Letter

February 7, 2006

Dear Resident,

Recently we sent a letter notifying you that you have been selected to participate in the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS). The study is conducted by the U.S. Public Health Service to obtain comprehensive and reliable information about health care services and the cost of health care in the United States.

The items in this package provide additional information about the study. They include:

- a short, 10-minute DVD about MEPS;
- a companion booklet that summarizes the DVD presentation; and
- a monthly planner (calendar) that you can use to keep notes about your health care. (These notes, or other available records, can help the interview go more smoothly.)

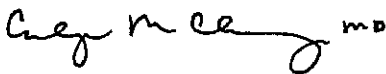
MEPS participants provide information about their health care experiences through a series of 3 to 5 interviews. The interviews are conducted in your home, at a time convenient to you. On average, the interviews take between 1 and 1 1/2 hours. Information you give during the interviews is combined with the information gathered from the other selected households to create a comprehensive picture of how people in this country use and pay for their health care. Information collected in this study is considered confidential; without your permission, release of information that would identify a participant is prohibited by law.¹

The enclosed \$5.00 is for taking time to review the materials in this package. You will receive an additional \$25.00 for the time and effort of participating in each of the MEPS interviews.

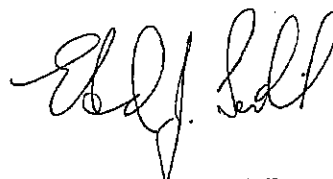
A MEPS interviewer will be contacting you in the next several weeks to answer any questions you may have about the study. The first interview will be conducted some time between May 1 and June 15. Two weeks prior to this time period, we will mail you a letter to remind you of the MEPS interview. If you would like to speak with a study representative before then, please call Alex Scott at our toll free number: 1-800-945-6377 or send an email to AlexScott@westat.com. More information is also available at the study web site: <http://www.meps.ahrq.gov>.

Thank you for your help in this important research effort.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Clancy, M.D.
Director
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality



Edward J. Sondik, Ph.D.
Director
National Center for Health Statistics
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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Exhibit 3. NHIS Pretest Sample – Round 1 Advance Letter

April 17, 2006

Dear Resident,

Interviewing for the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) is about to start. Within a few weeks, you should be contacted about your first interview.

We want to thank you in advance for participating in this important national study. You will be helping us provide researchers and public officials with accurate and timely information about how people across the country obtain and pay for health care.


In early February, you should have received a package of materials related to the study. The package included a 10-minute DVD and a companion booklet, plus a monthly planner (calendar) that can be used to keep notes about your health care. As the video explains, the interview usually goes more smoothly if you can refer to notes or other records. If you need another copy of any of these items, your interviewer will be happy to provide them.

We also want to assure you again that privacy is a priority for this study and that the confidentiality of information given to the study is protected by law.¹

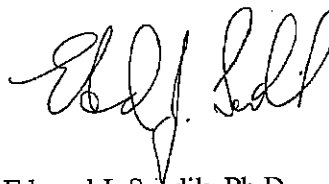
To learn more about the study before your interviewer contacts you, you can visit our website (<http://www.meps.ahrq.gov>) or speak with Alex Scott at the following toll free number: 1-800-945-MEPS (6377). You may also send an email to AlexScott@westat.com.

Your participation is important to MEPS. The interviewer who contacts you will be happy to answer your questions and to arrange the interview at a time convenient for you. We greatly appreciate your help.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Clancy, M.D.
Director
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality



Edward J. Sondik, Ph.D.
Director
National Center for Health Statistics
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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Exhibit 4. NHIS Pretest Sample – Round 2 Advance Letter

August 2006

Dear MEPS Participant,

Thank you for cooperating with the U.S. Public Health Service by taking part in the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey. MEPS delivers the most comprehensive and timely information available on health care in this country. Your continued support of MEPS provides an invaluable service in understanding the rapidly changing nature of health care and costs in today's society. We are writing to let you know it will soon be time for your next MEPS interview. An interviewer will contact you in the near future to schedule an appointment.

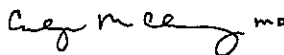
As part of our on-going health care system evaluation, MEPS is particularly interested in people's opinions about the quality of their own care. So, prior to your next personal interview, we would like you to answer some questions about your health and health care by filling out a short opinion booklet. If there are other adults in the household, you will find additional booklets labeled for them to complete.

