

AGREEMENT FOR SPECIALIZED ATTORNEY SERVICES

THIS AGREEMENT FOR SPECIALIZED ATTORNEY SERVICES

(“Agreement”) is made and entered by and between the **COUNTY OF MONTEREY**, on behalf of the County owned and operated Natividad Medical Center (“NMC”), an acute care facility (“COUNTY”), and **LAW OFFICES OF STEPHENSON ACQUISTO & COLMAN, INC.** (“ATTORNEY”).

RECITALS

This Agreement is made with respect to the following facts:

A. The COUNTY Board of Supervisors may contract for legal services for the COUNTY when it is necessary and appropriate that special legal services be performed for the COUNTY and its officers and employees.

B. COUNTY desires to retain ATTORNEY to provide legal services to the COUNTY, to assist Natividad Medical Center in claims denial and payment recovery services related to its revenue cycle, as such services are unavailable from County resources.

C. ATTORNEY is specially trained, experienced, expert, and competent to perform the legal services required. COUNTY specifically seeks the expertise of Joy Stephenson-Laws and enters into this agreement with the understanding that Joy Stephenson-Laws will be the primary attorney providing services under this Agreement, although other attorneys in the firm may be utilized on an as-needed basis.

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties agree as follows:

1. EFFECTIVE DATE AND TERM

1.01 This Agreement shall be effective as of January 11, 2017 through June 30, 2021 or upon completion of any and all pre-litigation, litigation or arbitration matters in which ATTORNEY represents the COUNTY regarding the recovery of reimbursement from commercial payors, government payors, or self-funded ERISA plans, unless earlier terminated as set forth below, whichever is sooner. This Agreement may be amended from time-to-time upon the mutual agreement of the parties.

2. SERVICES TO BE PERFORMED

2.01. Services to be Performed by ATTORNEY. COUNTY hereby hires ATTORNEY to render independent legal services to COUNTY, subject to the terms of this Agreement. The primary attorney providing services hereunder shall be Joy Stephenson-Laws, although other attorneys in the firm may be utilized on an as-needed basis. ATTORNEY shall perform said services faithfully and well, when needed by and as requested by COUNTY. The services to be performed under this Agreement shall consist of advising and representing COUNTY, with

respect to claims denial and payment recovery services related to the revenue cycle of Natividad Medical Center, as described in Recital "B," above, and more specifically described in Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference. ATTORNEY shall perform only such services as are within the expertise of the individual attorneys on ATTORNEY's staff, and ATTORNEY will notify COUNTY promptly if any work requested is beyond such expertise. ATTORNEY shall diligently provide such legal services as are necessary and approved by COUNTY in a professional, timely manner. ATTORNEY shall perform all of its services with due regard to ethical guidelines and the client's interests.

2.02. No Conflicts of Interest. ATTORNEY does not have an actual or potential interest adverse to COUNTY nor does ATTORNEY presently represent a person or firm with an interest adverse to COUNTY with respect to the matter accepted.

2.03. Direction from and Consultation with County Counsel. ATTORNEY shall coordinate and consult with, and receive direction from County Counsel in providing services under this Agreement. The primary attorneys from the County Counsel's Office working with ATTORNEY with respect to this agreement shall be Charles J. McKee and Stacy L. Saetta, although other deputies in the County Counsel's Office may be designated from time-to-time to work on the matter. Unless otherwise directed by County Counsel, if ATTORNEY prepares any court pleadings or COUNTY documents in the performance of services under this Agreement, including but not limited to COUNTY resolutions, staff reports, and memoranda to the Board of Supervisors, NMC Board of Trustees, or other County legislative or advisory bodies, ATTORNEY shall provide such drafts to County Counsel for review and consultation prior to finalizing any such drafts.

2.04. Reporting Requirements. ATTORNEY shall provide COUNTY with such reports as may be requested by COUNTY in connection with the performance of services hereunder.

2.05. Closing Report. If this Agreement is terminated as set forth herein, or if for any reason ATTORNEY is no longer retained by COUNTY with respect to this matter, ATTORNEY shall submit a Closing Report describing the status of the matter, setting forth any information needed by another attorney to handle the matter. The Closing Report will be expeditiously submitted, together with necessary executed Substitutions of Attorneys, to County Counsel.

2.06. Oral Reports. ATTORNEY shall immediately report orally to County Counsel, in person or by telephone, any event or discovery which is of an urgent nature or requires the immediate attention of COUNTY. ATTORNEY shall promptly follow up such oral report with a Status Report or Status Update reiterating such event or discovery. ATTORNEY shall immediately advise County Counsel in writing if an actual or potential conflict of interest arises or is discovered.

3. COMPENSATION

3.01. Compensation to Attorney. As consideration for ATTORNEY's performance of services under this Agreement, COUNTY shall pay to ATTORNEY according to the fee

schedule set forth in Exhibit B, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference. COUNTY will not pay ATTORNEY for travel time. All services are payable in arrears.

