



## Frequently Asked Questions

### Medical Organizations Survey (MOS)

#### What is the Medical Organizations Survey (MOS)?

MOS is an expansion of the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey Medical Provider Component (MEPS MPC). The purpose of the survey is to collect information about how different medical practices are organized and what resources they have available for providing care. Your participation is greatly appreciated. The information you provide is completely confidential. Participation in this survey is voluntary. MOS is conducted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services through the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

*MEPS is the most complete source of data available on health care use and expenses in the United States and is used by government policymakers and private researchers.*

#### How are practices chosen?

A subset of ambulatory care providers designated by their patients as their “usual source of care” and already included in the MEPS MPC Office-based medical providers sample have been selected for the MOS.

#### How do I know the information will be kept confidential?

The confidentiality of data collected for MEPS is protected by Federal law under Sections 944(c) and 308(d) of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 299c-3(c) and 242m(d)]. No information that could identify an individual or establishment will be disclosed unless that individual or establishment has consented to such a disclosure.

Personal identifying information such as names or addresses are removed before information from the study is made available to researchers. Findings are published in statistical summaries and tables and micro-data is released on “public use” data files.

#### Why should this practice participate?

Office-based medical provider expenditures are an important component of health care costs. The information that you provide will be used to help researchers better understand

how provider practices are organized and what resources are available for how practices provide care. We'll use this information to create a consistent source of information both on individuals' characteristics and health care utilization and expenditures, and on the characteristics of the providers they use.

#### How can I participate?

You can participate by telephone, complete your survey online, or by e-mailing, mailing, or faxing a completed questionnaire. Your participation in the MOS is important and your time is valuable. Please let us know which format works best for you.

#### How long does the MOS take to complete?

The MOS will take approximately 5-10 minutes to complete. The fastest way to complete the supplement is over the telephone with one of our data collection specialists.

#### Who is collecting these data?

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has chosen RTI International to administer the study on behalf of AHRQ. A professionally trained data collection specialist from RTI will contact each practice.

#### What questions will the data collected answer?

MOS data may provide answers to many important questions. For example:

- How does the type of physician practice affect access to care for individuals with different health characteristics and different types of insurance?
- How does the type of provider practice affect use or availability of different types of services?
- What is the relationship between type of physician practice and overall medical expenditures for care?
- What is the relationship between type of physician practice and individuals' out-of-pocket costs for care?
- How is type of physician practice related to the health status of the individuals receiving care?