All opinions are confidential and will be used to enhance the information collected by MEPS.¹


After completing the booklet(s) please store them in the enclosed envelope. Your interviewer will collect the envelope at the time of your personal interview. To ensure that everyone is compensated for his/her time, each person who completes a booklet will receive a \$5 check from the interviewer. Of course, you will also receive the \$25 payment at the conclusion of the in-person interview as compensation for the time you spend keeping records for the next interview.

Thank you in advance for being such an active participant in the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey. If you have any questions about the opinion booklet or your upcoming interview, please call Alex Scott at 1-800-945-MEPS or send an e-mail to AlexScott@westat.com. To learn more about the study, you may visit the study website at <http://www.meps.ahrq.gov>.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Clancy, M.D.
Director
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality



Edward J. Sondik, Ph.D.
Director
National Center for Health Statistics

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Exhibit 5. NHIS Pretest Sample – Round 3 Monthly Planner Mailing

December 2006

Dear Friend,


On behalf of the U.S. Public Health Service, we would like to express our sincere appreciation for your continuing participation in the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS). We appreciate your commitment to this effort. The information you have provided thus far has already been combined with information from thousands of households across the country who also have participated in MEPS. Health care researchers are using this information to learn about the rapidly changing American health care system.

The MEPS project has included a 2007 monthly planner in this package for you to keep track of your health care events and expenses for the year. Remember, the use of this monthly planner is strictly up to you. Please feel free to use whatever record-keeping system you find to be most helpful. As before, a reminder letter will be sent to you before the next interview, which is planned for April or May of 2007. An interviewer will contact you to schedule your next interview. As you know, your participation in this research effort is vital to obtaining complete and accurate information about America's health care system. At the conclusion of the in-person interview, you will receive payment in the amount of \$25 as compensation for the time you spend keeping records for the next interview.

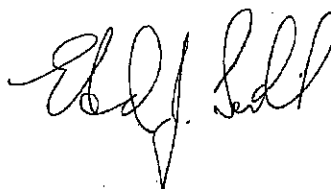
Enclosed in this mailing is a postcard to notify us of any address or phone number changes before the next interview.

Thank you again for your valuable participation in this important research effort.¹ To learn more about the study, you may visit the study website at: <http://www.meps.ahrq.gov>. If you would like to talk to a survey representative before your next interview, please call Alex Scott at 1-800-945-MEPS (6377) or send an email to AlexScott@westat.com.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Clancy, M.D.
Director
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality



Edward J. Sondik, Ph.D.
Director
National Center for Health Statistics
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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Exhibit 6. NHIS Pretest Sample – Round 3 Advance Letter

March 2007

Dear MEPS Participant,

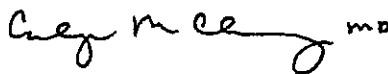
This is just a reminder that a representative from the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) will contact you to schedule your next interview. During the past year your continued participation in this important study has been invaluable for researchers and national policy makers. Findings from MEPS will affect major decisions concerning health care and health insurance coverage in the United States. Your household was selected for this survey through a scientific process; you cannot be replaced by another. You will receive payment in the amount of \$25 as compensation for the time you spend keeping records for the next interview.

In December last year you should have received a MEPS Monthly Planner designed to help with this year's record keeping. Remember, the use of this planner is completely up to you. Please feel free to use whatever method of record keeping is most convenient for you. If you have not received your Monthly Planner and would like one, please let your interviewer know when you are called to set up your next interview. If you need to speak with someone before then, please call our survey representative, Alex Scott at 1-800-945 MEPS (6377), a toll-free number or send an email to AlexScott@westat.com.

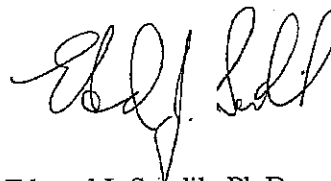
If you move before the next interview, please complete and return the enclosed postage-paid change of address card.