3.02. Budget. ATTORNEY and COUNTY agree that the initial budget for services pursuant to this Agreement shall not exceed the sum of \$300,000.00. ATTORNEY and COUNTY shall revise the budget as necessary to reflect additional fees and expenses required for services, and this Agreement shall be amended accordingly to provide for such budget increases. Proposed budget increases must be approved by COUNTY before increased charges or expenditures are accrued. ATTORNEY shall notify the County Counsel in writing when fifty percent (50%) and seventy-five percent (75%) of the Budget has been spent. If COUNTY does not approve additional fees and expenses required by the project beyond the initial and revised budget, COUNTY hereby consents to ATTORNEY's withdrawal as co-counsel in any cases.

3.03. Maximum Liability. The maximum amount of COUNTY's liability over the full term of this Agreement (including all items paid under paragraph 3.04) shall include the initial budget amount and any revised budget amount as provided in paragraph 3.02.

3.04. Reimbursement for Expenses.

(a) COUNTY shall reimburse ATTORNEY for all actual and necessary expenses for the following items:

- (1) Deposition and transcript fees;
- (2) Filing fees;
- (3) Postage;
- (4) Consultant and expert witness fees;
- (5) Photocopying;
- (6) Computerized legal research;
- (7) Actual travel expenses, as more fully described in (b) below; and
- (7) Other expenses when approved in advance.

(b) COUNTY will not reimburse ATTORNEY for any non-attorney staff time or overtime for secretarial, clerical, or word processing costs connected with preparing required status reports, time spent to provide information for a fee audit, or for work not authorized by COUNTY. Travel authorized by County Counsel will be reimbursed as follows: Transportation at actual fare for economy or coach class, meals and lodging not to exceed COUNTY per diem unless authorized in advance. COUNTY will not pay ATTORNEY for the travel time.

3.05. Monthly Claims by Attorney. Not later than ten days after the last day of each month, ATTORNEY shall submit to COUNTY a claim, on a form or in a format approved by COUNTY, setting forth in detail the time and expense items incurred by ATTORNEY during the previous month, for which payment is sought, and setting forth such other information pertinent to the claim as COUNTY may require. The fees charges shall be calculated correctly, contain no charges previously billed, and be consistent with the approved hourly fee schedule and budget

maximum set forth in Exhibit B. The following information shall be set forth accurately in or attached to the billing invoice:

(a) Case name, court number, County Counsel file number or other identification of subject matter for which ATTORNEY rendered services; and

(c) Invoices supporting all outside costs.

3.06. Payment of Monthly Claims by COUNTY. COUNTY, through the Office of the County Counsel, shall certify ATTORNEY's claim, either in the requested amount or in such other amount as County Counsel approves in conformity with this Agreement. County Counsel shall promptly submit such certified claim to the Auditor, Risk Manager or third party claims administrator for COUNTY. The Auditor, Risk Manager or third party claims administrator shall thereafter pay the balance of the certified claim not later than 45 days after receipt of the certified claim.

3.07. Disputed Payment Amount. If for any claim COUNTY certifies a lesser amount than the amount requested, and if ATTORNEY desires to dispute the amount so certified, ATTORNEY must submit a written notice of protest to COUNTY within 20 days after ATTORNEY's receipt of the certification. The parties shall then promptly meet to review the dispute and resolve it on a mutually acceptable basis. No court action may be taken on such dispute until the parties have met and attempted to resolve the dispute in person.

3.08. Conflicting Payment Provisions. The provisions regarding payment set forth in this portion of the Agreement prevail over any conflicting provisions that may be found in any of the exhibits to this Agreement.

4. INDEMNIFICATION AND INSURANCE

4.01. Indemnification. ATTORNEY shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the County of Monterey and the COUNTY, and their officers, agents, and employees from any claim, liability, loss, injury or damage arising out of, or in connection with, ATTORNEY'S and/or its agents', employees' or subcontractors' negligent acts or omissions in the performance of this Agreement, excepting only loss, injury or damage caused by the gross negligence or willful misconduct of COUNTY or the County of Monterey and their officers or employees. It is the intent of the parties to this Agreement to provide the broadest possible coverage for the COUNTY and the County of Monterey. The ATTORNEY shall reimburse the COUNTY and the County of Monterey for all costs, attorneys' fees, expenses and liabilities incurred with respect to any litigation in which the ATTORNEY is obligated to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the COUNTY and the County of Monterey under this Agreement.

4.02. Evidence of Coverage. Prior to commencement of this Agreement, ATTORNEY shall provide a "Certificate of Insurance" certifying that coverage as required herein has been obtained. Individual endorsements executed by the insurance carrier shall accompany the certificate. In addition, ATTORNEY upon request shall provide a certified copy of the policy or

policies. This verification of coverage shall be sent to the COUNTY, unless otherwise directed. This approval of insurance shall neither relieve nor decrease the liability of ATTORNEY.

4.03. Qualifying Insurers. All coverage's, except surety, shall be issued by companies which hold a current policy holder's alphabetic and financial size category rating of not less than A- VII, according to the current Best's Key Rating Guide or a company of equal financial stability that is approved by COUNTY.

4.04. Insurance Coverage Requirements. Without limiting ATTORNEY's duty to indemnify, ATTORNEY shall maintain in effect throughout the term of this Agreement a policy or policies of insurance with the following minimum limits of liability:

(a) Commercial General Liability Insurance, including but not limited to premises and operations, including coverage for Bodily Injury and Property Damage, Personal Injury, Contractual Liability, Broad form Property Damage, Independent Contractors, Products and Completed Operations, with a combined single limit for Bodily Injury and Property Damage of not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence.

