



AAC Survey Instruction Manual

2013 Edition

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## I. Instruction Manual Summary

The following steps provide an outline of the Average Acquisition Cost survey process, and a more complete explanation is contained within this manual. Since the manual was designed to address most provider questions, please refer to these more detailed instructions before calling DoH for assistance.

1. Add the DoH email to your email address book. DoH will communicate with the email address that you have affiliated with your HCS account.
2. Ensure that you have an active HCS Account, which is properly affiliated with your pharmacy. You may already have an account from previous projects.
3. Gather the necessary data to complete this survey.
4. Download the file, which DoH will provide via email, to a location on your computer where you will be able to find it. We recommend saving it to either your 'My Documents' folder or your computer's desktop.
5. Make sure that you enable all macros. If you do not know how to do this please go to Appendix A.
6. Use the 'save' tool to make sure that your file is properly named. This will change the name of the file to the required name. We also ask that you enter your email and name that will be used for the attestation page at this point.
7. Begin to enter purchase data on the purchase data tab. See page 11 for instructions on how to begin entering purchase data.
8. When finished entering the data into the purchase data tab, check for errors with the 'check errors' button. You must fix all errors before moving onto the next step.
9. Move onto the next step, entering in the complementary data (total cost, rebates, free goods, and surcharges) by month for the previously completed 12 months.
10. Answer the declaration of proprietary information and confirmation of attestation questions that pop up onto the screen.
11. Change the status on the overview page to 'I'm Finished' to protect your data. If you need to go back to edit, change the selection back to 'I'm Still Working'.
12. Make sure that you save the file again before you submit it to DoH.
13. In order to submit you will need to use the HCS 'Secure File Transfer Tool'. For instructions using the 'SFT' Tool go to page 18.

## **II. Introduction**

On April 1, 2011 the New York (NY) Legislature adopted the recommendation of the Medicaid Redesign Team and enacted legislation to amend the Medicaid drug payment methodology, as defined in SSL section 367-a(9)(b), to include Average Acquisition Cost (AAC) as a reimbursement standard. The legislation defines drug acquisition cost to mean "the invoice price to the pharmacy of a prescription drug dispensed to a Medicaid recipient, minus the amount of all discounts and other cost reductions attributable to such dispensed drug." To determine AAC, the NY Department of Health (DoH) is administering a survey to NY Medicaid enrolled pharmacies known as the "New York Medicaid Actual Acquisition Cost Survey." The overall goal of this initiative is to create a cost based pharmacy reimbursement methodology that is valid, transparent, timely and sustainable.

This instruction manual provides pharmacy providers with an overview of the survey methodology and guidance on how to complete the Actual Acquisition Cost (AAC) survey.

### III. New York Medicaid Actual Acquisition Cost Survey Methodology

To calculate the AAC, NY DOH will initially issue a survey to all Medicaid enrolled pharmacy providers. These pharmacy providers will be required to report:

- The invoice price of all drugs purchased for the DoH-specified -month, which will be identified on the survey form (“the Detailed Reporting Month”.) This information will include a pharmacy’s National Provider Identifier number (NPI), invoice dates, drugs identified by their 11-digit NDC code, drug names, quantities (number of packages, bottles or cartons) purchased and total amount paid.
- Total cost of all drugs purchased in the previous 12 months, including the Detailed Reporting Month, reported by month.
- Total discounts, rebates, free goods, and other things of value received for the purchase of drugs, in the previous 12 months including the Detailed Reporting Month..
- Total surcharges (*e.g.*, fuel, overnight delivery and special handling charges) paid in excess of invoice amounts for the purchase of drugs in the previous 12 months, including the Detailed Reporting Month

After this initial survey has been completed, the DoH will conduct a preliminary review to determine if submitted information is readable and has been entered in the correct format for analysis. Data that does not meet this standard will be rejected and returned to the submitting pharmacy for correction.

**At no point in the process will the DoH make changes to the data, or enter any missing values even when they might be inferred.**

When all survey data have been determined to be in the correct format, DoH will load the data into its database, remove all information identifying the pharmacy provider and send the data to the State’s electronic data provider, First DataBank (“FDB.”) For the initial survey, FDB will send the data to the accounting firm Ernst and Young (“EY”), which will conduct a review and analysis of data content. If required, EY will verify the submitted data against supporting pharmacy provider documentation. EY will then employ the data to determine the methodology to be used for calculating AAC, and submit that methodology to DoH for review and approval. Upon acceptance by DoH, this methodology will be implemented on an ongoing basis: FDB will use the methodology in the incorporation of new data obtained in continuing monthly surveys of a statistical sample of pharmacy providers. All resulting prices will be delivered to DoH for approval before their use in the MMIS system.

As part of this process DoH may request supporting documentation from pharmacies, including invoices, goods receipts, and payment records, in order to verify the data submitted.

## **IV. Survey Submission Process Prior to Use of the Survey Data Collection Tool**

Follow these steps prior to using the Survey Data Collection Tool:

### **1. Save the DoH email address**

To provide timely communications to all Medicaid Pharmacy Providers, DoH will use email to notify pharmacies about the survey process and timeline. To ensure that you receive these emails, it is important that you add the email address [medpharmpricing@health.state.ny.us](mailto:medpharmpricing@health.state.ny.us) to your email address book. This will prevent your email provider from treating emails from DoH as spam, and will allow you to receive email updates on the survey process from DoH as due dates approach.

