

National Supplier Clearinghouse Advisory Committee (NSCAC)

NSCAC MEETING MINUTES WITH THE NSC

Date: Wednesday, January 9, 2008

Location: Via Teleconference

Time: 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm EST

Present: NSC: Nancy Parker, Mark Majestic, and Brian Banks. **NSCAC:** Joan Cross, Herb Langsam, Tom Heinrich, Laraine Forry, Kimberlie Rogers-Bowers had Lisa Sauritch, Norm Boyczuk, Melissa Hite had Jolene Ward, and Wade Hendrickson.

Absent: Miriam Lieber, Duane Ridenour, Tim Pontius, Judy Bunn, Kim Brummett, Laura McIlvaine, Dennis Santoli, and John Spragle.

Meeting opened at 2:00 EST

Meeting minutes taken by Rose Schafhauser

1. Roll Call: Chairperson Joan Cross opened the meeting and conducted roll call. NSC staff: Nancy Parker, Brian Banks and Mark Majestic; CMS: Barry Bromberg was on the ODF.
2. Approval of the meeting minutes from October 4, 2007: Motion to approve the meeting minutes by Herb Langsam. Second by Norm Boyczuk. Motion carried.
3. Statement of protocol for meeting: Joan Cross reminded the committee that only NSCAC Members are able to vote on NSCAC business; there were no guests at this meeting.
4. CMS/NSC updates: Nancy Parker, Brian Banks and Mark Majestic.
 - a. Demonstration Project Update: There was not a lot to share. They have had 4 months to do re-enrollments. Mailed out three quarters of re-enrollments and are in the process of passing the midpoint. The re-enrollments are coming in on time.
 - i. Question: Have you sent out any mandatory accreditation letters yet?
 1. Response: No.
 - ii. Question: Is the statement to notify the NSC 30 days prior to move is still in there and if so what is going to happen?
 1. Response: the NSC cannot process it until you move, they have to hold it until you move. The NSC will develop.
 - b. Other re-enrollments have slowed some and they are behind on changes and that is it. The project did affect the staffing somewhat.
5. Old Business:
 - a. National Provider Identifier (NPI): Update/questions related to how the NSC maybe reacting to the changes: Joan Cross asked if there anything we need to know about.
 - i. Response: There are still a lot of crosswalk issues with NSC and DME MAC.
 - b. Accreditation: Update/questions related to how the NSC maybe reacting to the changes.
 - i. March 2008 new providers are required to be accredited. What is going to happen when they do not have patients to look at?
 1. Response: CMS' stance is that providers are supposed to be operational when you come to the NSC.
 - ii. Historically providers can be ready to go, but not able to take Medicare because you can't bill anyone. They would have to be a cash patient.
 1. Response: Expecting that we would have other commercial business.

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- iii. The NSCAC indicated that in many states will not give out Medicaid numbers for you need to have a Medicare number before. Joan asked what options we have when we don't have patients.
 - 1. Response: the NSC does not have much background in accreditation. CMS has to know that it is a concern and the NSC will let them know that.
- iv. New rule March 2008 – is mandatory accreditation for new providers only and not providers who already have operations and they are opening new locations?
 - 1. Response: The NSC does not think we are correct. They do not have a policy on it. CMS will announce in the ODF and it should include additional locations. The NSC will let us know. CMS is stepping into the full blown requirement.
- v. When will they look at accreditation on the applications?
 - 1. Response: will be doing in step to the requirements. They are not currently verifying accreditation for Competitive Bidding. The CBIC should. The next 70 will also be CBIC, it is completely a different requirement.
- vi. Have instructions been added to CMS855?
 - 1. Response: Yes. Will be a change in product and service to match accreditation – should be updated in the next couple weeks. The NSC has not seen the draft.
- vii. Questions and Answers will be published when the NSC receives instructions from CMS.
- c. CMS 855S update on when the NSC will no longer use the old form: The NSC still does not know this yet.
- d. Status of CMS 855 applications and the average number of days outstanding: The NSC reported it is out 180 days. There was a change in procedures keeping open. 45 days is the average number days on new applications.
 - i. What is the status of re-enrollments:
 - 1. Response: Not doing re-enrollments.
 - ii. Can the NSCAC let people know the NSC is not doing re-enrollments and that it will be March until they will be processing re-enrollments.
 - 1. Response: It is not on a rigid three year schedule and they should be updating their information with the NSC as changes occur. Just because it is their 3 years doesn't really mean anything.
- e. Site Inspectors Training/offer from the NSCAC: Joan Cross reminded the NSC if you need any help in training to please keep us in mind to assist in training. Mark Majestic responded that the inspector is there to ask questions, take photos, gather all information and forward to fraud or enrollment analyst. Site inspectors are just eyes and ears. At the NSC, they are the ones that need the knowledge.
 - i. The NSCAC has heard that providers have had site inspectors come in and have asked to see invoices and to get figures in there head that the provider has to prove the dollars amount of inventory. It becomes hard to explain.
 - 1. Response: Mark Majestic wants to see the feedback, it is not the site inspector's job to make the determination out in the field for they do not have all of the provider's information. The inspectors should not make comments about any type of action – they are not the deciders.
 - a. The NSCAC will continue to fill in the tracking sheets to keep the communication open.
 - ii. Categories: Laraine Forry asked if a provider has to report the changes in categories to match JACHO requirements for there are several different ones. When do they have to report?
 - 1. Response: Next time the provider re-enrolls is when you report the number of categories. Make sure you are accredited for the product and services they are providing, they will be relying on the supplier to submit the documentation on

