



County of El Paso Purchasing Department  
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### ADDENDUM 1

To: All Interested Proposers

From: Lucy Balderama, Inventory Bid Technician

Date: December 14, 2007

Subject: RFQ # 07-152, Tissue Bank Services for the Medical Examiners Office

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**The Purchasing Department received questions relating to the above referenced proposal.**

1. Deaths occurring within a hospital facility, but subsequently transferred to the Medical Examiners office for further investigation:
  - a. Will such potential donors be transferred to the Tissue Procurement Organization (TPO) selected by the county even if the hospital designated TPO is different?

*If a body is transferred to the ME facility for purposes of an autopsy, then the tissue bank awarded this RFQ will have the opportunity for tissue recovery.*

- b. Is the County aware of the federal statutes regarding the rights of a hospital to designate their TPO by contract? How will the County assist hospitals with ensuring their donation program is legally supported if TPO designation is changed?

*Not germane.*

- c. The RFQ states that the County investigates approximately 3000 deaths per year, of those investigated, how many are transferred to the Medical Examiners Office for further investigation? And with respect to those investigated, does the County claim jurisdiction and will then make subsequent referral to the selected TPO regardless of whether the body is transferred to the Medical Examiner's Office?

We examine approximately 800-900 bodies per year in this facility. Those bodies will be subject to this RFQ. The other approximately 2000 bodies that are not brought to this facility are not subject to this RFQ.

- d. In the event that the Medical Examiner jurisdiction is enacted to the nature or timing of the death event but the Medical Examiner subsequently rules no further need for investigation, will the Hospital designated TPO remain intact or will the Medical Examiner Office refer those deaths not requiring further investigation to the TPO selected under the RFQ?

If the ME determines that no autopsy is warranted, and thus, does not have the body transferred to the ME facility, then this RFQ does not govern.

2. Will the County require a monetary or some other form of reimbursement from the selected TPO and if yes, how will this reimbursement be determined? If not monetary, will the County require the selected TPO to provide another service, facility etc to the County in exchange for this award?

No.

3. Is the County aware of Texas State Attorney General Opinion GA-0544 regarding reimbursement for services and the limitations that this opinion imposes on how these reimbursements may be applied?

Yes.

4. Is it the intention of the County to select only one TPO or will the County allow all qualified TPO's to participate in this award?

Only one will be selected.

5. It is noted on the RFQ the use of term, 'a 501 (c) not for profit organization'. Did the County intend to restrict the award to entities of a specific tax status? And if yes, may we ask for clarification on that tax status as describing at least one of the following; "501 (c) 3, 501 (c) 4, taxable not for profit?

Any 501 (c) 3 not for profit tissue bank may present a proposal.

6. Will the County provide transparency in the reporting of donors recovered at the Medical Examiners Office to all qualified organ and /or tissue recovery agencies in the designated service area of El Paso County and if yes, how will this information be provided to the agencies and by whom?

The selected tissue bank will be provided appropriate and necessary information on potential donors. Upon written request by anyone else, only information required to be released under the Texas Public Information Act will be released.

7. Will the selected tissue bank be permitted to store tissue recovery supplies within the designated Tissue Procurement Suite?

Yes, within the allotted space of the recovery room and the bank's one allotted office area.

8. Will this Agreement include the ability to procure not only musculoskeletal, din and cardiovascular tissue, but corneas as well?

The Bank will be allowed to harvest only what they have permission from the next of kin to harvest, including corneas.

9. Are there currently personnel available at eh Office of the Medical Examiner 24 hrs a day, 7 day a week whom our staff will be able to communicate or interact with for potential tissue donor workups?

Yes, if they are not out on a call. Also the Chief ME is available by cell phone at all times.

10. On consented cases will a copy of the Medical Investigators Report be made available to the Coordinator as tool to verify information needed for the donor chart such as last alive time, refrigeration time, circumstances of death NOK information ect.?

Known information important to recovery of tissue will be made available where it does not violate confidentiality.

11. Will there be unlimited access for Tissue Recovery Team within the Office of the Medical Examiner or will this be on the controlled level? If it will be controlled, will you please define the limitations of controlled access?

Access will be limited to areas necessary for the team to accomplish their job; the Bank will not have free reign of our entire facility.

12. Will you allow our Coordinators to visually inspect any of the incoming cases in order to determine suitability for donation before a family approach is made?

Only under supervision and not in cases where the body bag is sealed.

13. Would pre-autopsy recovery be allowed on a case by case basis and would it be possible to recover certain tissues, such as the heart, with direct observation by a medical examiner on routine autopsies?

Yes.

14. On average how long will it be before an autopsy is made available on recovered donors?

It varies.

15. Will the Office of the Medical Examiners permit the Tissue Recovery Team to perform tissue recoveries in the specifically designated Tissue Recovery Suite on consented, non-ME case donors?

No.

16. What length of agreement does the Office of the Medical Examiner prefer for this proposal?

One year, with possible options to extend, if approved by County.

17. Will the Office of the Medical Examiner collect any fees for the use of their facilities for Tissue Recovery? If so, please define the conditions and amounts of these fees?

Not germane