The email communication will be sent out to the email that is associated with your affiliated HCS account. Therefore, if you do not have an HCS Account please proceed to step 2, otherwise continue to step 3.

### **2. Ensure that you are registered in the Health Commerce System (HCS)**

In the completion of the COD survey issued in October 2012, your pharmacy should already have registered with HCS. If you have not done so, please refer to Appendix A (at the end of this instruction manual) for directions on how to register.

### **3. Gather the data to complete the AAC Survey Spreadsheet**

Pharmacy providers can collect needed data from either of two sources: by contacting wholesalers to obtain records of purchase and verifying them; or, by independently tabulating internal records, such as invoices, receipts and payment records received from wholesalers or manufacturers.

Most wholesalers have indicated to DoH that they would provide purchasing information directly to their customers upon request, but would not provide it directly to DoH. Pharmacies should contact their wholesalers to determine what information is available and how it can be provided in a format that will facilitate completion of the survey.

Whether the information is developed through wholesaler records or independently, it will remain the pharmacy's responsibility to make certain it is accurate, comprehensive and properly formatted, and compiled within the workbook that DoH provides.

## V. The Survey Data Collection Tool

The Survey Data Collection Tool, comprised of a *Microsoft Excel workbook*, has been designed to provide a simplified process that guides pharmacies through the survey.

## VI. Opening the Excel Workbook File

DoH will be emailing the Excel Workbook to all pharmacies that both (a) are required to complete the survey and (b) have an individual with an active HCS account that is affiliated with the pharmacy. DoH recommends that you download the workbook attachment to either your 'My Documents' folder or your computer Desktop.

Depending on the version of Excel your system uses, when you open up the excel workbook, you will likely see warnings telling you the workbook contains "macros" which have been disabled. Different Excel versions will present the warnings in different ways, but the common requirement for you in all versions is to "enable" the tool's macro features. These macros are mini-programs within the workbook designed to assist you and validate the information being collected, and they must be "unblocked" or "allowed to run" before you can continue.

The following example relates to Excel version 2007 or version 2010. For information on enabling macros to run with Excel 2003 see Appendix A.



In this example a "Security Warning" window appears immediately below the menu bar and clicking on "Options" will open a separate window. Select the radio button "Enable this Content" and then click "okay" to permit the formulas and formatting embedded in the spreadsheet to work.

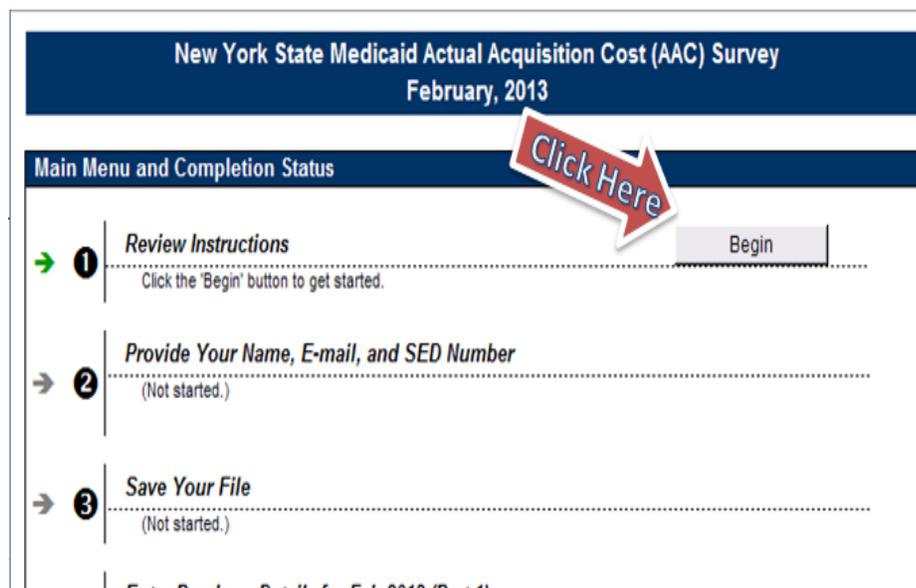


You may be required to enable the Survey Tool’s macros each time you reopen the file. Additional information on enabling macros is including in *Appendix A: Enabling Macros*, on page 23. (now it is page 22)

