

VA Recovery Audit - Contract Implementation Conference Call Summary

Date: 8/20/2001
Time: 1:00 – 2:30 PM (EST)

Attendees *Veteran Affairs*

Ralph Charlip, Director, HAC
Thomas Wayburn, COTR, VA Recovery Audit, HAC
Brendan McNamara, Programmer, HAC
Ryan Lilly, Chief Financial Officer, HAC
Jenie Perry, Chief, Healthcare Information Systems, AAC
Rex Gilmore, Program Specialist, Health Administration Services, VACO
Sheldon Fine, Chief Financial Officer, VISN 21
George Grey, Director, VAMC Little Rock, AR
Richard McCrone, Business Operations, VACO/10NG

Contractor

Walt Jordan, Principal, Abacus Technology
Richard Pectol, Vice President, Abacus Technology
John Pieters, Program Manager, Health Net
Joy Wilkie, Director, Managed Care Services, Health Net
Padra Randall, DRG Quality Coordinator, Health Net
Sharon Lopez, DRG Manager, Health Net
Ming Tompkins, Manager Government Contract Administration, Health Net
Kelly Foydl, Reports Analyst, Health Net

Conference Call Summary

1. Attendee Identification: Participants identified themselves. Previous minutes were accepted as written.
2. Review of action items:
 - a) Item 1: Fiscal Year Case Review
 1. Health Net reported that they had received the Fiscal Year Case Review data files from AAC for FEE cases with FY 2000 date of service that were paid FY 2001 TD. One of these files is being rerun by AAC due to identified discrepancy with pseudo-SSN.
 2. Tom Wayburn reported that the corresponding HAC data file was being created. (OPEN)
 - b) Item 2: Import data from Contractor to HAC/Collectible case referral.
 1. The import data fields format was discussed. It was agreed to continue testing of this electronic data exchange. (OPEN)

c) Item 3: Duplicate Payment review results

1. Rex Gilmore clarified the previous issue regarding multiple payers for the same episode of VA care, specifically whether VA was considered the exclusive payer under the FEE program for VA authorized care. The primary question concerned to whom should identified duplicate payments be refunded when the sharing involves another federal agency, such as Medicare. Rex Gilmore advised that if both VA and another federal agency, i.e., Medicare, paid for the same episode of care under the FEE program, the identified duplicate payment should be returned to the other federal agency (OFA) as VA is the primary payer to OFA under the FEE program.
2. Buzz Grey requested confirmation regarding the source for contractor payment for the identified duplicate FEE payments when the overpayment was actually made by another federal agency. Tom Wayburn stated that he believed that the contractor payment should be deducted from the total amount recovered and the balance returned to the appropriate agency, however there is uncertainty. Tom Wayburn will investigate and report on the source payment issue. (OPEN)
3. The duplicate payment audit reported a total recovery of \$468,570.25. This recovery represents a combination of FEE and HAC payments. Tom Wayburn is reviewing the cases identified as duplicate payments by CHAMPVA. There have been a few cases identified that were misapplied and Tom Wayburn will forward the results of his case review to Joy Wilkie. Tom Wayburn will forward the FEE duplicate payment report to Rex Gilmore. (CLOSED)
4. The findings of the duplicate payment review revealed that some cases are also being paid by other non-federal payers, for example, third party insurance. There is a conflict between the federal regulation citation governing FEE payments as exclusionary and the FEE Basis Guidebook which indicates that FEE payment is not exclusionary, nor primary, when other payment is made by non-federal sources. There remains a question as to whom is the primary payer in these cases, whether it is VA or the other third party payer. Rex Gilmore stated that this issue was referred to OGC for legal opinion. (OPEN)

d) Item 4: Recovery Audit review results

1. To date, the contractor has completed preliminary review and request supporting data for 6,600 FEE cases involving 11 VISNS. A total of 39 records have been returned, mostly by VISN 9.
2. The contractor had identified some cases in which the VA facility had changed the DRG assignment upon data input into the FEE VISTA application. Sample cases were provided to Tom Wayburn VACO/HAS. The contractor reported that it appeared only to be a data input procedural error that did not effect the amount of payment. Rex Gilmore stated that it was basically a training issue for the VA fee stations and that VACO/HAS would address it in their training updates to the field. (CLOSED)
3. Padra Randall reported that there continues confusion about the information

needed relative to the payment scenario for requested case reviews. Tom Wayburn will send a message to the VISN Network Coordinators clarifying that the information requested as "payment scenario" means the documentation showing the payment methodology used to calculate the FEE payment amount, such as per diem partial payments. (CLOSED)

4. Sharon Lopez reported that some VA stations have stated that they are unable to provide supporting medical and payment documentation for requested FEE cases with dates of service during Fiscal Years 1995 through 1997. It is being cited by VA station personnel that VA policy is to discard that FEE documentation after two to three years. Tom Wayburn stated that he obtained clarification from VACO/HAS and that the disposition authority for these records was six years. This issue was discussed in terms of what process to follow if the information was unavailable. Tom Wayburn suggested that the coding review be completed with the documentation obtained from the provider. Ralph Charlip stated that if the information was unavailable that the case should be closed. (CLOSED)
5. The issue with the lack of corresponding data in all of the NVH and FEE files was explained and closed as there were no further questions. (CLOSED)

3. New Business: None

4. Next Call: Monday, September 10, 2001

Tom Wayburn
COTR, Recorder