Thank you again for your valuable contribution to this most important research effort.¹ To learn more about the study, you may visit the study website at <http://www.meps.ahrq.gov>. In appreciation for your continued commitment to MEPS, your interviewer will present you with a special gift from the project when you are visited for your next interview.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Clancy, M.D.
Director
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality



Edward J. Sondik, Ph.D.
Director
National Center for Health Statistics
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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Exhibit 7. NHIS Pretest Sample – Round 4 Advance Letter

August 2007

Dear MEPS Participant,

Thank you for cooperating with the U.S. Public Health Service by taking part in the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey. MEPS delivers the most comprehensive and timely information available on health care in this country. Your continued support of MEPS provides an invaluable service in understanding the rapidly changing nature of health care and costs in today's society. We are writing to let you know it will soon be time for your next MEPS interview. An interviewer will contact you in the near future to schedule an appointment.

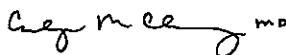
As part of our on-going health care system evaluation, MEPS is particularly interested in people's opinions about the quality of their own care. So, prior to your next personal interview, we would like you to answer some questions about your health and health care by filling out a short opinion booklet. If there are other adults in the household, you will find additional booklets labeled for them to complete.

All opinions are confidential and will be used to enhance the information collected by MEPS.¹

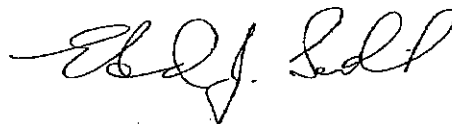
After completing the booklet(s) please store them in the enclosed envelope. Your interviewer will collect the envelope at the time of your personal interview. To ensure that everyone is compensated for his/her time, each person who completes a booklet will receive a \$5 check from the interviewer. Of course, you will also receive the \$25 payment at the conclusion of the in-person interview as compensation for the time you spend keeping records for the next interview.

Thank you in advance for being such an active participant in the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey. If you have any questions about the opinion booklet or your upcoming interview, please call Alex Scott at 1-800-945-MEPS or send an e-mail to AlexScott@westat.com. To learn more about the study, you may visit the study website at <http://www.meps.ahrq.gov>.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Clancy, M.D.
Director
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality



Edward J. Sondik, Ph.D.
Director
National Center for Health Statistics

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Exhibit 8. NHIS Pretest Sample – Round 5 Monthly Planner Letter

Winter 2008

Dear Friend,

On behalf of the U.S. Public Health Service, we would like to express our sincere appreciation for your continuing participation in the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS). We are writing to let you know the next interview will be the last interview you will be asked to participate in for this study.

The MEPS project has included a 2008 monthly planner in this package for you to keep track of your health care events and expenses for the year. Remember, the use of this monthly planner is strictly up to you. Please feel free to use whatever record-keeping system you find to be most helpful. As before, a reminder letter will be sent to you before the next interview, which is planned for April or May of 2008. An interviewer will contact you to schedule your next interview. As you know, your participation in this research effort is vital to obtaining complete and accurate information about America's health care system. At the conclusion of the in-person interview, you will receive payment in the amount of \$25 as compensation for the time you spend keeping records for the next interview.

If you would like to talk to a survey representative before then, please call Alex Scott at 1-800-945-MEPS (6377), or send an email to AlexScott@westat.com. As you know, your participation in this research effort has been vital in obtaining complete and accurate information about America's rapidly changing health care system.

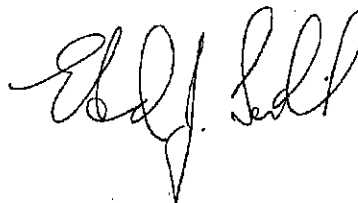
Enclosed in this mailing is a postcard to notify us of any address or phone number changes before the next interview.

Thank you again for your valuable contribution to this important research effort.¹ To learn more about the study, you also may visit the study website at: <http://www.meps.ahrq.gov>.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Clancy, M.D.
Director
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality



Edward J. Sondik, Ph.D.
Director
National Center for Health Statistics
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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Exhibit 9. NHIS Pretest Sample – Round 5 Advance Letter

March 2008

Dear MEPS Participant,

This is just a reminder that an interviewer will contact you in the next few weeks to schedule your final interview for the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey. At the conclusion of the in-person interview, you will receive a \$25 payment as compensation for your efforts at record keeping.

Your continued participation in this important study has been invaluable to national policy makers and to researchers who track the state of our nation's health care system. In appreciation for your dedication to MEPS over the past two years, you will be presented with a special certificate at the time of your final interview.