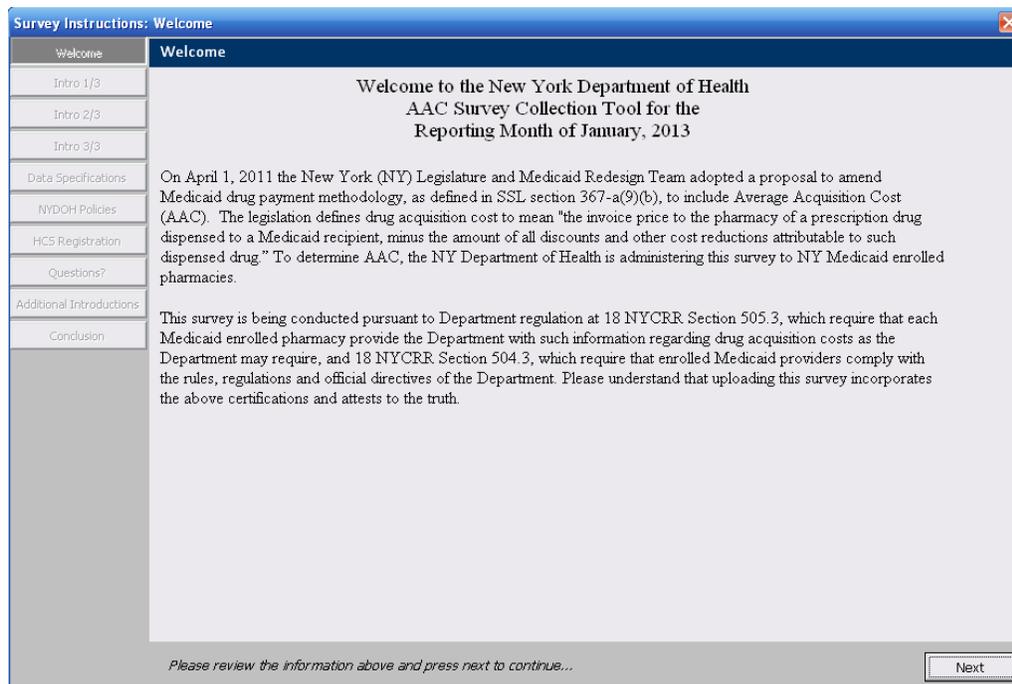
## VII. Using the Excel Workbook

### 1. Review Instructions and Key Points (Section 1)

After enabling all macros to run, you will see the “Main Menu and Completion Status” screen. This screen will guide you through the workbook and provide feedback on problem areas as you progress. Click on the “Begin” button to review some instructions and key points.

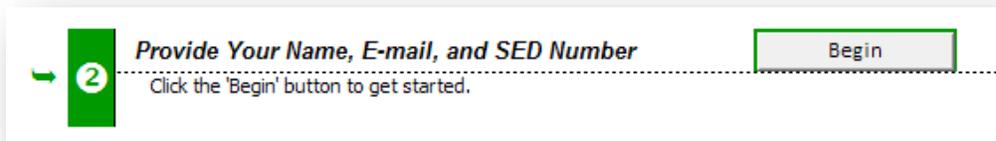


By clicking the “Next” button progressively through the successive screens, you will receive brief descriptive information that explains the survey process and defines relevant terms. For more in-depth information please refer to this manual.



**2. Provide Your Name, E-mail, and SED Number (Section 2)**

Once you return to the main menu, continue to the next section where you need to supply your SED number, name, and e-mail address.



You will see the following form. Follow the instructions above each of the yellow boxes and click “OK”.

**Provide Name, Email, and SED Number**

SED #:

Please enter your SED number in the box above. (Your SED number is the Pharmacy Licence Number issued by the NYS Education Department affiliated/associated with your account.)

Name:

Please enter the name of the person responsible for completing this survey in the box below.

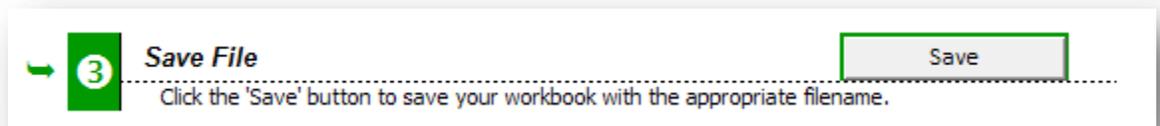
E-mail:

Please enter the e-mail address of the person responsible for completing this survey in the box below.

OK

### 3. Saving Your File (Section 3)

Everyone received the same workbook to use. In order to distinguish yours from other submissions, your workbook will be saved with a file name that includes your SED number along with other identifying information. Click the “Save” button to save your file.



You can expect to see a “Please wait...” message until your file is successfully saved.

2 **Provide Your Name, E-mail, and SED Number** Edit  
Bob Smith (bobsmith@gmail.com) using SED number 123456

3 **Save Your File** Saving Now  
File being saved. Please wait...

6 **Provide the Proprietary Nature of Information Submitted**  
(Not started.)

7 **Attest to the Truthfulness of Information Submitted**  
(Not started.)

**File Saved**  
Your file has been saved as: "AAC\_Survey\_2013\_M02\_123456.xlsm"  
OK

Once complete, you will receive a message telling you the new file name used to save your workbook. It will be stored in the same location in which you opened the common workbook sent to all pharmacies. Again we recommend initially saving the file to your desktop or my documents folder for ease of access.



## 6. Checking for Problems

Each worksheet has a “Check for Problems” button, that when pressed, will scan your data for invalid entries.



Problem entries are presented in red. The first problem encountered will have a “callout” box with a message explaining the issue found. (All problem entries will have a callout message but will only be displayed when you hover the mouse pointer over it.)

For example, when an NDC is found that does not contain 11 digits, you will receive a message similar to:

NPI	Invoice Date	NDC11	Drug Name	Quantity	Total Cost
1000000004	02/01/2013	0074647932	Generaf	4.00	427.65
1000000004	02/01/2013	45802049326	Ar		70.30
1000000004	02/01/2013	00173069600	Advair Discus	34.00	7,330.91
1000000004	02/01/2013	53885024450	Atenolol	50.00	1,039.63
1000000004	02/01/2013	00173064460	Lamictal	2.00	828.99
1000000004	02/01/2013	0074647933	Albuterol	31.00	2,471.10
1000000004	02/01/2013	45802049326	Generaf	35.00	2,648.30
1000000004	02/01/2013	00173069601	Ammonium Lactate	39.00	2,825.50
1000000004	02/01/2013	53885024450	Advair Discus	43.00	3,002.70
1000000004	02/01/2013	00173064461	Atenolol	47.00	3,179.90
1000000004	02/01/2013	0074647934	Lamictal	51.00	3,357.10

When the number of problems reaches 25, the checking will stop, allowing you to identify common errors or patterns.

