

VA Recovery Audit - Contract Implementation Conference Call Summary

Date: 4/15/2002
Time: 1:00 – 2:30 PM (EST)

Attendees **Veteran Affairs**

Thomas Wayburn, COTR, VA Recovery Audit, HAC
Jerry Simpson, for Chief Healthcare Information Systems, AAC
Joe Enderle, HAS Fee Council, OPC Columbus
Dave Norton, for Business Operations Liaison, VACO
Rex Gilmore, Program Specialist, VACO/HAS

Contractor

Richard Pectol, Vice President, Abacus Technology
John Pieters, Program Manager, HealthNet
Sharon Lopez, DRG Manager, HealthNet
Padra Randall, DRG Quality Coordinator, HealthNet
Joy Wilkie, Director, Managed Care Services, HealthNet

Conference Call Summary

1. Attendee Identification: Participants identified themselves.

Correction to Minutes: The following correction was made to the minutes of April 1, 2002: Section 3, New Business, Item 2: Allocation Report, third sentence should read: " HealthNet requested that the file be sent as an importable file."

2. Review of action items:

- a) Item 1: No Payments Indicated for VAMC Houston
VACO/HAS reported that the number of cases provided on the AAC data file greatly exceeded the identified 21 cases reported by HealthNet. HealthNet advised that very few of the cases for Houston on the AAC data file listed a DRG value. HAS and AAC will evaluate the number of cases. (OPEN)
- b) Item 2: Response to White Paper on VA DRG Pricer Calculation
Pending determination by Office of General Counsel. (OPEN)
- c) Item 3: Clarification of Method Used to Verify Non-VA PPS Exempt Status
Tom Wayburn reported that he had contacted the CMS employee and referred the information to VACO/HAS. (CLOSED)
- d) Item 4: Treasury Offset Program
Tom Wayburn reported that HAC has referred cases eligible for offset to DMC for TOPS. CFO referred the field guidance memorandum regarding offset procedures to General Counsel for concurrence. This issue will remain open until the process with TOPS has successfully completed all scenarios. (OPEN)

- e) Item 5: Fee Basis Guidebook, Chapter 20, Section XI, Scenario 10
The contract modification has been received by Abacus Technology. (OPEN)
- f) Item 1: Allocation Report
Abacus is satisfactorily receiving the HAC allocation report in an Excel format. HealthNet currently receives the HAC allocation report in an Access report but requested that the information be available in a table to download (importable file). HealthNet asked if the contractor payment was issued at the same time that the allocation table was sent. COTR will research the payment timeframe. HAC and HealthNet programmers will resolve data transmission formats. (OPEN)
- g) Item 2: Re-pricing Claims from UB-92 Forms for Outpatient Reimbursement
The RASC is considering the HealthNet request to recover the total amount paid on cases that cannot be repriced due to lack of information and provider refusal to recode the billing invoice. HAS requested that HealthNet provide the number and total dollar value of cases. HealthNet provided an estimation that between 50-100 cases exist and that the review is about 17% completed. A projected estimation was that there are 600-1,000 total cases involved but a total dollar value is not available as the review continues. (OPEN)
- h) Item 3: CHAMPVA Disposition Codes
CHAMPVA provided the crosswalk between internal and UB-92 disposition codes. HealthNet advised that the crosswalk information was satisfactory. (CLOSED)

3. New Business:

- a) Item 1: Payment Report
HealthNet requested that the payment report, for cancellations only, include only the following data elements: AR#, Payment ID, Comment, Program ID and Cancel Date. HAC and HealthNet programmers will review and devise. (OPEN)
- b) Item 2: Offset Report
HealthNet requested that HAC send a report 5 days prior to referral for any offset for the purpose of HealthNet validating debtor name, address and TIN. HAC programmer will review. (OPEN)
- c) Item 3: Vendor requests for EOB/Canceled Check
Some vendors are requesting that HealthNet furnish a copy of the EOB associated with the claimed recovery action and/or the canceled check showing proof of payment for old cases (vendor has purged its records). The VA station does not receive a copy of the EOB and the EOB cannot be reproduced by the facility or AAC. The VA station can request a copy of the canceled check, however this process may take several weeks. HealthNet requested guidance on how to show proof of VA payment for the cases being questioned by the vendor. HAS advised that fee payments are often grouped to issue one payment to the vendor. Thus, a copy of the canceled check may be greater than the payment for the case in question and that

without the EOB the vendor may be unable to reconcile or accept it as proof of payment. The payment history from the VA station may provide the batch number, identifying that case as included in the check issued for that batch. The recommendation was to obtain the payment history from the VA station and, only if necessary, the copy of the canceled check. HealthNet could initially present the payment history to the provider as proof of payment. Issue will be referred to RASC with HAS recommendations/comments.
(OPEN)

4. Next Call: May 13, 2002.

Tom Wayburn
COTR, Recorder