

# VA Recovery Audit - Contract Implementation Conference Call Summary

Date: 1/7/2002

Time: 1:00 – 2:30 PM (EST)

## Attendees *Veteran Affairs*

Thomas Wayburn, COTR, VA Recovery Audit, HAC  
Joe Enderle, Chief Information Officer, VAOPC Columbus  
Jerry Simpson, for Chief Healthcare Information Systems, AAC  
Ryan Lilly, Chief Fiscal Officer, HAC  
Rex Gilmore, Program Specialist, VACO/HAS

## *Contractor*

Walt Jordan, President, Abacus Technology  
Richard Pectol, Vice President, Abacus Technology  
Joy Wilkie, Director, Managed Care Services, Health Net  
Padra Randall, DRG Quality Coordinator, Health Net  
Kelly Foydl, Reports Specialist, Health Net

## *Conference Call Summary*

1. Attendee Identification: Participants identified themselves.
2. Review of action items:
  - a) Item 1: No Payments Indicated for selected VAMC  
Joy Wilkie clarified that the following data for station 537 and 580 represented totals for all six fiscal years (1995-2000). There was a total of 2,076 unique payments on the AAC data file provided to Abacus Technology for station 537. Of these 2,076 payments 149 payments were made to institutional entities for inpatient episodes of care. The AAC data file for station 580 contained 21 payments to an institutional entity for inpatient episodes of care out of a total of 383 unique payments. The 12/5/01 data request to Abacus for a listing of cases in the data file is no longer necessary. Jenie Perry is re-running data but so far there is no indication of missed payments. It was suggested by Joe Enderle that the stations may not have processed all of their payments in the Civil Hospital package. Tom Wayburn will contact the stations and request a comparative report of all payments made via the Civil Hospital software. No update was available. (OPEN)
  - b) Item 2: Copies of Contracts and Sharing Agreements for State of Alaska  
Health Net reported that they are receiving copies of the contracts and sharing agreements from Alaska. (CLOSED)
  - c) Item 3: Response to White Paper on VA DRG pricer calculation  
Rex Gilmore stated that a response to Health Net's reply to the VA/HAS White Paper is expected to be completed by January 11, 2002. (OPEN)
  - d) Item 4: Timely Response to Contractor Request for Follow-up Information  
Health Net advised that VA stations are not complying with the 5 day turn around

time for follow-up requests, such as observation payment calculation, etc. Tom Wayburn advised Network Coordinators on 12/4/01 concerning timely sharing of information. Health Net reported that delays in exchanging this information continues. Health Net will fax to Tom Wayburn the cases pending for an extended period of time for assistance in getting the needed information. (OPEN)

- e) Item 5: Fee Basis Guidebook, Chapter 20, Scenario 9  
Health Net reported that they had received from HAS the applied definition between an authorized and unauthorized claim and specific case examples for the use of scenario 9 in Chapter 20 of the Fee Basis Guidebook (Nov 1999). (CLOSED)
- f) Item 6: DRG Pricer Tables  
Health Net reported that the DRG Pricer Tables used by VA had been received from Cindy Gunner (AAC). (CLOSED)

### 3. New Business:

- a) Item 1: Contracts and Sharing Agreements for the State of Alaska  
Health Net reported that some copies of the sharing agreements and contracts for the State of Alaska that were recently submitted did not have listed effective dates. He effective dates of the agreements are necessary to determine correct pricing for effected claims. Health Net will fax copies of the sharing agreements/contracts without effective dates to Tom Wayburn for resolution. (OPEN)
- b) Item 2: Payment methodology for Outpatient Surgical Services used in Fee Program  
Health Net requested a status on the reply to their question regarding VA Fee Basis payment methodology used to issue payment for outpatient surgical services. It was noted that several claims have been identified that were processed as inpatient claims and paid on a DRG basis instead of being processed as an outpatient claim. Rex Gilmore requested that the request be resubmitted for reply. (OPEN)
- c) Item 3: Clarification on Health Net's verification of PPS exempt status for psychiatric and other exempted facilities  
Tom Wayburn requested a status on the reply to VA question regarding Health Net's verification process on a Non-VA facility's PPS exempt status. Several VA stations reported that VA non-exempt status for psychiatric facilities for payment of claims differs from the contractor's determination that the facility is exempt. Two cases were referenced as an example. Tom Wayburn suggested that it would be helpful if the sources and methods of verification being used by the contractor could be provided to VA field stations via HAS. Joy Wilkie will send Tom Wayburn an e-mail explaining how exempt status is verified. (OPEN)
- d) Item 4: Data files  
Tom Wayburn suggested that he and Joy Wilkie develop written guidelines to ease the confusion arising over the exchange of receivable and payment data files between HAC and Health Net. Joy Wilkie suggested that all communications other than the exchange of the data files be coordinated through her and Tom Wayburn. This was agreed upon and Tom Wayburn will prepare draft guidelines. (OPEN)

4. Next Call: First Annual Review Meeting to be held in Denver, CO on 1/29/02.

Tom Wayburn  
COTR, Recorder