## 7. Back to Entering Purchase Details for the Reporting Month (Section 4)

This information includes the National Provider Identifier (NPI) of the reporting pharmacy (or successive NPIs for a chain reporting for more than one entity), invoice dates, 11-digit NDCs, drug names, quantities purchased and total cost.

NPI	Invoice Date	NDC11	Drug Name	Quantity	Total Cost
1000000004	02/01/2013	00746479321	Generaf	4.00	427.65
1000000004	02/01/2013	45802049326	Ammonium Lactate	5.00	70.30
1000000004	02/01/2013	00173069600	Advair Discus	34.00	7,330.91
1000000004	02/01/2013	53885024450	Atenolol	50.00	1,039.63
1000000004	02/01/2013	00173064460	Lamictal	2.00	828.99
1000000004	02/01/2013	00746479321	Albuterol	31.00	2,471.09
1000000004	02/01/2013	45802049326	Generaf	35.00	2,648.30
1000000004	02/01/2013	00173069600	Ammonium Lactate	39.00	2,825.50
1000000004	02/01/2013	53885024450	Advair Discus	43.00	3,002.70
1000000004	02/01/2013	00173064460	Atenolol	47.00	3,179.90
1000000004	02/01/2013	00746479345	Lamictal	51.00	3,357.10

Each row in the spreadsheet should reflect a line item on an invoice received from the manufacturer or wholesaler.

**NPI:** Enter the pharmacy provider's National Provider Identification (NPI) number, which is a 10 digit number.

**Invoice Date:** Enter the date listed on the invoice in the format mm/dd/yyyy.

**Example – "02/01/2013"**

**NDC-11:** Enter **Drug Name:** Enter the drug name reflected on the invoice.

**Example - "CYMBALTA 20 MG CAP 60"**

**Quantity:** Enter the number of NDC-11 packages that were purchased, not the number of individual items contained within those packages. DO NOT report Unit of Measure quantities. A quantity of zero cannot be entered and all quantity values must be in whole numbers.

**Example - 5 bottles of 90 Atorvastatin 10mg Tablets NDC11 00591377419.**

A quantity of 5 would be reported **NOT** 450.

**Total Cost:** The total cost reported must be the total price paid for the total quantity of the drug purchased excluding any off-invoice discounts, rebates and free goods and services. This is the cost for all packages purchased during that reporting period **NOT** the per package unit cost. To calculate the Total Cost from the per package cost, simply multiply the individual package price by the quantity of packages purchased.

When you have clicked through all the Overview descriptions, click on the "X" to close the popup, and begin to enter data into the spreadsheet.

**Example – 15 bottles of CYMBALTA 20 MG CAPSULES 60 purchased at \$263.75 per bottle.**

A Quantity of 15 and a Total Cost of \$3956.25 would be reported.

(15 X \$263.75 = \$3956.25)

**8. Example of a Transferring Data from a Sample Invoice**

Sample Invoice from Wholesaler to Pharmacy

**XYZ Wholesaler**

**Invoice# 123456**

**Date : 02/01/2013**

NDC	Product	Unit Price	Quantity	Total
00006011231	Januvia 50 Tab (30s)	247.65	1	247.65
00002323560	Cymbalta 20 Cap (60s)	263.75	15	3956.25
60505285001	Alfuzosin HCL ER 10	16.01	2	32.02

NPI	Invoice Date	NDC11	Drug Name	Quantity	Total Cost
1002230111	02/01/2013	00006011231	Januvia 50 Tab	1.00	\$ 247.65
1002230111	02/01/2013	00002323560	Cymbalta 20 Cap	15.00	\$ 263.75
1002230111	02/01/2013	60505285001	Alfuzosin HCL	2.00	\$ 16.01

Once the data is entered run the “Check for Problems” procedure to ensure that your information is correctly formatted. In the following example, January and October dates were identified for a November reporting month, and one of the NDCs reported has only nine digits. Clicking on the “Check for Problems” button in this case will highlight the incorrect entries, and a pop up message will identify the nature of the problem:

NPI	Invoice Date	NDC11	Drug Name	Quantity	Total Cost
1000000004	12/01/2013	00006011231	Januvia 50 Tab	1.00	\$ 247.65
1000000004	02/01/2013	00002323560	Cymbalta 20 Cap	15.00	\$ 263.75
1000000004	02/01/2013	60505285001	Alfuzosin HCL	2.00	\$ 16.01

NPI	Invoice Date	NDC11	Drug Name	Quantity	Total Cost
1000000004	02/01/2013	000060112	Januvia 50 Tab	1.00	\$ 247.65
1000000004	02/01/2013	00002323560	Cymbalta 20 Cap	15.00	\$ 263.75
1000000004	02/01/2013	60505285001	Alfuzosin HCL	2.00	\$ 16.01



Correcting the problem will result in a message and you can return to the Main Menu for the next section.

**9. Entering Totals for a Calendar Year (Section 5)**

✓ 4	<i>Enter Purchase Details for Feb 2013 (Part 1)</i> Completed. (3 purchases recorded. No problems found.)	Edit Data
→ 5	<i>Enter Totals for Mar 2012 through Feb 2013 (Part 2)</i> Click the 'Begin' button to get started.	Begin

This table collects both total drug invoice costs and total off-invoice price considerations that decreased or increased net costs. For each NPI included in the survey response, the pharmacy provider must enter the:

- Total cost of all drugs purchased each month for the identified months.
- Total off-invoice discounts, rebates, free goods and other things of value received for the purchase of drugs in each of the identified months.
- Total off-invoice surcharges paid in each of the identified months.