(b) Business automobile liability insurance, covering all motor vehicles, including owned, leased, non-owned, and hired vehicles, used in providing services under this Agreement, with a combined single limit for Bodily Injury and Property Damage of not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence.

(c) Workers' Compensation Insurance, if ATTORNEY employs others in the performance of this Agreement, in accordance with California Labor Code section 3700 and with Employer's Liability limits not less than \$1,000,000 each person, \$1,000,000 each accident and \$1,000,000 each disease.

(d) Professional liability insurance, if required for the professional services being provided, (e.g., those persons authorized by a license to engage in a business or profession regulated by the California Business and Professions Code), in the amount of not less than \$1,000,000 per claim and \$2,000,000 in the aggregate, to cover liability for malpractice or errors or omissions made in the course of rendering professional services. If professional liability insurance is written on a "claims-made" basis rather than an occurrence basis, the ATTORNEY shall, upon the expiration or earlier termination of the Agreement, obtain extended reporting coverage ("tail coverage") with the same liability limits. Any such tail coverage shall continue for at least three years following the expiration or earlier termination of this Agreement.

(e) Other Insurance Requirements. All insurance required by this Agreement shall be with a company acceptable to COUNTY and issued and executed by an admitted insurer authorized to transact Insurance business in the State of California. Unless otherwise specified by this Agreement, all such insurance shall be written on an occurrence basis, or, if the policy is not written on an occurrence basis, such policy with the coverage required herein shall continue in effect for a period of three years following the date ATTORNEY completes its performance of services under this Agreement.

Each liability policy shall provide that COUNTY shall be given notice in writing at least thirty days in advance of any endorsed reduction in coverage or limit, cancellation, or intended non-renewal thereof. Each policy shall provide coverage for ATTORNEY and additional insureds with respect to claims arising from each subcontractor, if any, performing work under this Agreement, or be accompanied by a certificate of insurance from each subcontractor showing each subcontractor has identical insurance coverage to the above requirements.

Commercial general liability and automobile liability policies shall provide an endorsement naming the COUNTY and County of Monterey, and their officers, agents, and employees as Additional Insureds with respect to liability arising out of the ATTORNEY's work, including ongoing and completed operations, and shall further provide that such insurance is primary insurance to any insurance or self-insurance maintained by the COUNTY or County of Monterey and that the insurance of the Additional Insureds shall not be called upon to contribute to a loss covered by the ATTORNEY's insurance. The required endorsement form for Commercial General Liability Additional Insured is ISO Form CG 20 10 11-85 or CG 20 10 10 01 in tandem with CG 20 37 10 01 (2000). The required endorsement form for Automobile Additional Insured endorsement is ISO Form CA 20 48 02 99.

Prior to the execution of this Agreement by COUNTY, ATTORNEY shall file certificates of insurance with the COUNTY showing that the ATTORNEY has in effect the insurance required by this Agreement. The ATTORNEY shall file a new or amended certificate of insurance within five calendar days after any change is made in any insurance policy, which would alter the information on the certificate then on file. Acceptance or approval of insurance shall in no way modify or change the indemnification clause in this Agreement, which shall continue in full force and effect.

ATTORNEY shall at all times during the term of this Agreement maintain in force the insurance coverage required under this Agreement and shall send, without demand by COUNTY, annual certificates to COUNTY. If the certificate is not received by the expiration date, COUNTY shall notify ATTORNEY and ATTORNEY shall have five calendar days to send in the certificate, evidencing no lapse in coverage during the interim. Failure by ATTORNEY to maintain such insurance is a default of this Agreement which entitles COUNTY, at its sole discretion, to terminate this Agreement immediately.

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5. TERMINATION

5.01. Termination by COUNTY. COUNTY may terminate this Agreement at any time for its convenience and without cause. Upon such termination, ATTORNEY shall promptly comply with the provisions of paragraph 2.05. COUNTY shall pay to ATTORNEY all sums then due and owing for services performed through the effective date of the termination, subject to all other provisions of this Agreement.

5.02. Termination by ATTORNEY. ATTORNEY may terminate this agreement at any time upon giving thirty (30) days written notice to COUNTY. Upon such termination, and unless COUNTY notifies ATTORNEY in writing that it will not need a substitute co-counsel, ATTORNEY shall continue to provide such services as COUNTY may require until such time as COUNTY is able to identify a substitute co-counsel to render necessary services. COUNTY shall not unreasonably delay in identifying such substitute co-counsel or in providing written notice that it will not require a substitute co-counsel. ATTORNEY shall also immediately comply with the provisions of paragraph 2.05. COUNTY shall pay to ATTORNEY all sums due and owing for services performed through the effective date of the termination, subject to all other provisions of this Agreement.

6. GENERAL PROVISIONS

6.01. Nonassignment. ATTORNEY shall not assign or transfer this Agreement, or any part thereof, without the written consent of COUNTY, nor shall ATTORNEY assign any monies due or to become due to ATTORNEY hereunder without the previous written consent of COUNTY.

