



Government of Samoa

Ministry of Health



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Please address all correspondence to the  
Director General  
Fa'amolemole fa'atuatusi uma feso'otaiga ile  
Fa'atonusili Aoao

### **Request for Expression of Interest**

#### **MOH/REOI/14/2023: Individual Consultant – General Practitioners to monitor and care for patients with Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)**

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1. The Government of Samoa through the Ministry of Health (MoH) continues to place emphasis on providing assistance to support the implementation of the Health Sector Plan (HSP 2019/20-2029/30). The overarching goal for health development in Samoa entails the need for an inclusive, people-centered service with emphasis on health prevention, protection, and patient-care as well as in compliance with the achievement of the HSP vision of “*A Healthy Samoa*”.
2. The MOH now invites the eligible professional service of qualified General Practitioners (GPs) to provide the services required under this invitation to improve care for patients with NCDs. Interested GPs must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the assignment (i.e. Availability of appropriate skills with relevant qualifications, description of similar assignments, CVs and Certificates, experience in similar nature etc.) Further details disclosed in No. 4- Key Qualifications and Experiences below.
3. **Terms of Reference:**

This Public Private Partnership is to foster relationship between the Ministry of Health and the General Practitioners in the private sector to improve care for patients with Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). Care is improved by increasing access to medical care, shorter waiting times, monitored and evaluated care and outcomes.

  - i. **Aim:**

The purpose of this project is to improve continuity of care for patients with NCDs by engaging selected general practices in a partnership with the Ministry of Health.
  - ii. **Objectives:**
    - Enhancing linkages between public and private services;
    - Improve registry of patients with NCDs;
    - Increase access to medical practitioners;
    - To improve the quality of care for patients with NCDs;
    - To lessen the frequency and delay or avert complications of NCDs;
    - To prevent premature mortality in people living with NCDs;
    - To assure the rights of all people with NCDs access to quality, affordable, accountable and safe health care delivery.

**iii. Approach:***The General Practitioner in the Private Primary care Setting*

Registered General Practitioners practicing from Accredited Medical Clinics are eligible to apply for contracts with the Ministry of Health for the management of patients with NCDs in their clinics.

*Contract*

A Contract with details of monitoring and evaluation and payment will be signed with the selected GP clinic. The GP clinic will require to have at least 20 patients with NCDs who regular patients are and have agreed to have their NCDs managed by the clinic. The patients are also defined as those patients with proven diabetes and hypertension, on medication for either, with or without complications.

The Contract will require the GP clinics to provide three-monthly verifiable reports to MOH. The data will include: age, gender, BMI, BP, blood sugar measurements at visits, frequency of visits, HbA1C, uric acid and renal function tests at least every six months, evidence of medicines prescribed and ophthalmology referral annually for diabetics.

Agreed payment of \$40 will be paid per visit for up to 10 visits a year. Patients with a proven NCD is registered by a named GP clinic and the funds will be paid to only that clinic. The MOH NCD coordinator will keep a registry of patients and monitoring will be jointly done with the Medical Department of Tupua Tamasese Meaole Hospital (TTMH). The GP clinics may charge a co-payment per visit that is not more than \$10 a visit.

The selected GP clinics are expected to register their own patients and keep good verifiable medical records for MOH.

**iv. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):**

It is expected that the management of patients in primary care and continuity of care will result in better outcomes for the patients.

- a. 100% of registered patients are followed up regularly and in accordance with accepted evidence-based guidelines and the MOH guidelines for the Management of Patients with Diabetes, Gout and Hypertension;
- b. 95% of registered patients will have full blood work up at least twice a year;
- c. 95% of patients with gout will have at least one serum uric acid level of less than 40 mmol/L per year;
- d. 95% of registered patients will have two HbA1c values of less than 43mmol/mol per year;
- e. 95% of registered patients with hypertension will have an average blood pressure value that is less than 130/90 mmHg per year from at least six readings;

- f. 95% of patients with diabetes have a urine test for proteinuria at least three times a year;
- g. 95% of patients with BMI of more than 45 are referred to METI for nutrition and diet advise;
- h. 95% of registered patients with diabetes will have been referred and seen in the Eye Clinic within 12 months;
- i. 100% of registered patients needing referral for specialist care are referred to TTMH and followed up.

Clinics that have patients with outcomes that are above the average compared to hospital and other clinic patients may have their contracts renewed for another 24 months.

#### 4. Key Qualifications and Experiences

The successful candidate should demonstrate abilities to meet the following selection criteria: -

- i. Qualifications: Minimum qualification of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) Degree or equivalent.;
- ii. Minimum 10 years of demonstrated previous experience in the patient care;
- iii. Current knowledge in the policies, guidelines and medicines which govern public health and patient care standards as mandated by the World Health Organization;
- iv. Currently resides and continues to reside in Samoa for the duration of the assignment;
- v. Currently registered as a Medical practitioner under the Ministry of Health register and holds a valid practising certificate and business licenses.

#### 5. Duration of Assignment

The contract resulting from this Request of Expression of Interest will be executed within the duration of 12 months.

- 6. **A pre-bid meeting will be held on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 10am at the MOH conference room.**
- 7. **All applications must be addressed and delivered to- The Director General, Ministry of Health, Level 3 MOH Headquarter, Motootua by Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at or before 12.00pm.**
- 8. **For clarifications please do not hesitate to contact the Deputy Director General Public Health- Auliaimalae Dr Robert Thomsen on email [RobertT@health.gov.ws](mailto:RobertT@health.gov.ws) and copy [Mathew.Tofilau@health.gov.ws](mailto:Mathew.Tofilau@health.gov.ws) and [AmandarellP@health.gov.ws](mailto:AmandarellP@health.gov.ws) .**

Yours faithfully,



**Aiono Dr.Alec Ekeroma**  
**Director General/CEO**  
**Ministry of Health**