**This template must be filled out completely, with no blank fields.** If there were no discounts or surcharges in a month, zeroes should be entered in the fields. DoH will not add any values or infer any information from a blank field, and incomplete submissions will be rejected as non-compliant.

After you have properly completed the detailed monthly information, this table will automatically populate the Detailed Reporting Month by totaling all purchases identified on the previous schedule and transferring it to the correct line on the yearly table. If you enter more than one NPI on the previous schedule, the yearly table will correspondingly list the last twelve months on the spreadsheet for each of those NPIs.

When Template II has been completed, you must again run the “Check for Problems” validation step.

NPI	Month	Invoice Costs	Discounts, Rebates, Free Goods and other Things of Value	Surcharges	Check for Problems	No Problems	Main Menu
1000000004	Mar 2012	\$ 123,456.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00			
1000000004	Apr 2012	\$ 123,456.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00			
1000000004	May 2012	\$ 123,456.00	\$ 8.00	\$ 8.00			
1000000004	Jun 2012	\$ 123,456.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.00			
1000000004	Jul 2012	\$ 123,456.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00			
1000000004	Aug 2012	\$ 123,456.00	\$ 1.90	\$ 1.90			
1000000004	Sep 2012	\$ 123,456.00	\$ 0.80	\$ 0.80			
1000000004	Oct 2012	\$ 123,456.00	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.30			
1000000004	Nov 2012	\$ 123,456.00	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.30			
1000000004	Dec 2012	\$ 123,456.00	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.30			
1000000004	Jan 2013	\$ 123,456.00	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.30			
1000000004	Feb 2013	\$ 527.41	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.30			

When the validation reports “No Problems” click on “Main Menu” and you will again return to the AAC Instructions tab, from which you will “Begin” the procedure to declare whether the information you have submitted is proprietary data.

## 10. The Proprietary Information Declaration (Section 6)

After reading the declaration statement, select one of the two options. Doing so again returns you to the main screen for the survey verification question.

Declaration of Proprietary Information

The submitted information is proprietary and confidential. In accordance with NYS Public Officers Law Article 6, § 87 2(d), I declare that the information submitted in this survey is derived from information which if disclosed would cause substantial injury to the competitive position of this entity and therefore, is not subject to FOIL.

Response

Not Answered

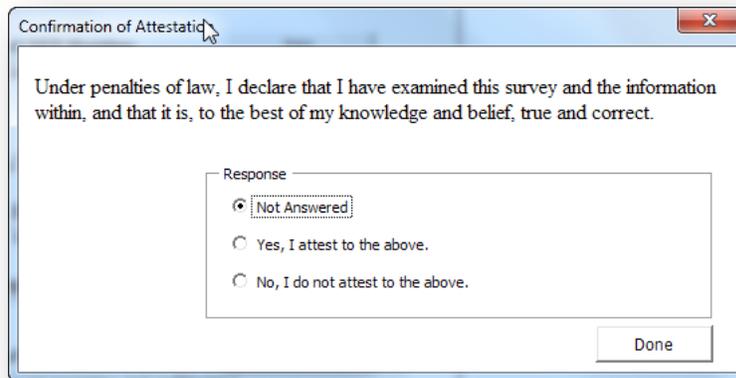
Yes, the information is proprietary and confidential.

No, the information is not proprietary and confidential.

Done

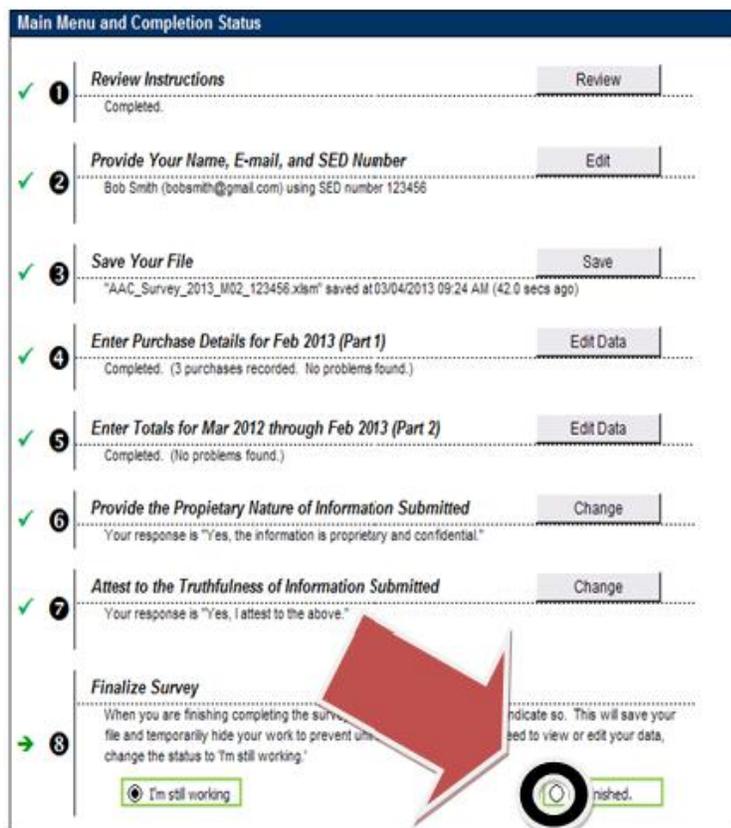
## 11. Attest to the Truthfulness of the Information (Section 7)

You are required to affirm the truthfulness of the information you have submitted by checking “Yes”. A failure to do so may result in an audit or review of your data.