6.02. Independent Contractor. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed or interpreted to make ATTORNEY anything but an independent contractor and in all ATTORNEY's activities and operations pursuant to this Agreement, ATTORNEY shall for no purposes be considered an employee or agent of COUNTY.

6.03. Authority to Bind COUNTY. It is understood that ATTORNEY, in the performance of any and all duties under this Agreement, has no authority to bind COUNTY to any agreements or undertakings with respect to any and all persons or entities with whom ATTORNEY deals in the course of business.

6.04. Nondisclosure of Information. ATTORNEY shall not disclose, without express written consent of COUNTY, any information relating to COUNTY business which has been submitted by COUNTY to ATTORNEY pursuant to the services to be rendered pursuant to this Agreement. In the event that this Agreement is terminated, ATTORNEY shall immediately return to COUNTY all papers, documents and the like belonging to COUNTY.

6.05. Notices.

(a) Notices permitted or required to be given to the respective parties under this Agreement shall be deemed given (1) when personally delivered to COUNTY care of the Office of the County Counsel or to ATTORNEY's principal partner contact; (2) when personally delivered to the party's principal place of business during normal business hours (i.e., to the office of the Monterey County Counsel in Salinas, California, or to ATTORNEY's office), by leaving the notice with any person apparently in charge of the office and advising such person of the import and contents of the notice; (3) 24 hours after the notice is transmitted by fax machine to the other party, to the fax number indicated below; or (4) 3 days after the notice is deposited in the U.S. mail (by first class, certified, registered, or express mail), with postage fully prepaid, addressed to the party as indicated below.

(b) Notices mailed to the parties shall be addressed as follows:

To COUNTY:

Stacy L. Saetta
Deputy County Counsel

Office of the County Counsel
County of Monterey
168 West Alisal Street, Third Floor
Salinas, California 93901
Phone Number: (831) 755-5045
Fax Number: (831) 755-5283

To ATTORNEY:

Joy Stephenson-Laws, Esq.
Law Offices of Stephenson,
Acquisto & Colman
303 North Glenoaks Blvd.
Burbank, CA 91502
Phone Number: (818) 559-4477
Fax Number: (818) 559-5484

(c) The mailing addresses and fax numbers specified in paragraph (b) may be changed by either party, by giving notice to the other in the manner provided herein.

6.06. Subcontracting. ATTORNEY shall not subcontract or otherwise assign any portion of the work to be performed under this Agreement without prior written approval of COUNTY. Any and all subcontracts shall be subject to the provisions contained in this Agreement.

6.07. Modifications. This Agreement may be modified or amended only by written agreement of the parties. No waiver or modification of this Agreement or of any covenant, condition, or limitation herein contained shall be valid unless in writing and duly executed by the parties hereto.

6.08. Nonwaiver. No covenant or condition of this Agreement can be waived except by the written consent of COUNTY. Forbearance or indulgence by COUNTY in any regard

whatsoever shall not constitute a waiver of the covenant or condition to be performed by ATTORNEY. COUNTY shall be entitled to invoke any remedy available to COUNTY under this Agreement or by law or in equity despite said forbearance or indulgence.

6.09. Sole Agreement. This Agreement contains the entire agreement of the parties relating to the rights herein granted and the obligations herein assumed. Any oral representations or modifications concerning this Agreement shall be of no force or effect excepting a subsequent modification in writing, signed by the parties hereto.

6.10. Venue. If any party herein initiates an action to enforce the terms hereof or declare rights hereunder, the parties agree that venue thereof shall be the County of Monterey, State of California.

6.11. Construed Pursuant to California Law. The parties hereto agree that the provisions of this Agreement will be construed pursuant to the laws of the State of California.

6.12. Exhibits. The following exhibits are attached hereto:

Exhibit A - Scope of Services

Exhibit B - Fees and Expenses

Exhibit C - Modification Regarding Insurance Requirements

[Signatures follow on next page]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, COUNTY and ATTORNEY have caused this Agreement to be executed:

DATED: _____

COUNTY

By _____

Charles J. McKee, Esq.
County Counsel
County of Monterey

DATED: 12/09/2016

LAW OFFICES OF STEPHENSON ACQUISTO & COLMAN

By  _____

Joy Stephenson-Laws, Esq.


APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

CHARLES J. MCKEE, County Counsel

DATED: 12/12/2016

By  _____

Stacy L. Sietta, Esq.
Deputy County Counsel

Reviewed as to fiscal provisions


Auditor-Controller
County of Monterey 12/13/16

EXHIBIT A

SCOPE OF SERVICES

- **MEDICARE RECOVERY AUDIT CONTRACTOR (RAC) ACCOUNTS, OTHER FEDERAL INTEGRITY AUDITS AND OTHER MEDICARE ACCOUNTS:** Review denied, improperly paid or returned Medicare inpatient claims including P.R.O. denials; appear at all Court and Administrative hearings to dispute reasons for denial;
- **COMMERCIAL INSURANCE CASES/HMO/PPO (including “Covered California” Programs):** Review denied and disputed claims; follow-up and file administrative appeals for improperly paid or denied claims (including ERISA appeals); file legal action if necessary.
- **PROBATE/DECEASED PATIENT ACCOUNTS:** Review accounts for cases where a deceased patient has unpaid medical bills; identify any public or private source from which a deceased patient can obtain reimbursement for services rendered by the provider; file probate proceedings and other necessary legal action to obtain reimbursement for the provider.
- **MEDI-CAL MANAGED CARE AND STATE MEDI-CAL ACCOUNTS.** Review disputed inpatient and outpatient claims including denials; file administrative appeals on disputed issues; file legal action if necessary; follow up on all legal proceedings.
- **THIRD PARTY LIABILITY AND WORKER’S COMPENSATION ACCOUNTS:** Review assigned claims where a third party is responsible for payment; perfect appropriate liens; follow-up on such liens; follow-up on all legal proceedings; file legal action if necessary.
- **THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR CLAIMS.** Review disputed inpatient and outpatient claims including denials; file administrative appeals on disputed issues; file legal action if necessary; follow up on all legal proceedings.
- **RATE NEGOTIATION.** Provide assistance with contract rates negotiations with commercial plans and others as needed.

EXHIBIT B

FEES AND EXPENSES

COUNTY shall pay ATTORNEY the fees and necessary expenses for services performed under this Agreement. ATTORNEY shall be compensated by CLIENT for its recovery efforts pursuant to the following arrangements:

1. For MEDICARE RECOVERY AUDIT CONTRACTOR (RAC) ACCOUNTS, OTHER FEDERAL INTEGRITY AUDITS AND OTHER MEDICARE ACCOUNTS, ATTORNEY's fees shall be FIFTEEN percent (15%) percent of recovery for all claims that are resolved prior to hearing and TWENTY percent (20%) percent of recovery for all cases that are resolved at the hearing, Appeals Council level, or if a Federal Court Action is required after a hearing, plus expenses.
2. For COMMERCIAL INSURANCE CASES/HMO/PPO (including "Covered California" Programs), ATTORNEY's fees shall be FIFTEEN percent (15%) percent of recovery for pre-legal work and TWENTY percent (20%) of recovery after legal action is filed, plus expenses.
3. For PROBATE/DECEASED PATIENT ACCOUNTS, ATTORNEY's fees shall be FIFTEEN percent (15%) percent of recovery for pre-legal work and TWENTY percent (20%) of recovery after legal action is filed, plus expenses.
4. For MEDI-CAL MANAGED CARE AND STATE MEDI-CAL ACCOUNTS, ATTORNEY's fees shall be FIFTEEN percent (15%) percent of recovery for pre-legal work and TWENTY percent (20%) of recovery after legal action is filed, plus expenses.
5. For THIRD PARTY LIABILITY AND WORKER'S COMPENSATION ACCOUNTS, ATTORNEY's fees shall be FIFTEEN percent (15%) percent of recovery for pre-legal work and TWENTY percent (20%) of recovery after legal action is filed, plus expenses.
6. For THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR CLAIMS, ATTORNEY's fees shall be FIFTEEN percent (15%) percent of recovery for pre-legal work and TWENTY percent (20%) of recovery after legal action is filed, plus expenses.
7. For RATE NEGOTIATION, ATTORNEY's fees shall be \$250.00 per hour.

NOTE: Expenses are defined in Section 3.04 of this Agreement.

COUNTY will not pay ATTORNEY for travel time.

BUSINESS ASSOCIATE AGREEMENT

This Business Associate Agreement (“Agreement”), effective December 14, 2016 (“Effective Date”), is entered into by and among the County of Monterey, a political subdivision of the State of California, (“Covered Entity”) and Law Offices of Stephenson Acquistio & Colman, Inc. (“Business Associate”) (each a “Party” and collectively the “Parties”).

Business Associate provides legal services for Covered Entity (“Services”) that involve the use and disclosure of Protected Health Information that is created or received by Business Associate from or on behalf of Covered Entity (“PHI”). The Parties are committed to complying with the Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information, 45 C.F.R. Part 160 and Part 164, Subparts A and E as amended from time to time (the “Privacy Rule”), and with the Security Standards, 45 C.F.R. Part 160 and Part 164, Subpart C as amended from time to time (the “Security Rule”), under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (“HIPAA”), as amended by the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act and its implementing regulations (“HITECH”). Business Associate acknowledges that, pursuant to HITECH, 45 C.F.R. §§ 164.308 (administrative safeguards), 164.310 (physical safeguards), 164.312 (technical safeguards), 164.316 (policies and procedures and documentation requirements) and 164.502 *et seq.* apply to Business Associate in the same manner that such sections apply to Covered Entity. The additional requirements of Title XIII of HITECH contained in Public Law 111-005 that relate to privacy and security and that are made applicable with respect to covered entities shall also be applicable to Business Associate. The Parties are also committed to complying with the California Confidentiality of Medical Information Act, Ca. Civil Code §§ 56 *et seq.* (“CMIA”), where applicable. Business Associate acknowledges that the CMIA prohibits Business Associate from further disclosing the PHI it receives from Covered Entity where such disclosure would be violative of the CMIA. The Parties are also committed to complying with applicable requirements of the Red Flag Rules issued pursuant to the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003 (“Red Flag Rules”). This Agreement sets forth the terms and conditions pursuant to which PHI, and, when applicable, Electronic Protected Health Information (“EPHI”), shall be handled. The Parties further acknowledge that state statutes or other laws or precedents may impose data breach notification or information security obligations, and it is their further intention that each shall comply with such laws as well as HITECH and HIPAA in the collection, handling, storage, and disclosure of personal data of patients or other personal identifying information exchanged or stored in connection with their relationship.

