FEE BASIS

RELEASE NOTES

Patch FB*3.5*132

January 2013

Revision History

Date	Description	Project Manager/Technical Writer
1/2013	Release Notes VistA Fee and IFCAP Automation Enhancement (Duplicate Fee) project, Patch FB*3.5*132	• REDACTED

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Test Site Acknowledgment

The VistA Fee and IFCAP Automation Enhancements project team would like to thank the following test sites for their assistance in testing Patch FB*3.5*132:

- REDACTED

Introduction

Patch FB*3.5*132 is the final of a two-phased release of the VistA Fee and IFCAP Automation Enhancement (aka Duplicate Payments) project. It will enhance the interface between VistA Fee Basis and Central Fee to improve the consistency of payment line item data between the systems. This will prevent duplicate ICN payments by ensuring that a payment line cannot be reprocessed in VistA Fee Basis unless it has been removed from Central Fee. The primary interface enhancements consist of the following:

- Rejection of payment line items by Central Fee will be transmitted to VistA Fee Basis via new transactions that update the Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA) database. Users will no longer manually record such rejects in VistA.

- Completion of a payment batch using the Finalize a Batch option in VistA Fee Basis will automatically generate a new transaction that is sent to Central Fee. This new transaction will instruct Central Fee of any payment line items that must be deleted (i.e. local rejects) and instruct Central Fee to release the remainder of the batch to downstream payment systems such as Financial Management System (FMS). This new transaction will replace all use of 994 code sheets in Integrated Funds Distribution, Control Point Activity, Accounting and Procurement (IFCAP).

Background/Overview

In 2009, VA facilities reported to Central Fee and VistA that duplicate payments were being paid to the same vendor for the same instance of Veteran's care and only one of the payments could be located in the VistA Fee files. Further investigation validated that there were many instances of these erroneous payments.

Full implementation of the two-phased release of VistA Fee and IFCAP Automation Enhancement will prevent duplicate payments to Service Providers.

New Service Request

VistA Fee and IFCAP Automation Enhancement—20110212

The following descriptive text is from the New Service Request Database (NSRD) for Request

ID: 20110212.

New Capabilities

"Automation of the finalization process to interface with the creation of an automated 994 code sheet in IFCAP."

Desired Change

"This request was submitted by the Chief Business Office (CBO), Purchased Care Program Office. They are requesting enhancements to the VistA Fee Basis application in support of preventing duplicate payments which is occurring because there is currently no interface between the VistA Fee Application Batch Software, Central Fee and Integrated Funds Control, Accounting, and Procurement (IFCAP)/Financial Management System (FMS). The proposed enhancement seeks modifications to various modules of VA's VistA software application to include Fee Basis and IFCAP. Affected functions include Fee Batch, IFCAP, claims processing, and payments. Nothing has changed in the business environment per se, this has always been a manual process, but this needs to be automated in order to mitigate risks and to reduce the number of duplicate payments."

Enhancements to the Fee Basis software exported with Patch FB*3.5*132 are documented as follows.

1. Automate Payment Batch Results

A new interface transaction will be sent from Central Fee to VistA Fee Basis. This transaction will contain the results from processing a payment batch that was sent from VistA to Central Fee. The new interface is intended to replace the current manual identification, using the Finalize a Batch option of payment lines that were rejected due to Central Fee edit checks.

This patch adds a new value (CENTRAL FEE ACCEPTED) to the STATUS field of the FEE BASIS BATCH file. This new value chronologically falls between the existing TRANSMITTED and VOUCHERED status values.

The system will update the batch status upon successful processing of a Payment Batch Results message. The status shall be set to CENTRAL FEE ACCEPTED (F) unless all payment lines in the batch have been flagged as rejected. The status shall be set to VOUCHERED (V) if all payment lines in the batch have been flagged as rejected.

2. Enhance Finalize a Batch Option

The Finalize a Batch [FBAA FINALIZE BATCH] option is currently used to inform VistA Fee Basis of what happened to the payments that were transmitted to Central Fee. The option is used to tell the system which payments have been rejected. The option is also used to complete a batch which changes its status to VOUCHERED and populates the DATE FINALIZED field in the FEE BASIS PAYMENT and FEE BASIS INVOICE files for applicable payments. However, the current Finalize a Batch option does not have any direct impact on the payment process since that is managed by 994 code sheets.

