

National Supplier Clearinghouse Advisory Committee (NSCAC)

NSCAC MEETING MINUTES WITH THE NSC

Date: Thursday, May 8, 2008

Location: Long Beach Convention Center, Room 202A

Time: 12:30pm to 2:00pm

Meeting opened at 12:48 pm PST

Meeting minutes type by Secretary Miriam Lieber/NSCAC Operations Rose Schafhauser

1. Roll Call: NSC staff, CMS, NSCAC Executive Committee and NSCAC Member introductions: Joan Cross opened the meeting with introductions: Elaine Hensley (CBIC Chief Ombudsman), Rahshaan Martin (Ombudsman Pittsburgh), Gina Tate (Ombudsman Riverside/Ontario), Erika Williams (Ombudsman NSC), Nancy Parker (NSC), Tom Heinrich, Herb Langsam, Tom Hood, Sheila Showalter, Miriam Lieber, Rose Schafhauser and Mike Hamilton.
2. Approval of the meeting minutes from January 9, 2008: Tom Heinrich made motion to approve the meeting minutes as written. Tom Hood seconded. Motion carried.
3. Statement of protocol for meeting: Joan Cross reviewed that only NSCAC Members are able to vote on NSCAC business; Guests are allowed to speak after NSCAC members and at the NSCAC only meeting; Guests are not allowed to discuss any issues with the NSC; Do not discuss individual company issues before or after the NSCAC/NSC meeting. We don't bring personal issues into the forum.
4. CMS/NSC updates: Nancy Parker and Barry Bromberg (not present):
 - a. NSC Update: Erika Williams provided a NSC update at her seminar that NSCAC members attended. There was further discussion on NSC development letters. Nancy Parker reiterated that suppliers have 60 days to respond to a development request. Nobody's hand will be held any longer. If the information is not sent, this will no longer be treated special. Nancy did a review of several of these files and says that 9 out of 10 times information was not there as they originally said. The supplier just had resent information originally received. The supplier needs to actually fix the issue. When it is sent a second time, the NSC will not do anything if the same thing is sent in again and will not let them know what was wrong. The supplier can call customer service to ask what was wrong – and the analyst can them. Section 6 is a very common area where information was wrong. Example: In regards to insurance documentation, the provider has to read the request they are looking for such as sending the insurance certificate since the NSC is not the certificate holder. Nancy will put a reminder on the NSC website about this issue and that requests for documentation is the provider's responsibility. Another issue on the development: if the authorized representative has designated a contact person, make sure that designated person knows that.
 - b. CMS Update: there was no update.
 - c. CBIC Update: Elaine Hensley handed out the CBIC bulletin. The following updates were provided:
 - i. Round 1: They are finalizing contracts from winning bidders – hoping to post contract suppliers in the next few weeks. There has been lots of development with the CBIC and providers. Still on track for July 1 for the implementation of the fees.
 - ii. Round 2: During May the CBIC will announce HCPCS and zip codes. CMS has sign off on final product categories and zip code boundaries. No dates for registration have been stated yet. It is expected in spring but no actual word from CMS when this will happen. Providers will still have 60 days once it is open.