The Parties agree as follows:

1. **DEFINITIONS**

All capitalized terms used in this Agreement but not otherwise defined shall have the meaning set forth in the Privacy Rule, Security Rule and HITECH.

2. **PERMITTED USES AND DISCLOSURES OF PHI**

2.1 Unless otherwise limited herein, Business Associate may:

- (a) use or disclose PHI to perform functions, activities or Services for, or on behalf of, Covered Entity as requested by Covered Entity from time to time, provided that such use or disclosure would not violate the Privacy or Security Rules or the standards for Business Associate Agreements set forth in 45 C.F.R. § 164.504(e), exceed the minimum necessary to accomplish the intended purpose of such use or disclosure, violate the additional requirements of HITECH contained in Public Law 111-005 that relate to privacy and security, or violate the CMIA;

- (b) disclose PHI for the purposes authorized by this Agreement only: (i) to its employees, subcontractors and agents; (ii) as directed by this Agreement; or (iii) as otherwise permitted by the terms of this Agreement;
- (c) use PHI in its possession to provide Data Aggregation Services to Covered Entity as permitted by 45 C.F.R. § 164.504(e)(2)(i)(B);
- (d) use PHI in its possession for proper management and administration of Business Associate or to carry out the legal responsibilities of Business Associate as permitted by 45 C.F.R. § 164.504(e)(4)(i);
- (e) disclose the PHI in its possession to third parties for the proper management and administration of Business Associate to the extent and in the manner permitted under 45 C.F.R. § 164.504(e)(4)(ii); provided that disclosures are Required by Law, or Business Associate obtains reasonable assurances from the persons to whom the information is disclosed that it will remain confidential and used or further disclosed only as Required by Law or for the purpose for which it was disclosed to the person, and the person notifies the Business Associate of any instances of which it is aware in which the confidentiality of the information has been breached;
- (f) use PHI to report violations of law to appropriate Federal and state authorities, consistent with 45 C.F.R. § 164.502(j)(1);
- (g) de-identify any PHI obtained by Business Associate under this Agreement for further use or disclosure only to the extent such de-identification is pursuant to this Agreement, and use such de-identified data in accordance with 45 C.F.R. § 164.502(d)(1).

3. **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES WITH RESPECT TO PHI**

3.1 Responsibilities of Business Associate. With regard to its use and/or disclosure of PHI, Business Associate shall:

- (a) use and/or disclose the PHI only as permitted or required by this Agreement or as otherwise Required by Law;
- (b) report to the privacy officer of Covered Entity, in writing, (i) any use and/or disclosure of the PHI that is not permitted or required by this Agreement of which Business Associate becomes aware, and (ii) any Breach of unsecured PHI as specified by HITECH, within two (2) days of Business Associate's determination of the occurrence of such unauthorized use and/or disclosure. In such event, the Business Associate shall, in consultation with the Covered Entity, mitigate, to the extent practicable, any harmful effect that is known to the Business Associate of such improper use or disclosure. The notification of any Breach of unsecured PHI shall include, to the extent possible, the identification of each individual whose unsecured PHI has been, or is reasonably believed by the Business Associate to have been, accessed, acquired, used or disclosed during the Breach.
- (c) use commercially reasonable safeguards to maintain the security of the PHI and to prevent use and/or disclosure of such PHI other than as provided herein;
- (d) obtain and maintain an agreement with all of its subcontractors and agents that

*BAA with Law Firm BA Dated 06/03/15 Based on BAA
Approved by County BOS 09/16/14 and Revised on 09/30/14.*

receive, use, or have access to, PHI pursuant to which agreement such subcontractors and agents agree to adhere to the same restrictions and conditions on the use and/or disclosure of PHI that apply to Business Associate pursuant to this Agreement;

