

D E C E M B E R 2 0 1 5

## Pharmacy Benefit Manager Request for Proposal Update

Since the October 20, 2015 release of the Pharmacy Benefit Manager Request for Proposal (RFP), DGS has received a great deal of interest from potential bidders. Bidders submitted draft proposals to DGS on December 8. Final proposals will be submitted by January 27, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. DGS anticipates announcing a contract award on February 24, 2016.

For additional information, please contact Mary Anne Selvage at: [maryanne.selvage@dgs.ca.gov](mailto:maryanne.selvage@dgs.ca.gov)

## Pharmaceutical Group Purchasing Organization Contract Extension

The agreement between DGS and the Pharmaceutical Group Purchasing Organization (PGPO), Managed Health Care Associates, Inc. (DGS Contract #1-11-65-53), has been extended until September 30, 2016. DGS is developing the RFP for a new PGPO contract and will be soliciting input from various stakeholders. For additional information, please contact Vimbai Kajese at: [vimbai.kajese@dgs.ca.gov](mailto:vimbai.kajese@dgs.ca.gov)

## Safecor Health, LLC Unit Dose Contract Available

Recently, the Department of General Services (DGS) collaborated with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to develop a non-mandatory, statewide contract that allows for the



repackaging of pharmaceutical products. Safecor Health, LLC Agreement (#1-15-65-60)

is now available to all DGS Participating Entities. The term

of this agreement is from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2018. DGS Participating Entities may purchase bulk pharmaceuticals through their usual drug wholesaler or direct from a manufacturer. Products are shipped to Safecor Health, LLC where they are converted to unit-dose configuration and return shipped to a location specified by the Participating Entity.

For additional information, please contact Vimbai Kajese at: [vimbai.kajese@dgs.ca.gov](mailto:vimbai.kajese@dgs.ca.gov)

## Drug Supply Chain Security Act

The Drug Quality and Security Act (DQSA) was signed into law by President Obama on November 27, 2013. Title II of DQSA, the Drug Supply Chain Security Act (DSCSA), outlines critical steps to build an electronic, interoperable system to identify and trace certain prescription drugs as they are distributed in the United States.

For more information about the DSCSA, visit: [www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/DrugIntegrityandSupplyChainSecurity/DrugSupplyChainSecurityAct/](http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/DrugIntegrityandSupplyChainSecurity/DrugSupplyChainSecurityAct/)



## 2015-16 Influenza Vaccine Update

The Annual Influenza Vaccine Survey is being developed and will be distributed to agencies that purchased influenza vaccines through the Statewide Pharmaceutical Program. Survey results will help DGS plan for the 2016-17 influenza season. For additional information, please contact Rhonda Kitchen at: [rhonda.kitchen@dgs.ca.gov](mailto:rhonda.kitchen@dgs.ca.gov)

## Opportunities for Savings

DGS staff will be approaching state and county entities to discuss cost savings through the use of DGS contracts for the following:

- Specialty and Infusion
- Pharmaceutical Wholesaler
- Pharmacy Benefit Manager



**DGS**

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## REGISTER NOW FOR THE UPCOMING CPPC WEBINAR!

**Date: January 21, 2016**

**Time: 10:30 a.m. to noon (PST)**

**Click on the *Register Now* button or copy and paste the URL below:**

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2002128574982669825>

Contact Elizabeth Winward at: [elizabeth.winward@dgs.ca.gov](mailto:elizabeth.winward@dgs.ca.gov) for more information.



## Meet Takhmina Amin-Rhabar

Takhmina (Mina) Amin-Rahbar joined DGS in October as a Student Assistant. Mina is studying pharmaceutical chemistry at American River College. Mina is using her skills in mathematics and data analysis to develop reports to be used in monitoring pharmaceutical contracts for the Pharmaceutical Acquisitions Section. Prior to joining DGS, Mina tutored other students in chemistry, physics and calculus. She also worked as a Data Analyst for Instacart, a startup company in San Francisco. While employed at Instacart, Mina honed her expertise in communication, computers and time management.



DGS is benefiting immensely from Mina's skill set and the passion she exhibits in her everyday approach to working on reports and assisting her colleagues with ongoing projects. When asked about her experiences so far at DGS, Mina states, "Although making reports is extremely tedious and time consuming, I truly enjoy it because every project is a new challenge to overcome and grow from. I have met some of the most humble and intelligent people working here and I hope to learn so much from everyone. More than the job itself, I enjoy the open dialog and the willingness to educate each other on the various projects. I have seen a lot of great character and professionalism, which is truly a rarity, and for that I am very appreciative."

Mina is an avid runner and recently completed a half marathon. In addition to her love for running, Mina enjoys exploring new hiking trails with her husband. She is a coffee enthusiast and loves trying different coffee shops. Mina is an activist and partakes in many social and religious efforts in order to build interfaith/interracial bonds.