The Finalize a Batch option will be modified so users specify any local rejects instead of identifying all rejects. Payment lines that are rejected by Central Fee will be reported to VistA by interface transactions

instead of being manually identified using the Finalize a Batch option. The Finalize a Batch option will be modified to replace the use of the 994 code sheets, thereby making the 994 code sheet process totally obsolete.

When a batch is completed with the Finalize a Batch option, a new transaction will be automatically transmitted to Central Fee. This new transaction will list any payment lines that were locally rejected and instruct Central Fee to release the remainder of the batch for payment. Central Fee will delete payment lines that were identified in this transaction as locally rejected.

As of Patch FB*3.5*132, the Finalize a Batch option is no longer locked by security key FBAASUPERVISOR. Two new security keys are used to control access to functions within the Finalize a Batch option. The FBAAREJECT key allows the holder to flag payment line items as locally rejected. The FBAAFINANCE security key allows the holder to complete a batch. These new keys must be assigned to applicable uses.

The Finalize a Batch option has been modified so only batches with a status of CENTRAL FEE ACCEPTED can be selected.

3.   Modify Delete Reject Flag Option

The Delete Reject Flag [FBAA VOUCHER DELETE REJECT] option is used to delete reject flags that were entered in error using the Finalize a Batch option. Reject flags that are set by the new Central Fee transactions cannot be locally deleted since those payment lines were not accepted by Central Fee or have been dropped from Central Fee. Locally specified reject flags can only be deleted before the batch is completed (vouchered) since completion of the batch triggers the new transaction which results in the removal of any locally rejected payment lines from Central Fee and releases the remainder of the payment lines.

The Delete Reject Flag option is no longer locked by security key FBAASUPERVISOR. It is instead locked by the new FBAAREJECT security key.

The Delete Reject Flag option has been modified so only batches with a status of CENTRAL FEE ACCEPTED can be selected.

4.   Automate Post Release Rejects

A new interface transaction will be sent from Central Fee to VistA Fee Basis. This transaction will list any rejects that occurred after Central Fee was instructed to release the batch for payment. The new interface is intended to replace the current manual identification, using the Finalize a Batch option, of payment lines that were initially accepted by Central Fee and then later rejected. This transaction will only be sent if rejects occur.

5.   Modify Print Rejected Payment Items Option

The Print Rejected Payment Items [FBAA REJECT PRINT] option is used to print a list of payment

items that have been flagged as rejected. The option has been modified as follows:

- The report can be generated for batches with a status of CENTRAL FEE ACCEPTED or VOUCHERED or both.

- The report will print Central Fee Reject for lines that were flagged as rejected by the interface. It will print Local Reject for lines that were locally flagged as rejected by a user.

- The report will display reject codes and descriptions (maximum of 5) for lines that were flagged as rejected by the interface.

6. Modify Re-Initiate Rejected Payment Items Option

The Re-Initiate Rejected Payment Items [FBAA REINITIATE REJECTS] option is used to re-initiate rejected payment items into a new open batch.

The option has been modified to prevent selection of a batch when the Voucher Batch Acknowledgement from Central Fee reported an application error or has not yet been received. Central Fee generates a Voucher Batch Acknowledgement in response to the new transaction sent by VistA when the batch is completed using the Finalize a Batch option.

7. Modify Existing Options for New Batch Status

A number of existing options used to edit invoices and payments restrict what can be done to invoices and payments that are in batches which have a status of TRANSMITTED or VOUCHERED. These options must be modified to apply the same restriction to a batch that has the new status value of CENTRAL FEE ACCEPTED since the new status chronologically falls between the TRANSMITTED status and the VOUCHERED status. Additionally, batches with the new status should be treated as an active batch.

- The following options have been modified to prevent selection of a batch that has a status of CENTRAL FEE ACCEPTED.

    - Invoice Edit [FBCH EDIT PAYMENT]

    - Edit CNH Payment [FBCNH EDIT PAYMENT]

    - Edit Pharmacy Invoice [FBAA EDIT PHARMACY INVOICE]

    - Delete Inpatient Invoice [FBCH DELETE INVOICE]

- The following options have been modified to prevent selection of a batch that has a status of TRANSMITTED or CENTRAL FEE ACCEPTED.

    - Edit Payment [FBAA EDIT PAYMENT]

    - Edit Ancillary Payment [FBCH EDIT ANCILLARY PAYMENT]

- The Active Batch Listing by Status [FBAA ACTIVE BATCH LISTING] option has been modified to include the new CENTRAL FEE ACCEPTED (F) status.