## 12. Finalize the Workbook (Section 8)

Indicate you are finished with the survey by clicking on the "I'm finished" radio button.



If prior to sending the completed survey through the HCS system you wish to reopen the Tool and edit data, you will need to again enable macros, click on "I'm still working", make your edits, and re-run the validation steps before you can save the document.

***No changes may be made to the format of the AAC Survey Tool, and any surveys submitted with modifications such as column addition or deletion, inserted fields or attributes, or changes to formulas will immediately be rejected and returned for correction and resubmission.***

If you have any questions as to where a value is to be reported, please send an email to [medpharmpricing@health.state.ny.us](mailto:medpharmpricing@health.state.ny.us) outlining the issue and we will provide additional clarification.

## VIII. Submit the Completed Survey to DoH via the HCS System

Pharmacies must submit their AAC Survey responses through the HCS system. A failure to do so will be deemed a non-compliant response subject to referral to the NYS Office of the Medicaid Inspector General.

To submit the AAC Survey response using the HCS system, please log in to your HCS account and click on the “Applications” tab.

The screenshot shows the HCS Health Commerce System interface. The top navigation bar includes 'Home', 'Documents', and 'Applications'. The 'Applications' tab is selected. Below the navigation bar, there is a section for 'Important Health Notifications' with a table of notifications. A large black arrow points to the 'S' in the alphabetical navigation bar. The interface also includes a search bar, a sidebar with 'My Applications' and 'My Favorites', and a footer with 'About Us | Terms of Use' and 'Version: 3.3'.

Click on "S" to search for “Secure File Transfer.”

The screenshot shows the HCS Health Commerce System interface. The top navigation bar includes 'Home', 'Documents', and 'Applications'. The 'Applications' tab is selected. Below the navigation bar, there is a section for 'Health Commerce System Applications' with a table of applications. A large black arrow points to the 'S' in the alphabetical navigation bar. The interface also includes a search bar, a sidebar with 'My Applications' and 'My Favorites', and a footer with 'About Us | Terms of Use' and 'Version: 3.3'.

Application Name	Acronym	Profile	Restricted	Add/Remove
<a href="#">Access NY Application --&gt;</a>				
<a href="#">Adult Cystic Fibrosis Assistance Program</a>	ACFAP		Yes	
<a href="#">Adult Viral Hepatitis Center</a>			Yes	
<a href="#">Advantage Dual Eligible Managed Care</a>			Yes	
<a href="#">AIDS Contract/Program Performance Upload</a>				
<a href="#">Asbestos Training Verification</a>				
<a href="#">Authorized Training Agency Materials</a>			Yes	

Click on Secure File Transfer. (You can also add it to the my applications side bar by clicking the plus sign-indicated by the red arrow- and it will thereafter appear under “My Applications”)

Home Documents Applications My Account Help Contact Us Logout

Health Commerce System Applications +View Help

Browse by A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z View All

Application Name	Acronym	Profile	Restricted	Active
<a href="#">Safe Drinking Water Information System</a>	SDWIS	1		
<a href="#">School Survey</a>	Schoolsur	1	Yes	
<a href="#">Secure Discussion Forum</a>	SDF			✓
<a href="#">Secure File Transfer Application</a>	SFT	1		✓
<a href="#">ServNY</a>	VMS			✓
<a href="#">Soundview Health Center Operations --&gt;</a>				✓
<a href="#">SPARCS Data Queries</a>	SPARCS	1		✓
<a href="#">SPARCS Data Submission</a>		1	Yes	
<a href="#">SPARCS Performance Metrics</a>		1	Yes	
<a href="#">SPARCS Quality Reporting</a>		1	Yes	
<a href="#">State Board Training Consortium</a>		1	Yes	
<a href="#">State Wide Perinatal Data System Core</a>	SPDS	1	Yes	
<a href="#">Statewide Perinatal Data System County Birth Data</a>	SPDS	1	Yes	
<a href="#">Statewide Perinatal Data System Hospital Data Download</a>	SPDS	1	Yes	

About Us | Terms of Use Version: 3.3

Click "Send someone else a file"

Home Documents Applications My Account Help Contact Us Logout

Secure File Transfer Utility Instructions & Information Revised: 11/21/11 | Comment | SFT Help

I want to...

- Send someone else a file
- Retrieve a file someone has sent me
- View the upload log
- Learn more about how the Secure File Transfer Utility works

What the utility is used for:

The file transfer utility was created to **securely** and easily transfer files of up to **100 megabytes** in size between two HCS users. It is secure because the file is never emailed to anyone, i.e., the file resides on the HCS until downloaded.

The Secure File Transfer Utility is **never** used to submit Official NYS State Prescription data. To submit prescription data use the link under My Applications labeled Controlled Substances-Batch or Off Rx Data Transmission Manual Entry.

How it works:

The file is uploaded from your computer to the HCS and an email message is sent to the intended recipient telling them to go to the HCS and download the file. The recipient can click a link in the email, copy and paste the link into their browser, or go directly to the [download page](#) to retrieve the file. The recipient will see a table showing all files sent to them and can click the file to download it. The recipient is the only person who can access this page and/or the files and the sender is notified by email when the recipient downloads the file.

