



## TEXAS HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

ALBERT HAWKINS  
EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER

May 2, 2008

ATTENTION: Pharmacy Owner or Pharmacist in Charge

RE: Confidentiality of Responses to the Texas Cost of Dispensing Study

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) has contracted with the Center for Pharmacoeconomic Studies (the Center) at the University of Texas (UT) to conduct a dispensing cost survey. Some pharmacists have expressed concerns relating to the confidentiality of data submitted as part of this survey. This letter addresses those specific concerns.

The contract between the HHSC and UT includes specific provisions that govern the confidentiality of information collected by the Center. Information collected by UT will be used to evaluate Medicaid pharmacy reimbursement only. At the conclusion of their analysis, the Center will issue a consulting report to the state that will present aggregated statistics derived from the pharmacy information. This report will not include pharmacy-specific information and will not identify any individual pharmacies.

Pharmacies may respond to the cost survey by providing information from tax returns or other financial documents. With the exception of data required by HHSC, UT will not allow any other access to survey data. Specifically, they will not sell, give or provide information to any outside company or individual.

Obviously, neither HHSC nor UT can foresee all eventualities that may arise. Our guarantee of confidentiality is qualified only to the extent that both state entities must obey lawful directives, including an applicable court order or request under the Public Information Act. Should such a situation arise, be assured that HHSC will make every effort to preserve confidentiality.

It is our hope to continue our relationship of trust with pharmacies in the state of Texas. Should you have additional concerns related to privacy and confidentiality issues, please feel free to contact me at (512) 491-1843 or e-mail at [Andy.Vasquez@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:Andy.Vasquez@hhsc.state.tx.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy Vasquez".

Andy Vasquez  
Deputy Director, Medicaid/CHIP Vendor Drug Program

Enclosure