8.   Create New Option to Reprocess Overdue Batch

This patch adds a new Reprocess Overdue Batch [FBAA REPROCESS BATCH] option. This option is used to reprocess a transmitted payment batch that was not received by Central Fee.

If VistA Fee Basis does not receive a Payment Batch Result message by the third weekday after transmission of the Payment Batch message, the software will consider the result message as overdue. A list of overdue batches can be obtained by entering a ? at the select batch prompt of this option.

The site should contact the National Service Desk Austin to determine if Central Fee contains the overdue batch. If so, the site should request that the Payment Batch Results message be resent to VistA. If Central Fee does not have the batch, the site can use this option to either change the batch status so the batch will be resent or to reject the entire batch so the line items can be re-initiated into a new batch, edited, and then resent with the new batch.

9.   Create New Option to Resend Completed Batch

This patch adds a new Resend Completed Batch [FBAA RESEND VOUCHER MSG] option. This option can be used to resend a Voucher Batch message to Central Fee.

If VistA Fee Basis does not receive a Voucher Batch Acknowledgement message by the third weekday after finalization of the batch, the software will consider the acknowledgement message as overdue. A list of batches with an overdue acknowledgement can be obtained by entering a ? at the select batch prompt of this option.

The site should contact the National Service Desk Austin to determine if Central Fee received the Voucher Batch message. If Central Fee received the Voucher Batch message, the site should request that the Voucher Batch Acknowledgement message be resent to VistA. If Central Fee did not receive the Voucher Batch message, the site can use the Resend Completed Batch option in VistA to generate a new Voucher Batch message and send that to Central Fee.

10. New Payment Aging Report

This patch adds a new Payment Aging Report [FB PAYMENT AGING RPT] option. This option generates a report of payments that have been transmitted to Central Fee and are still awaiting payment confirmation or cancellation in VistA. The purpose of the new report is to identify payments in VistA Fee Basis that appear to have a problem because payment confirmation has not been received within an expected period.

Payment line items finalized within a user-specified period will be listed on this report if payment confirmation has not been received from Austin and the payment is not cancelled, flagged as rejected, or voided.

NOTE: If the report is run for user-specified facilities instead of all facilities then any finalized payments with a blank value for the primary service facility are included in the results.

11. Restrict Edit of Batch Status Field

Several sites have edited the STATUS field of the FEE BASIS BATCH file using a VA FileMan option to assign an earlier status to a transmitted batch so the batch could be resent to Central Fee. This action resulted in duplicate payments.

This patch sets the WRITE ACCESS of the STATUS field to prevent users from changing the batch status using the FileMan Enter/Edit option.

12. Modify ICN on Payment Batch

This patch will make a minor modification to the content of the payment batch message for batch type B3 (outpatient or ancillary) and batch type BT (travel). If a payment line item has been moved by the patient merge process, the original internal entry numbers will be used to construct the ICN value that is sent to Central Fee.

The purpose for this change is to ensure that the ICN value sent by the new Voucher Batch transaction for a given payment line item is consistent with the value previously sent for that line item by the Payment Batch transaction.

13. Remedy Tickets: Problem and Resolution Overview

1. HD585796

- Problem:

  The Delete reject flag [FBAA VOUCHER DELETE REJECT] option double posts the amount paid to the 1358 when the reject flag is deleted from a selected travel payment line item.

- Resolution:

  The option has been corrected to just post the amount paid once.

2. HD585831

- Problem:

  The Re-initiate Rejected Payment Items [FBAA REINITIATE REJECTS] option inappropriately updates the DATE FINALIZED (#13) and PERSON WHO COMPLETED (#14) fields of the old batch in the FEE BASIS BATCH (#161.7) file when a rejected line item is re-initiated into a new batch.

- Resolution:

  The option has been corrected to stop updating inappropriate data fields for the old batch.

3. HD585843

- Problem:

  The Release a Batch [FBAA SUPERVISOR RELEASE] option creates a separate IFCAP authorization with an identical description for each inpatient invoice in the batch that is associated with an unauthorized claim.

  This may cause a problem if any inpatient invoices associated with an unauthorized claim are later flagged as rejected using the Finalize a Batch [FBAA FINALIZE BATCH] option. The system attempts to post a credit amount to the 1358 obligation but the wrong IFCAP authorization may be credited resulting in the error "Credit bill amount will exceed total bill amount".

- Resolution:

  The Release a Batch option will be modified to create a single IFCAP authorization for all the inpatient invoices in the batch that are associated with unauthorized claims.