All email messages are sent to the Business contact information email address listed in the sender and recipient's Person Records. You can view address by looking in the Communications Directory [Role Lookup tool](#).

Please remember:

- You can transfer three files to one person at a time.
- Files remain on the HCS for **14 days**.
- File size is limited to **100 megabytes**.
- You may send no more than **2500 megabytes** total per week, e.g., 25 files of 100 megabytes each.
- Non-encrypted files are checked for viruses during the upload process. If a virus is found, the upload process is aborted and the sender gets a message warning them of the virus.
- WARNING:** The Virus Scan software on the Health Commerce System will not be able to open an encrypted file to check for viruses. If you are about to send an encrypted file, please **MAKE SURE** that the file was scanned for viruses or malignant codes before uploading.

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- In the “Mail to user” field enter “cod-aac\_team”
- In the “Upload file” field click the “Browse” key, locate the file where you have saved it, and click on it
- Enter any supplemental message, if necessary, in the “Comments” field
- Click Upload
- Once a DOH employee officially receives the file, a email confirmation will be sent to you.

The screenshot shows the NYS DOH HCS (Health Commerce System) interface. The main content area is titled "Secure File Transfer" and includes a "Revised: 05/03/12 | Comments | Help" link. The page contains the following elements:

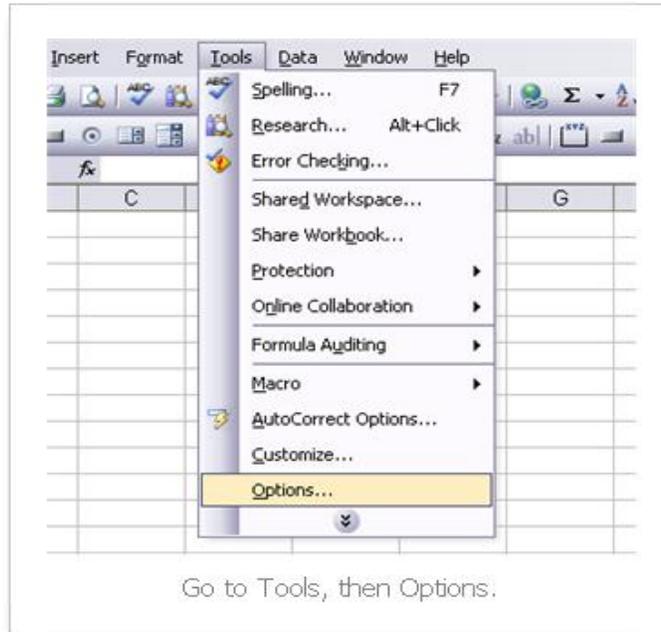
- Navigation:** Home, Documents, Applications, My Account, Help, Contact Us, Logout.
- Search:** A search bar with a "Search" button and a link to "Advanced Search".
- My Applications / My Favorites:** A sidebar menu with items like Acronyms & Abbreviations, CART, County Surveillance, Emergency Contacts, HERDS 3 Training, Medicaid Pharmacy COD Survey, Secure File Transfer (highlighted), and ServW.
- Instructions:**
  - Purpose:** This upload utility should be used to send documents to a specific Health Commerce user.
  - Instructions:** To upload a file, click on one of the buttons to the right of the 'Upload file' text and select the file. Repeat for up to 3 files and then click on the Upload button.
- Your Email address:** tmh07@health.state.ny.us
- Mail to user:** A text input field with a "Get User ID" button.
- Upload file (1):** A text input field with a "Browse" button.
- Upload file (2):** A text input field with a "Browse" button.
- Upload file (3):** A text input field with a "Browse" button.
- Please note:** A maximum of three (3) files can be uploaded at one time. The total file size can not exceed 100 MB.
- Comments:** A text area labeled "Comments: (included with email)" with an "Upload" button.
- Message:** This is a new version of the Secure File Transfer. It will allow you to upload up to 3 files at one time. Also, you can see what you uploaded by clicking on the View the Upload Log link at the bottom of this page. **Warning: The Virus Scan software on the Health Commerce System will not be able to open an encrypted file to check for viruses. If you are about to send an encrypted file, please MAKE SURE that the file was scanned for viruses or malignant codes before uploading.**
- Footer:** Return to Home Page, View the Upload Log, About Us | Terms of Use, Version: 3.3

