

March 2019

Dear Doctor or Practice Manager:

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) seeks your office's cooperation in the upcoming Producer Price Index (PPI) Survey for the **North American Industry Classification System 621111 offices of physicians, except mental health**. I encourage your participation in this important effort.

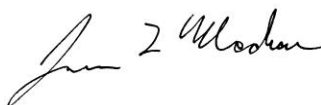
The PPI measures the change over time in the prices received by domestic producers of goods and services. It is the nation's primary inflation indicator for the business sector of the economy. The PPI for the offices of physicians, except mental health industry has been calculated and published monthly on the BLS website since 1994. The PPI for physician services measures payments received by physicians for the services they provide during a single patient visit. Your participation is critical to accurately capturing this information and to the continued success of this index. An overview of the PPI is available on the BLS website, <https://www.bls.gov/ppi/ppiover.htm>.

Your office or practice group has been randomly selected for the new sample. After an initial visit with a BLS Field Economist, you will only be required to contribute a few minutes per month to provide pricing information on a small number of transactions. You can submit this pricing data conveniently via the secured BLS Internet Data Collection Facility.

According to the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002, all pricing data and any related information provided to the BLS are strictly confidential and used exclusively for statistical purposes. No individual data will be published in any format. Also, the BLS is not requesting any personally-identifiable patient information.

With your cooperation, the PPI for offices of physicians, except mental health will continue to be a useful measure of the monthly price changes for both public and private data users.

Sincerely,



James L. Madara, MD