- (e) make available all internal practices, records, books, agreements, policies and procedures and PHI relating to the use and/or disclosure of PHI to the Secretary for purposes of determining Covered Entity or Business Associate's compliance with the Privacy Rule;
- (f) document disclosures of PHI and information related to such disclosure and, within ten (10) days of receiving a written request from Covered Entity, provide to Covered Entity such information as is requested by Covered Entity to permit Covered Entity to respond to a request by an individual for an accounting of the disclosures of the individual's PHI in accordance with 45 C.F.R. § 164.528, as well as provide an accounting of disclosures, as required by HITECH, directly to an individual provided that the individual has made a request directly to Business Associate for such an accounting. At a minimum, the Business Associate shall provide the Covered Entity with the following information: (i) the date of the disclosure, (ii) the name of the entity or person who received the PHI, and if known, the address of such entity or person; (iii) a brief description of the PHI disclosed; and (iv) a brief statement of the purpose of such disclosure which includes an explanation of the basis for such disclosure. In the event the request for an accounting is delivered directly to the Business Associate, the Business Associate shall, within two (2) days, forward such request to the Covered Entity. The Business Associate shall implement an appropriate recordkeeping process to enable it to comply with the requirements of this Section;
- (g) subject to Section 4.4 below, return to Covered Entity within twenty-one (21) days of the termination of this Agreement, the PHI in its possession and retain no copies, including backup copies;
- (h) disclose to its subcontractors, agents or other third parties, and request from Covered Entity, only the minimum PHI necessary to perform or fulfill a specific function required or permitted hereunder;
- (i) if all or any portion of the PHI is maintained in a Designated Record Set:
 - (i) upon ten (10) days' prior written request from Covered Entity, provide access to the PHI in a Designated Record Set to Covered Entity or, as directed by Covered Entity, the individual to whom such PHI relates or his or her authorized representative to meet a request by such individual under 45 C.F.R. § 164.524; and
 - (ii) upon ten (10) days' prior written request from Covered Entity, make any amendment(s) to the PHI that Covered Entity directs pursuant to 45 C.F.R. § 164.526;
- (j) maintain policies and procedures to detect and prevent identity theft in connection with the provision of the Services, to the extent required to comply with the Red Flag Rules;
- (k) notify the Covered Entity within five (5) days of the Business Associate's receipt of any request or subpoena for PHI;
- (l) maintain a formal security program materially in accordance with all applicable data security and privacy laws and industry standards designed to ensure the security and

integrity of the Covered Entity's data and protect against threats or hazards to such security.

The Business Associate acknowledges that, as between the Business Associate and the Covered Entity, all PHI shall be and remain the sole property of the Covered Entity.

3.2 Additional Responsibilities of Business Associate with Respect to EPHI. In the event that Business Associate has access to EPHI, in addition to the other requirements set forth in this Agreement relating to PHI, Business Associate shall:

- (a) implement administrative, physical, and technical safeguards that reasonably and appropriately protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of EPHI that Business Associate creates, receives, maintains, or transmits on behalf of Covered Entity as required by 45 C.F.R. Part 164, Subpart C;
- (b) ensure that any subcontractor or agent to whom Business Associate provides any EPHI agrees in writing to implement reasonable and appropriate safeguards to protect such EPHI; and
- (c) report to the privacy officer of Covered Entity, in writing, any Security Incident involving EPHI of which Business Associate becomes aware within two (2) days of Business Associate's discovery of such Security Incident. For purposes of this Section, a Security Incident shall mean (consistent with the definition set forth at 45 C.F.R. § 164.304), the attempted or successful unauthorized access, use, disclosure, modification, or destruction of information or interference with systems operations in an information system. In such event, the Business Associate shall, in consultation with the Covered Entity, mitigate, to the extent practicable, any harmful effect that is known to the Business Associate of such improper use or disclosure.

3.3 Responsibilities of Covered Entity. Covered Entity shall, with respect to Business Associate:

- (a) provide Business Associate a copy of Covered Entity's notice of privacy practices ("Notice") currently in use;
- (b) notify Business Associate of any limitations in the Notice pursuant to 45 C.F.R. § 164.520, to the extent that such limitations may affect Business Associate's use or disclosure of PHI;
- (c) notify Business Associate of any changes to the Notice that Covered Entity provides to individuals pursuant to 45 C.F.R. § 164.520, to the extent that such changes may affect Business Associate's use or disclosure of PHI;
- (d) notify Business Associate of any changes in, or withdrawal of, the consent or authorization of an individual regarding the use or disclosure of PHI provided to Covered Entity pursuant to 45 C.F.R. § 164.506 or § 164.508, to the extent that such changes may affect Business Associate's use or disclosure of PHI; and
- (e) notify Business Associate, in writing and in a timely manner, of any restrictions on use and/or disclosure of PHI as provided for in 45 C.F.R. § 164.522 agreed to by Covered Entity, to the extent that such restriction may affect Business Associate's use or disclosure of PHI.

4. TERMS AND TERMINATION

- 4.1 Term. This Agreement shall become effective on the Effective Date and shall continue in effect unless terminated as provided in this Article 4. Certain provisions and requirements of this Agreement shall survive its expiration or other termination as set forth in Section 5.1 herein.
- 4.2 Termination. Either Covered Entity or Business Associate may terminate this Agreement and any related agreements if the terminating Party determines in good faith that the terminated Party has breached a material term of this Agreement; provided, however, that no Party may terminate this Agreement if the breaching Party cures such breach to the reasonable satisfaction of the terminating Party within thirty (30) days after the breaching Party's receipt of written notice of such breach.
- 4.3 Automatic Termination. This Agreement shall automatically terminate without any further action of the Parties upon the termination or expiration of Business Associate's provision of Services to Covered Entity.
- 4.4 Effect of Termination. Upon termination or expiration of this Agreement for any reason, Business Associate shall return all PHI pursuant to 45 C.F.R. § 164.504(e)(2)(ii)(I) if, and to the extent that, it is feasible to do so. Prior to doing so, Business Associate shall recover any PHI in the possession of its subcontractors or agents. To the extent it is not feasible for Business Associate to return or destroy any portion of the PHI, Business Associate shall provide Covered Entity a statement that Business Associate has determined that it is infeasible to return or destroy all or some portion of the PHI in its possession or in possession of its subcontractors or agents. Business Associate shall extend any and all protections, limitations and restrictions contained in this Agreement to any PHI retained after the termination of this Agreement until such time as the PHI is returned to Covered Entity or destroyed. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Parties hereby acknowledge and agree that, except in certain limited circumstances, such as in the event of the termination of the attorney-client relationship between Covered Entity and Business Associate, it will not be feasible for Business Associate to return to Covered Entity or destroy Covered Entity's PHI held by Business Associate and its agents or subcontractors.