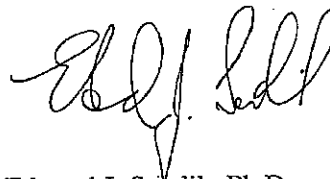
Should you move before the interview, please complete and return the enclosed postage-paid change of address card. If you need to speak with a survey representative before you are contacted by your interviewer, please call Alex Scott at 1-800-945 MEPS (6377) or send an email to Alex.Scott@westat.com.

Thank you again for your valuable contribution to this vital research effort.¹ To learn more about the study, you may visit the study website at: <http://www.meps.ahrq.gov>.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Clancy, M.D.
Director
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality



Edward J. Sondik, Ph.D.
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Exhibit 10. Target Sample – Round 1 Monthly Planner and Video Letter

March, 2006

Dear (NAME),

Recently we sent a letter notifying you that you have been selected to participate in the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS). The study is conducted by the U.S. Public Health Service to obtain comprehensive and reliable information about health care services and the cost of health care in the United States.

The items in this package provide additional information about the study. They include:

- a short, 10-minute DVD about MEPS;
- a companion booklet that summarizes the DVD presentation; and
- a monthly planner (calendar) that you can use to keep notes about your health care. (These notes, or other available records, can help the interview go more smoothly.)

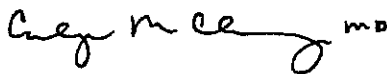
MEPS participants provide information about their health care experiences through a series of 3 to 5 interviews. Most interviews are conducted in your home, at a time convenient to you. On average, the interviews take between 1 and 1 1/2 hours. Information you give during the interviews is combined with the information gathered from the other selected households to create a comprehensive picture of how people in this country use and pay for their health care. Information collected in this study is considered confidential; without your permission, release of information that would identify a participant is prohibited by law.¹

The enclosed \$5.00 is for taking time to review the materials in this package. You will receive an additional \$25.00 for the time and effort of participating in each of the MEPS interviews.

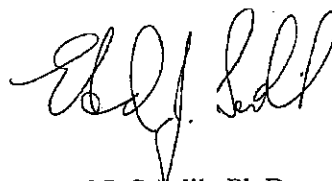
A MEPS interviewer will be contacting you in the next several weeks to answer any questions you may have about the study. The first interview will be conducted some time between May 1 and June 15. Two weeks prior to this time period, we will mail you a letter to remind you of the MEPS interview. If you would like to speak with a study representative before then, please call Alex Scott at our toll free number: 1-800-945-MEPS (6377) or send an email to AlexScott@westat.com. More information is also available at the study web site: <http://www.meps.ahrq.gov>.

Thank you for your help in this important research effort.

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Exhibit 11. Target Sample – Round 1 Advance Letter

April 17, 2006

Dear (NAME),

Interviewing for the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) is about to start. Within a few weeks, you should be contacted about your first interview.

We want to thank you in advance for participating in this important national study. You will be helping us provide researchers and public officials with accurate and timely information about how people across the country obtain and pay for health care.

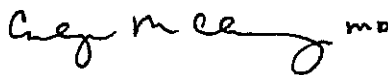
In early March, you should have received a package of materials related to the study. The package included a 10-minute DVD and a companion booklet, plus a monthly planner (calendar) that can be used to keep notes about your health care. As the video explains, the interview usually goes more smoothly if you can refer to notes or other records. If you need another copy of any of these items, your interviewer will be happy to provide them.

We also want to assure you again that privacy is a priority for this study and that the confidentiality of information given to the study is protected by law.¹

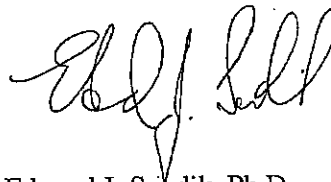
To learn more about the study before your interviewer contacts you, you can visit our website (<http://www.meps.ahrq.gov>) or speak with Alex Scott at the following toll free number: 1-800-945-MEPS (6377). You may also send an email to AlexScott@westat.com.

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Sincerely,



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Exhibit 12. Target Sample–Round 2 Advance Letter

August 2006

Dear (NAME),

Thank you for cooperating with the U.S. Public Health Service by taking part in the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey. MEPS delivers the most comprehensive and timely information available on health care in this country. Your continued support of MEPS provides an invaluable service in understanding the rapidly changing nature of health care and costs in today's society. We are writing to let you know it will soon be time for your next MEPS interview. An interviewer will contact you in the near future to schedule an appointment.