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- iii. Accreditation: providers are still required to be registered with an accreditation agency by May 14, even though the zip codes aren't yet announced. October 31 is still the deadline by which they have to be accredited.
- iv. Transition policies: CMS still has to provide more information on the transition. Grandfathering specifics will be sent by CMS soon.
- v. Newsletter: Elaine passed out a fact sheet that should be made available on the website. It's there but currently in a different format. She will check to see if they can get the newsletter format out to the general public. The website is: www.dmecompetitivebid.com. There is still LOTS OF PROVIDERS WHO ARE NOT AWARE OF COMPETITIVE BIDDING.
- vi. Ombudsman: The Ombudsman has been tasked with education of Round 1 and 2. At the PAMS meeting they will have a CBIC representative, FAMES will also have a representative from the CBIC. They will attend many of the meetings where they are invited. Email requests can be sent to Cbic.admin@palmettogba.com to invite the ombudsman to the state convention. The CBIC hopes to be able to add ombudsman for the next 70 MSAs – and for now they need to get approval. CBIC ombudsman will be education and outreach for larger forum. They will coordinate with CMS regional offices coordinating outreach activities for beneficiaries and referral agent meetings, too. CBIC will do more beneficiary outreach than originally assigned.
- vii. Questions:
 1. If a company was offered a contract, they signed it, could it not be ok'd by the CBIC? Response: If a company doesn't have a valid provider number by the time the contract is signed, they would not be approved.
 2. Providers from a different state, that has received a contract from another state that has licensure requirements, it may take more time to get licensure from that state. Response: The subcontractors must be in compliance – the contractor has to have compliance. Only the supplier in Florida has to follow the state rules, not the contractor located in NY. Because it is a subcontractor that allows them to provide service in FL. Example: NY Company won the bid – they do not have to have licenses in FL for that contract.
 - a. Issues with the NSC: The CMS 855 is supposed to show the locations, therefore the company should be listing the subcontractors for those locations. The NSC may or may not catch that. **Request: The NSCAC requests the CBIC to look at submitting claims in states were there is licensure and they don't have to have one for that state.**
 3. Request: There should be a zip code lookup feature to show the zip codes for beneficiaries to know if they are in a CBA. Response: The only look up tool is that suppliers will be able to search for the contract suppliers. They will have who the providers are and what they can do.
 - a. There are issues with beneficiaries living in a zip code of a CBA and providers will not know if they can serve those customers if they travel or stay places other than their permanent listed residence. It is important to get to and from dates of the beneficiaries was.
 4. Disqualified providers: There were several companies who were disqualified for not having financials and it was widely reported that financials were included. Response: As far as she knows, Elaine states that no disqualified suppliers were allowed contracts under the challenge process. The same information is still missing as far as the CBIC is concerned. Financial people at the CBIC are CPAs. They think these are routine accounting practices – example cash flow statement

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is included, but it's not. There were two rounds of contracts offered. Second round was two weeks after first round.

5. Old Business:

- a. National Provider Identifier (NPI): Update/questions related to how the NSC maybe reacting to the changes: There are not many issues with crosswalks – NSC has no access to crosswalk so it is not their issue. DME MACS has NPI coordination team now.
- b. Accreditation: Update/questions related to how the NSC maybe reacting to the changes: When providers are accredited, send change of information to let them know you are accredited prior to the deadline in September. Right now, the NSC is not looking for it. Before 9/09 the NSC will look for those suppliers who have not sent a change of information. There will a mass mailing to alert those suppliers and if they do not provide it to the NSC, their number will be revoked.
 - i. Question: How will the NSC know when a drug only supplier is exempt from having to be accredited? Response: The new CMS 855 application will address that they are medication only. In the meantime, they need to explain why they supply only medications and no longer supplying products.
 1. The NSCAC request that the NSC that this should be conveyed to pharmacy groups. The NSC will let them know.
- c. CMS 855S update on when the NSC will no longer use the old form: July 1, 2008 is deadline for new CMS 855S. There is another form in OMB clearance right now to marry product categories with accreditation. Only demo reenrollments are being done now. Other reenrollments will be done via new form.
- d. Status of CMS 855 applications and the average number of days outstanding: 45 days. In regards to the demonstration results – providers were not there when site inspections were done and there was no answer to letter; billing compared to inventory and checking invoices. Lots of providers failed and there were a lot of revocations – the NSC was not sure of the numbers. .
- e. Status of re-enrollments: Currently not doing re-enrollments.
- f. Site Inspectors Training/offer from the NSCAC: Joan Cross reminded the NSC that they need to train site inspectors that the 25 supplier standards are not required until September 30, 2008.

6. New Business:

- a. Other new business:
 - i. 50% of the new supplier applications received in March were rejected for lack of accreditation. Most accepted were large chains with 25 or more locations. 45% of new applications are large chains, 2% of small suppliers in March were accredited.
 - ii. Question: If providers have both a street address and then a PO Box – which is listed first? Response: The NSC is not accepting a PO Box as physical address even if you put both. You may only list physical address or list without a “PO.” This will be tabled and clarify later.
- b. Review of Questions and Answers: The questions and answers document was reviewed.
- c. Future NSCAC/NSC meetings:
 - i. Summer teleconference August 6 at 2:00 EST works with the NSC.
 - ii. Medtrade fall: October 28-30, 2008, Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta.

7. Adjournment: Joan Cross adjourned the meeting.

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