

APPENDIX D

PROJECT DESCRIPTION FOR ADVANCE MAILINGS

**PROGRAM EVALUATION OF THE EIGHTH AND NINTH SCOPE OF WORK
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Sponsoring Agency: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Prime Contractor: Mathematica Policy Research
Contract #: HHS-500-2005-00025I (0010)

Other Organizations Participating: Abt Associates Inc., Social & Scientific Systems, Inc.

Project Synopsis:

In August of 2008, Mathematica was selected by CMS to evaluate the 9th Scopes of Work of the Quality Improvement Organization Program. As a part of this large evaluation effort, Mathematica is working to estimate the impact of the QIO Program on beneficiaries' quality of care, to identify the most effective methods, tools, and interventions for quality improvement, and to recommend program improvements.

The 9th SOW evaluation began in May 2009, and includes the collection of new data through surveys to providers and QIOs, and discussions with QIOs and partner staff. More specifically, data collection includes:

- A national web-based survey of QIO Directors and Theme Leaders (summer/fall 2010)
- Telephone discussions with QIO Partners for the Care Transitions and Prevention – Chronic Kidney Disease themes (late 2010/early 2011)
- A national survey of hospitals and nursing homes (late 2010/early 2011)
- Week-long site visits to 12 states' QIOs, providers that worked with them, and community health leaders representing hospital, nursing home, and physician stakeholders (late 2010/early 2011)

The evaluation will include both descriptive and multivariate analyses, using both the new data collected by Mathematica, and secondary data reported by the QIOs. The evaluators have access to data already reported by QIOs to CMS, and will maximize use of this data to ensure efficiency. The progress and findings of the evaluation will be documented in quarterly reports beginning in July 2009, a mid-course report in December 2010 and will culminate in a final report in October 2011.

Project Director and Key Staff:

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