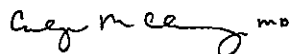
As part of our on-going health care system evaluation, MEPS is particularly interested in people's opinions about the quality of their own care. So, prior to your next personal interview, we would like you to answer some questions about your health and health care by filling out a short opinion booklet. If there are other adults in the household, you will find additional booklets labeled for them to complete.

All opinions are confidential and will be used to enhance the information collected by MEPS.¹

After completing the booklet(s) please store them in the enclosed envelope. Your interviewer will collect the envelope at the time of your personal interview. To ensure that everyone is compensated for his/her time, each person who completes a booklet will receive a \$5 check from the interviewer. Of course, you will also receive the \$25 payment at the conclusion of the in-person interview as compensation for the time you spend keeping records for the next interview.

Thank you in advance for being such an active participant in the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey. If you have any questions about the opinion booklet or your upcoming interview, please call Alex Scott at 1-800-945-MEPS or send an e-mail to AlexScott@westat.com. To learn more about the study, you may visit the study website at <http://www.meps.ahrq.gov>.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Clancy, M.D.
Director
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality



Edward J. Sondik, Ph.D.
Director
National Center for Health Statistics

¹This survey is authorized under Section 902(a) of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 299a]. The confidentiality of personal information is protected by Federal Statutes, Section 924(c) and Section 308(d) of the public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 299c-3(c) and 242m(d)]. This law prohibits release of personal information outside the public health agencies sponsoring the survey or their contractors without first obtaining permission from the person who gave the information.

Exhibit 13. Target Sample – Round 3 Monthly Planner Mailing

December 2006

Dear (NAME),

On behalf of the U.S. Public Health Service, we would like to express our sincere appreciation for your continuing participation in the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS). We appreciate your commitment to this effort. The information you have provided thus far has already been combined with information from thousands of households across the country who also have participated in MEPS. Health care researchers are using this information to learn about the rapidly changing American health care system.

The MEPS project has included a 2007 monthly planner in this package for you to keep track of your health care events and expenses for the year. Remember, the use of this monthly planner is strictly up to you. Please feel free to use whatever record-keeping system you find to be most helpful. As before, a reminder letter will be sent to you before the next interview, which is planned for April or May of 2007. An interviewer will contact you to schedule your next interview. As you know, your participation in this research effort is vital to obtaining complete and accurate information about America's health care system. At the conclusion of the in-person interview, you will receive payment in the amount of \$25 as compensation for the time you spend keeping records for the next interview.

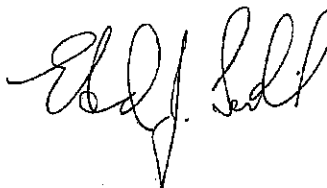
Enclosed in this mailing is a postcard to notify us of any address or phone number changes before the next interview.

Thank you again for your valuable participation in this important research effort.¹ To learn more about the study, you may visit the study website at: <http://www.meps.ahrq.gov>. If you would like to talk to a survey representative before your next interview, please call Alex Scott at 1-800-945-MEPS (6377) or send an email to AlexScott@westat.com.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Clancy, M.D.
Director
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality



Edward J. Sondik, Ph.D.
Director
National Center for Health Statistics
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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Exhibit 14. Target Sample – Round 3 Advance Letter

March 2007

Dear (NAME),

This is just a reminder that a representative from the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) will contact you to schedule your next interview. During the past year your continued participation in this important study has been invaluable for researchers and national policy makers. Findings from MEPS will affect major decisions concerning health care and health insurance coverage in the United States. You will receive payment in the amount of \$25 as compensation for the time you spend keeping records for the next interview.

In December last year you should have received a MEPS Monthly Planner designed to help with this year's record keeping. Remember, the use of this planner is completely up to you. Please feel free to use whatever method of record keeping is most convenient for you. If you have not received your Monthly Planner and would like one, please let your interviewer know when you are called to set up your next interview. If you need to speak with someone before then, please call our survey representative, Alex Scott at 1-800-945 MEPS (6377) or send an email to AlexScott@westat.com.