## Appendix A: Enabling Macros- Excel 2003

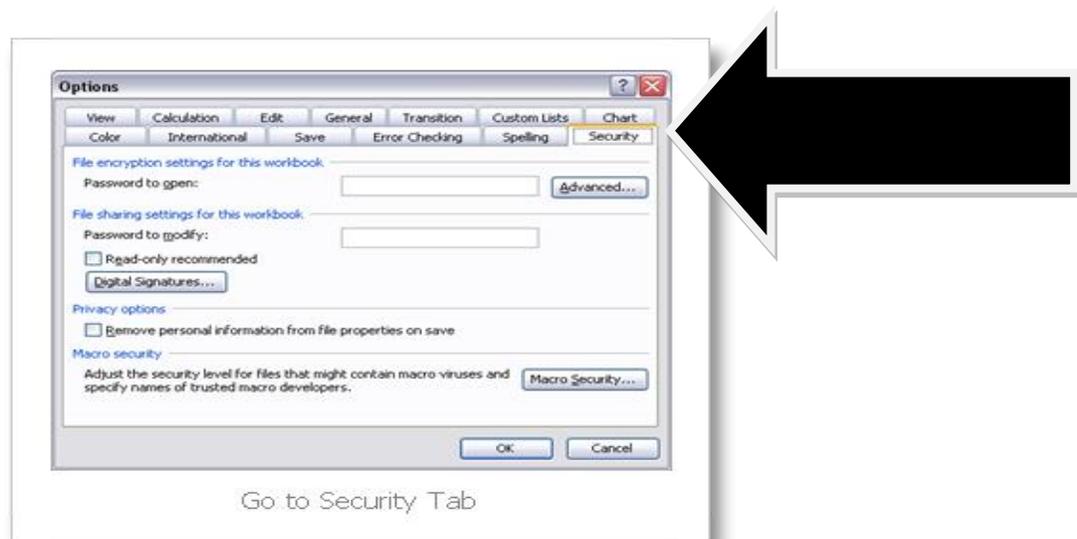
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After opening up the workbook, you will not encounter the message that pops up in Microsoft Excel version 2007 (the screenshots that we provided above). Instead we advise you to take the following steps.

1. In the Excel menu bar at the top first click 'Tools' and then select 'Options'



2. Click on the tab that is marked 'Security'



3. In the tab 'Security Level' please select either 'medium'. 'Medium' will give you the option to enable macros similar to the way that Excel 2007 does.



4. Click ok
5. Completely exit Microsoft Excel and then reopen the workbook that you will be working on (DoH provided workbook)
6. In the prompt that pops up click click 'Enable Macros'.



## Appendix B: Registration with the Health Commerce System

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The Health Commerce System (HCS) is a comprehensive web-based technology that supports, integrates, and secures the electronic exchange of health data and information to, from and among key partners. It is a closed network dedicated to secure data exchange with participating pharmacies and NYSDO, and proper clearance is needed to gain access. Enrollment and authentication documents have been developed to ensure the security of data and help protect key partners from intrusions originating on or through the HCS. Since the HCS is a secured web site and requires authentication to sign in, every user must read the Security and Use Policies (SAUP) and sign an account request form to obtain an HCS account. The HCS provides links to other secure web sites, including the New York State Official Prescription Program.

The Health Commerce System Account is free to obtain and **MUST** be used for the submission of the AAC Survey, as well as for the COD Survey for independent pharmacies or small chains.

Listed below are the steps to register for an HCS account:

1. To register for a free account with HCS, a pharmacy provider should select one or more individuals to serve as its representative(s). The system allows for two types of representatives:
  - a. HCS Director: has the authority to bind the pharmacy with DOH
  - b. HCS Coordinator: has the authority to request and manage HCS accounts and roles. In case the pharmacy provider does not assign an individual to the HCS Coordinator role, the HCS director will automatically serve as the HCS Coordinator too.
2. The following information on the pharmacy provider and its representative(s) should be e-mailed to the Commerce Accounts Management Unit (CAMU) Supervisors at: [camuout@health.state.ny.us](mailto:camuout@health.state.ny.us)

### Pharmacy Information

Pharmacy SED Registration #:

Pharmacy Name:

Pharmacy Address line 1:

Pharmacy Address Line 2:

Pharmacy City:

Pharmacy State:

Pharmacy Zip Code:

Pharmacy County:

### HCS Director Information

(The individual authorized to bind the pharmacy with DOH. The HCS Director is also a HCS Coordinator by default)

Full first name (DO NOT use nicknames):

Full middle name (not just the initial):

Full last name:

Month and day of birth:

NYS DOH Health Commerce System (HCS) ID (if one exists):

Exact job title:

Office telephone number:

Office fax number:

E-mail address:

#### HCS Coordinator Information

(The individual with authority to request and manage HCS accounts and roles)

Full first name (DO NOT use nicknames):

Full middle name (not just the initial):

Full last name:

Month and day of birth:

NYS DOH Health Commerce System (HCS) ID (if one exists):

Office telephone number:

Office fax number:

E-mail address:

3. NYSDOH will use this information to generate HCS Director and HCS Coordinator enrollment forms. Once those forms have been generated, an email will be sent to the HCS Director and HCS Coordinator with the enrollment forms and PDF versions of Security and Use Policies (SAUPs). The SAUPs outline the provider rules and responsibilities for using HCS. The original enrollment forms must be printed, signed, notarized and mailed together to the following address:

NYSDOH

Commerce Accounts Management Unit (CAMU) Supervisors

800 North Pearl Street

Room 214

Albany, NY 12204-1899

The SAUPs must be read and retained. Both forms are required to be submitted together as the HCS Director Form binds the organization and must be processed first. Please retain copies of both forms for your records.

Once the completed original, signed and notarized forms have been received, the Commerce Accounts Management Unit (“CAMU”) will mail the HCS Director and HCS Coordinator their own HCS PIN and account activation instructions. This information will allow the user to login to HCS website at <https://commerce.health.state.ny.us>.

4. Should you have any issues logging in using the HCS PIN, please contact the Commerce Account Management Unit (CAMU) Help Desk at 1-866-529-1890 or [hinhpn@health.state.ny.us](mailto:hinhpn@health.state.ny.us)
5. Please keep in mind that the HCS Coordinator will be the primary account and will serve as the main point of contact. All emails regarding the AAC/COD survey from DoH will be sent to this individual.