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accreditation.

iii. Is this for re-enrollment or in Sept 2009?

1. Response: For existing suppliers, the drop dead for accreditation is Sept 2009. If your re-enrollment has not come up, you do have to inform them of the accreditation. The NSC is not sure really how it is going to work.

6. New Business:

a. Mandatory evacuation in California: Joan Cross reported that a site inspector showed up during a mandatory evacuation and of course the provider was not at the location.

i. Response: Mark Majestic understands the issue. The NSC has gone to extra lengths and planned on splitting letters equally between CA and FL. Did not include CA because of the fires, so he is surprised. No existing suppliers were included in demonstration location. For new locations, they still did site inspections.

1. The issue has not been closed. Joan will resend the information along with the latest update to Nancy.

b. When you need a number vs. when you don't: Laraine Forry asked when providers need to have a provider number. There are several different methods of servicing patients. There is generic guidance of when a supplier needs one. If a patient is serviced at the location then the providers has to have a provider number. The NSCAC was wondering if the NSC had any additional information or work with us to come up with scenarios and how does the NSC educate the providers?

i. Response: Nothing has changed to when a provider needs to have a provider number.

1. The industry changed with new technologies, and we are getting questions through state associations. This might be time to look at education on this. Laraine discussed a few scenarios.

a. Response: There is rule of thumb, and if we want to send them scenarios, the NSC will address in Q & A's. The NSCAC will get information to Nancy Parker.

c. Retroactive Numbers to Pharmacies: Joan Cross reported that NSC gives retro number to pharmacies.

i. Response: This is a change, it was an unofficial policy for years. CMS mandated them to stop doing it in October. The only time a number is given retro is when there is a change of ownership.

d. Other new business: All

i. When is the next newsletter expected:

1. Response: Do not know yet.

ii. Is there an update of Team managers?

1. Response: The managers are Kim Drake, Alonso Cuellar and Brian Banks. This is all changing as they speak, and the territories will be changing.

iii. Update in Brian Banks position:

1. Response: The position will be filled. Shanna Goldberg and Tanya Mattingly are regional coordinators that are backing up his position for now.

iv. Inspectors asking for contracts for repairs, what do they want to see?

1. Response: Mark Majestic indicated that if the provider does not have the mechanism to do repairs themselves, they must have someone contracted. Must have an agreement with the suppliers name and the name of the company who is doing the repairs.

a. Is a quote ok?

- i. Response: if is under warranty, send back to the company. Most of the time, in general, providers should have an agreement for repair.

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Quotes do not really mean anything. Not looking for exclusive. Need to show there is a mechanism in the place to show the site inspector – it needs to be on paper. Do in house or send to company x – must have something from x on file that they will do the work. There should be a common sense approach. Reason is to show the mechanism in place for repairs.

2. Review of Questions and Answers: The Q & A's were discussed and will be provided later for Nancy Parker thought she had answered, but couldn't find them. The questions and answers document will be updated and sent out to the NSCAC membership.
- v. DBA names: Mark Majestic stated that the inspector shouldn't be verifying anything. The NSC has everything in their files including the DBA. Some inspectors do delve into, it is appropriate to say. Mark responded he does not know . Not necessarily the field. It is more the processors.
 1. NSCAC comments:
 - a. The application should have both. Some licenses will only have DBA or corporation.
 - i. Response: this should be no problem. Let the NSC know if you have problems with this.
 - b. Need longer time for extension:
 - i. Response: After 48 hours, the inspector will send onto the NSC. The analyst will develop automatically. There is nothing the provider needs to do. Mark says it does speed up if done within 48 hours.
 - e. Future NSCAC/NSC meetings:
 - i. Medtrade Spring May 6 - 8, 2008 Long Beach, California. The NSC is not sure who will be doing the update at Medtrade for the NSC. Will try to meet after the update, then schedule the meetings after. Please let NSCAC know when it is.
7. Adjournment: Joan Cross adjourned the meeting.

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