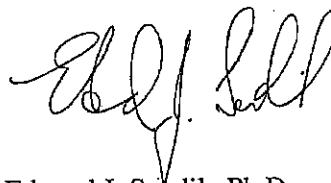
If you move before the next interview, please complete and return the enclosed postage-paid change of address card.

Thank you again for your valuable contribution to this most important research effort.¹ To learn more about the study, you may visit the study website at <http://www.meps.ahrq.gov>. In appreciation for your continued commitment to MEPS, your interviewer will present you with a special gift from the project when you are visited for your next interview.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Clancy, M.D.
Director
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality



Edward J. Sondik, Ph.D.
Director
National Center for Health Statistics
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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Exhibit 15. Target Sample – Round 4 Advance Letter

August 2007

Dear (NAME),

Thank you for cooperating with the U.S. Public Health Service by taking part in the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey. MEPS delivers the most comprehensive and timely information available on health care in this country. Your continued support of MEPS provides an invaluable service in understanding the rapidly changing nature of health care and costs in today's society. We are writing to let you know it will soon be time for your next MEPS interview. An interviewer will contact you in the near future to schedule an appointment.

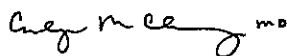
As part of our on-going health care system evaluation, MEPS is particularly interested in people's opinions about the quality of their own care. So, prior to your next personal interview, we would like you to answer some questions about your health and health care by filling out a short opinion booklet. If there are other adults in the household, you will find additional booklets labeled for them to complete.

All opinions are confidential and will be used to enhance the information collected by MEPS.¹

After completing the booklet(s) please store them in the enclosed envelope. Your interviewer will collect the envelope at the time of your personal interview. To ensure that everyone is compensated for his/her time, each person who completes a booklet will receive a \$5 check from the interviewer. Of course, you will also receive the \$25 payment at the conclusion of the in-person interview as compensation for the time you spend keeping records for the next interview.

Thank you in advance for being such an active participant in the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey. If you have any questions about the opinion booklet or your upcoming interview, please call Alex Scott at 1-800-945-MEPS or send an e-mail to AlexScott@westat.com. To learn more about the study, you may visit the study website at <http://www.meps.ahrq.gov>.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Clancy, M.D.
Director
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality



Edward J. Sondik, Ph.D.
Director
National Center for Health Statistics

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Exhibit 16. Target Sample – Round 5 Monthly Planner Mailing

Winter 2008

Dear (NAME),

On behalf of the U.S. Public Health Service, we would like to express our sincere appreciation for your continuing participation in the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS). We are writing to let you know the next interview will be the last interview you will be asked to participate in for this study.

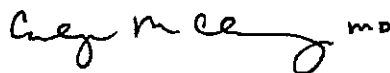
The MEPS project has included a 2008 monthly planner in this package for you to keep track of your health care events and expenses for the year. Remember, the use of this monthly planner is strictly up to you. Please feel free to use whatever record-keeping system you find to be most helpful. As before, a reminder letter will be sent to you before the next interview, which is planned for April or May of 2008. An interviewer will contact you to schedule your next interview. As you know, your participation in this research effort is vital to obtaining complete and accurate information about America's health care system. At the conclusion of the in-person interview, you will receive payment in the amount of \$25 as compensation for the time you spend keeping records for the next interview.

If you would like to talk to a survey representative before then, please call Alex Scott at 1-800-945-MEPS (6377) or send an email to AlexScott@westat.com. . As you know, your participation in this research effort has been vital in obtaining complete and accurate information about America's rapidly changing health care system.

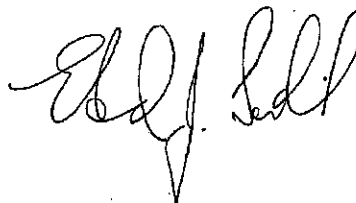
Enclosed in this mailing is a postcard to notify us of any address or phone number changes before the next interview.

Thank you again for your valuable contribution to this important research effort.¹ To learn more about the study, you also may visit the study website at: <http://www.meps.ahrq.gov>.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Clancy, M.D.
Director
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality



Edward J. Sondik, Ph.D.
Director
National Center for Health Statistics
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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Exhibit 17. Target Sample – Round 5 Advance Letter

March 2008

Dear (NAME),

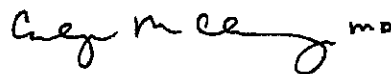
This is just a reminder that an interviewer will contact you in the next few weeks to schedule your final interview for the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey. At the conclusion of the in-person interview, you will receive a \$25 payment as compensation for your efforts at record keeping.

