

# VA Recovery Audit - Contract Implementation Conference Call Summary

Date: 11/4/2002  
Time: 1:00 – 2:30 PM (EST)

Attendees ***Veteran Affairs***

Ralph Charlip, Director, HAC  
Thomas Wayburn, COTR, HAC  
Rex Gilmore, Program Specialist, VACO/HAS  
Jenie Perry, AAC

***Contractor***

Richard Pectol, Vice President, Abacus Technology  
Don Sherwin, Abacus Technology  
John Pieters, Program Manager, HealthNet  
Padra Randall, DRG Quality Coordinator, HealthNet  
Joy Wilkie, Director Managed Care Services, HealthNet  
Sharon Lopez, DRG Manager, HealthNet  
Kelly Foydl, Reports Analyst, HealthNet  
Julie Susman, Jefferson Consulting

***Conference Call Summary***

1. Attendee Identification: Participants identified themselves. Minutes of October 15, 2002 were accepted as written.
2. Review of action items:
  - a) Item 1: CHAMPVA Payment Policy  
All information requested was provided, including the CHAMPVA disposition code crosswalk definitions. (CLOSED 10/15/02)
  - b) Item 2: CHAMPVA Repricing  
HAC sent a test file to HealthNet on November 1<sup>st</sup>. All appeared to work well. HealthNet will review and advise of any needed changes.
  - c) Item 3: Total Fee Case Load Summary  
HealthNet is reviewing the availability of automated data to provide this report.
  - d) Item 4: CHAMPVA Medicare OHI Policy  
COTR furnished HealthNet a copy of the CHAMPVA Medicare OHI policy. (CLOSED 10/15/02)
  - e) Item 5: CHAMPVA Catastrophic Cap  
COTR clarified that the CHAMPVA catastrophic Cap application is based upon an annual year (January – December). (CLOSED 10/15/02)

- f) Item 6: CHAMPVA Policy for PPS Intertransfers  
COTR clarified that CHAMPVA applies beneficiary cost share to both facility payments when a patient is transferred from one hospital to another hospital during the same episode of care and both periods of care are subject to PPS payment. (CLOSED 10/15/02)
  
- g) Item 7: Generic Pricers  
COTR stated that HAS/VACO had verified that fee stations could not process a generic pricer for a date of service prior to October 1, 1997. The reason for not being able to generate generic pricer before this date is that AAC maintains the linkage and data for a period of five fiscal years, including the current fiscal year and that prior to FY 1998 pricer data was linked by hard-coding. VA may be able to recode the data system but the time involved is estimated to be more than 240 work hours and the cost is estimated to be in excess of \$20,000. Discussion ensued concerning the recent suggestion to substitute FY 1995-1997 for FY 2001 and 2002 to include more recent data into the scope of contract as the older data, including community and VA medical record retrieval and payment verification, is difficult to obtain. If the substitution is implemented then the issue of generic pricer is moot. Abacus/HealthNet will discuss and advise.

### 3. New Business:

- a) Item 1: Uncollectible Meeting  
Dick Pectol and Tom Wayburn will coordinate the date and location for the review of uncollectible cases. The proposed time frame is January 8-10, 2003 at either Denver, CO or Rancho Cordova, CA.
  
- b) Item 2: DRG Pricer Issue  
VA received HealthNet's comparative analysis of the VA fee methodology versus CMS pricer payment too late to be prepared to discuss on today's teleconference call. COTR stated that no direction has yet been received from VA program officials. Ralph Charlip stated that VA would review the documentation and respond by email to Abacus by November 4<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 pm (MST).

### 4. Next Conference Call: December 9, 2002

Tom Wayburn  
COTR, Recorder