

Minutes of the  
DESY Customer Meeting  
held at CMS, March 25, 2003

Attendees: Phone/Video: Cecilia Prella (Seattle Regional Office), Sandy Callard (University of Michigan), Debra Caldwell, Barbara Frank (ResDAC), Thomas Ng (Dallas, OIG), Richard Meehl (Philadelphia Regional Office), Larry Lavoie, Claudia Bullock, Gary Thoni (Kansas City Regional Office)

CMS: Jack Fletcher, Rosemary Thommen, Cheryl Morris, Barbara Roth, and Walt Dunick

VIPS: Karen Garrison, Don Flohr, Mike Friedmann, Cheryl Mitchell, and Michelle Berman

#### Opening Statement

Jack Fletcher, DESY Project Manager, opened the monthly meeting by welcoming everyone. He stated that the monthly meetings are held to communicate information concerning the DESY system to the user community. This includes the content of upcoming releases, issues due to processing and input on making our services better. Jack announced that the meeting would be recorded for note taking purposes.

\* Next month, Jack's presentation will be on proper usage of the NCH versus the Standard Analytical Files. This will include a detailed explanation of the differences between those two files. The presentation will also include best practices, what type of data is in each and when to use each file. It has been brought to our attention when one user's results do not match another user's results. Often this is because of different files used or business rules that have been applied to the data that are different based on the business owner. Along with CDUG, we will try to use both forums to help document these issues and bring them to the forefront of the user community.

#### Operations

\* There are approximately 440 requests in process at any point. This is an increase from 300 requests in process in January. There has been a steady increase in the number of requests for older years of NCH data. The proportion of requests was 70% for current years of data and 30% for older years of data. Now that ratio has changed to 50% for each. We have asked for additional processors to reduce the inventory in the older years of data. OIG and DOJ have asked for priority processing and our request for those processors will also address their needs. 1991 through 1997 is considered the time span for older data. The highlights of DESY's statistics on processing are:

- o Over 40 billion records of output for SAF data since May 2001
- o Close to 30 billion records of output for NCH data since May 2001
- o 108 SAF requests completed, writing 270 million records last week
- o 63 NCH requests completed, writing 1.1 billion records last week
- o no SAF requests over 30 days

\* Recently, we had inquiries from our users about the completeness of the 2001 Outpatient BEF files. It was discovered that an operating system error caused 9 out of 69 tapes to be dropped from the file. Requesters who received 2001 Outpatient Beneficiary encrypted files since August of last year will be 14

million claims short on their file. The problem has been corrected and a supplemental file has been created which contains the data of those 9 tapes. Robyn Thomas' division is working to identify all the receivers of those files to notify them that they received an incomplete file and that we are capable of sending the completed file or a supplemental file. If you have any questions, please call Jack and he will forward you on to Robyn Thomas' area.

\* The status of DESY NMUD access is still on hold. We are now progressing to reestablish that connection and it will still be for the HICAN finder file only. We are working towards implementing that shortly after the next release which is scheduled for the beginning of May. CWF auditing fields will be added to the NMUD tables in the future.

#### Features for this Release

\* The rest of the release is continuing on schedule. We are dependent on other systems that are coming up with changes at the same time. The FTAPE system, the new Privacy Accountability Database (PAD) system, and DESY all have an integrated aspect with this next release. If there are any delays, it is a consequence of that need to make sure that all three of these systems are brought up in a coordinated fashion.

\* The biggest impact to users in this next release will be the addition of some DSAF features. The MEDPAR file, Denominator file, Name & Address file and Vital Stats file will become available through DESY. This will allow another section of functionality to migrate from the DSAF system to DESY. Identifying the new data stores will be the biggest change to users. A data store labeled Enrollment will have selections of Denominator, Name & Address and Vital Stats. MEDPAR will have its own data store like NCH and SAF.

\* The release notes on the News and Information page will detail the changes and offer guidance for any new screen features. A full set of documentation is included that describes the new features and how to utilize them.

#### Questions

\* What is the cutoff for the old cycle? The old cycle consists of years 1991 - 1997.

\* When will the cross reference file become available in DESY? Cross referencing becomes available with the next release. We currently have a form of cross referencing. If you make a HICAN request for claims data we are automatically cross referencing that file, but you do not get the ability to ask for an output cross reference file. That capability will be in the next release. Use the 50 bytes that DESY provides on the header of every record. When you enter a HICAN finder file, you can give a start position and a header start position. If you make them the same value, you can see how cross referencing occurred. You will get your original number in the 50 byte header.

\* How long does it take to process a NCH or SAF request with current years? NCH takes approximately 3 weeks and most SAF requests take a day. However, SAF Outpatient 5% Part B still takes a week and Outpatient may take several weeks if many years are requested.

\* Will you have access to the cross referencing based on your DUA properties? Yes. If there is a feature that is documented that is not available to you, please contact us using the comments feature in DESY. We will respond to them

as quickly as possible.

\* Kudos from the Kansas City Regional Office for the automatic cross referencing feature. Larry suggested that this meeting may be a good forum for discussing business requirements at the detail level. It is important for the business areas to provide their feedback on which requirements need validation. Jack responded that the user community can offer valuable assistance in the validation testing process.

Reminder that the next customer meeting will be April 22 at 11 am.  
Minutes of the EDES Status Meeting August 21, 2001

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