Your continued participation in this important study has been invaluable to national policy makers and to researchers who track the state of our nation's health care system. In appreciation for your dedication to MEPS over the past two years, you will be presented with a special certificate at the time of your final interview.

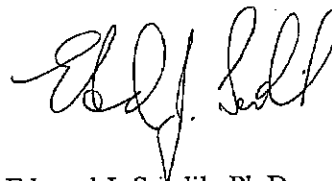
Should you move before the interview, please complete and return the enclosed postage-paid change of address card. If you need to speak with a survey representative before you are contacted by your interviewer, please call Alex Scott at 1-800-945 MEPS (6377) or send an email to AlexScott@westat.com.

Thank you again for your valuable contribution to this vital research effort.¹ To learn more about the study, you may visit the study website at: <http://www.meps.ahrq.gov>.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Clancy, M.D.
Director
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality



Edward J. Sondik, Ph.D.
Director
National Center for Health Statistics
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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Exhibit 18. Target Sample Recruiting Screener For Non Low Income Domain Households

Respondent should be 18 years old or older and knowledgeable about the household's health status and health care events.

1. Respondent Name: _____

2. What is your race?

White Black Asian

3. Are you or any members of your household Hispanic or Latino?

Yes No

4. What language do you primarily speak in the home?

English Spanish Asian language Other language

If an Asian language is the primary language for the respondent, is there someone in the household who can translate?

Yes No

5. What is your address?

6. What is your phone number?

(____) _____

7. Could you please give me the name of the head of this household, that is, the person who owns or rents the home? (Record the name of the reference person as person #1) What are the names of the other members of your household? (Record PERSON'S relationship to REFERENCE). May I also have (PERSON'S) marital status, age and date of birth?

| Person# | Name | Relationship | Marital Status | Gender | Age | DOB |
|---------|-------|--------------|----------------|--------|-------|-------|
| 1-Ref | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 2 | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 3 | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 4 | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 5 | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 6 | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 7 | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 8 | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 9 | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

8. Did anyone in your household have a baby between January 1, 2006 and today?

Yes No

9. Will anyone in your household be pregnant in May or June?

Yes No

10. Is anyone in your household active duty military and living at home?

Yes No

11. Is anyone in your household retired military?

Yes No

12. Does anyone in the household have any chronic medical conditions that they have received treatment for since January 1, 2006 such as:

Diabetes Asthma Other List other: _____

a) Who in the family has this chronic condition? _____ (Enter Person #)

13. Since January 1, 2006, has anyone in the household had multiple visits to the same doctor or clinic to receive the same services on a regular basis such as allergy shots, on kidney dialysis, chemotherapy, physical therapy, counseling, or psychotherapy?

Yes No

14. Has anyone in your household been:

a) admitted to the hospital since January 1, 2006?

Yes No

b) taken to the emergency room since January 1, 2006?

Yes No

- If taken to the emergency room since January 1, was the person also admitted to the hospital?

Yes No

15. Since January 1, 2006, has someone in your household had 6 or more visits to a medical doctor in a group or private practice not affiliated with a hospital?

Yes No

16. Are you or anyone in your household on Medicare?

Yes No

17. Are you or anyone in your household on Medicaid?

Yes No

18. Do you or anyone in your household have private health insurance?

Yes No

19. Does your household have members on at least 2 different private health insurance plans?

Yes No

20. Since January 1, 2006 have you or anyone in your household received medical care and not been covered by private health insurance, Medicare and Medicaid?

Yes No

21. Were you or anyone in your household covered by health insurance only part of the time since January 1?

Yes No

22. Do you or anyone in your household have Tricare or CHAMPVA?

Yes No

23. Do you or anyone in your household have health insurance held by a policyholder who does not live in the household (for example, a parent not living in the household pays for health insurance for a child in the household)?

Yes No

5. What is your race?

White Black Asian Other

6. Are you or any members of your household Hispanic or Latino?

Yes No

7. What language do you primarily speak in the home?

English Spanish Other language

8. What was your household's total combined income for 2005? Please include income from all household members.

\$ _____