5. MISCELLANEOUS

- 5.1 Survival. The respective rights and obligations of Business Associate and Covered Entity under the provisions of Sections 4.4, 5.1, 5.6, and 5.7, and Section 2.1 (solely with respect to PHI that Business Associate retains in accordance with Section 4.4 because it is not feasible to return or destroy such PHI), shall survive termination of this Agreement until such time as the PHI is returned to Covered Entity or destroyed. In addition, Section 3.1(i) shall survive termination of this Agreement, provided that Covered Entity determines that the PHI being retained pursuant to Section 4.4 constitutes a Designated Record Set.
- 5.2 Amendments; Waiver. This Agreement may not be modified or amended, except in a writing duly signed by authorized representatives of the Parties. To the extent that any relevant provision of the HIPAA, HITECH or Red Flag Rules is materially amended in a manner that changes the obligations of Business Associates or Covered Entities, the Parties agree to negotiate in good faith appropriate amendment(s) to this Agreement to give effect to the revised obligations. Further, no provision of this Agreement shall be waived, except in a writing duly signed by authorized representatives of the Parties. A waiver with respect to one event shall not be construed as continuing, or as a bar to or waiver of any right or remedy as

to subsequent events.

5.3 No Third Party Beneficiaries. Nothing express or implied in this Agreement is intended to confer, nor shall anything herein confer, upon any person other than the Parties and the respective successors or assigns of the Parties, any rights, remedies, obligations, or liabilities whatsoever.

5.4 Attorney-Client Privilege. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, Covered Entity and Business Associate, recognizing that Business Associate serves as an attorney for Covered Entity, hereby agree that nothing contained in this Agreement:

- (a) Waives the attorney-client, work-product, or any other privilege that may be invoked by, or is applicable to, either Party;
- (b) Imposes any duties or obligations on Business Associate that are inconsistent with Business Associate's duties and obligations to Covered Entity as a client of Business Associate, including, without limitation, any obligation of confidentiality or other obligation imposed on Business Associate under ethical rules applicable to the Parties' attorney-client relationship or otherwise at law; or
- (c) Limits either Party's right or ability to adequately conduct discovery in any arbitration or litigation proceeding.
- (d) It is the intention of the Parties that this Agreement shall be narrowly construed and that nothing contained in this Agreement shall impact any aspect of the attorney-client relationship that does not involve the Use or Disclosure of PHI.

5.5 Notices. Any notices to be given hereunder to a Party shall be made via U.S. Mail or express courier to such Party's address given below, and/or via facsimile to the facsimile telephone numbers listed below.

If to Business Associate, to:

Attn: _____
Phone: _____
Fax: _____

If to Covered Entity, to:

Charles J. McKee
County Counsel
Office of the County Counsel
County of Monterey

168 W Alisal Street, 3rd Floor
Salinas, CA 93901-2439
Fax: 831-755-5283

Each Party named above may change its address and that of its representative for notice by the giving of notice thereof in the manner hereinabove provided. Such notice is effective upon receipt of notice, but receipt is deemed to occur on next business day if notice is sent by FedEx or other overnight delivery service.

- 5.6 Counterparts; Facsimiles. This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original. Facsimile copies hereof shall be deemed to be originals.
- 5.7 Choice of Law; Interpretation. This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of California; as provided, however, that any ambiguities in this Agreement shall be resolved in a manner that allows Business Associate to comply with the Privacy Rule, and, if applicable, the Security Rule and the CMIA.
- 5.8 Indemnification. Contractor shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the County of Monterey (hereinafter County), its officers, agents, and employees from any claim, liability, loss, injury, cost, expense, penalty or damage, including the County's reasonable cost of providing notification of and of mitigating any acquisition, access, use or disclosure of PHI in a manner not permitted by this BAA, arising out of, or in connection with, performance of this BAA by Contractor and/or its agents, members, employees, or sub-contractors, excepting only loss, injury, cost, expense, penalty or damage caused by the negligence or willful misconduct of personnel employed by the County. It is the intent of the parties to this BAA to provide the broadest possible indemnification for the County. Contractor shall reimburse the County for all costs, attorneys' fees, expenses, and liabilities incurred by the County with respect to any investigation, enforcement proceeding or litigation in which Contractor is obligated to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the County under this BAA. This provision is in addition to and independent of any indemnification provision in any related or other agreement between the Covered Entity and the Business Associate.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, each of the undersigned has caused this Agreement to be duly executed in its name and on its behalf as of the Effective Date.

[BUSINESS ASSOCIATE]

COUNTY OF MONTEREY

By: 

By: _____

Print Name: Joy Stephenson-Laws

Print Name: _____

Print Title: Managing Partner

Print Title: _____

Date: November 2, 2016

Date: _____