

HIGLAS

highlights

MODERNIZING MEDICARE ACCOUNTING

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2008!

We are proud to issue our first quarterly newsletter of 2008 that provides news and updates regarding the implementation of the Healthcare Integrated General Ledger Accounting System (HIGLAS.)

When fully implemented, HIGLAS will replace numerous financial systems currently in use by commercial insurance companies that process and pay nearly 3 million Medicare claims every day, as well as CMS Headquarters Accounting System functionality.



Janet Vogel accepts GCN Gala Award on behalf of HIGLAS from Wyatt Kash, GCN Editor in Chief and Dell's Troy West.

1099 Reporting Project Highlights

HIGLAS 2007 updates were implemented for this year's 1099 reporting on December 1, 2007.

The finalized 1099 Year-End Schedule was sent to contractors December 6, 2007.

Performance improvements have been verified by all of the 1099 contractors.

All of the 2007 IRS changes have been incorporated.

Trailblazer was successful in running their 1099 Year-to-Date reports in record time.

2007 GCN Awards

On October 24, 2007, HIGLAS was the recipient of a 2007 Government Computer News (GCN) award for outstanding use of information technology in government, at the annual GCN Gala Awards. The GCN Gala Awards recognize distinguished project teams and programs for sustained contribution and innovative use of technology in the field of government information technology.

This year's winners were selected from more than 100 nominations submitted by agency chiefs, colleagues, superiors, and, in some cases, partnering suppliers.



HIGLAS Statistics

HIGLAS Production Processing Year-To-Date Total: (As of 12/31/07)

Period	# of Claims Processed	Claims \$ Amount	# of Payments Processed	Payment Totals
May 2005 through December 2007				
Totals:	504,218,631	\$251,515,418,671.44	22,030,651	\$225,147,134,161.25

HIGLAS Welcomes New Management and Leadership!

The HIGLAS project has incurred several major key position and leadership changes since the start of fiscal year 2008. Please join us in recognizing and welcoming our colleagues.

Mark Brown – Division of Business Processes (DBP) Director (CMS)

Bernice Pendley – Administrative Program Accounting (APA) Lead (CMS)

Michael Quantrille – Project Executive (IBM)

Tim Hanyok – PMO Manager (IBM)

Duane Phillips – Business Operations Manager (IBM)

Natarajan Ramachandran – Administrative Program Accounting (APA) Project Manager (IBM)



It is a special honor for HIGLAS to welcome back Mark Brown as the Director of DBP! Mark recently completed his tour of duty in Iraq in October of 2007.

We would like to thank Bernice Pendley as she led DBP to great success and achievement during the past year. Bernice will take on a new roll as the APA lead and remain a key asset on the HIGLAS project.

HIGLAS would also like to thank Dan Ball, Project Executive (IBM) and David Wade, PMO Manager (IBM) for their commitment and hard work to the program. We wish them the best in their future endeavors!

HIGLAS Quarterly Release Highlights

HIGLAS planned releases continue to follow the Office of Information Services (OIS) Quarterly Release schedule to align with Medicare FFS Shared System Maintainer changes.

Occasionally, expedited enhancements – also tracked as HIGLAS Change Requests (HCRS) – are released outside of the quarterly schedule.

January 2008 Release

- The January 2008 QR successfully went into production on January 7, 2008.

April 2008 Release

- Functional design specifications, technical design documents, and code/unit testing are complete for both NPI and Non-NPI changes.
- Alpha Test is in progress. Beta Test is on target to begin on March 10, 2008.

July 2008 Release

- Baseline completed. The Business Scenarios and Rules phase kicked-off January 2, 2008.

Federal Payment Levy Program Information

HIGLAS continues to be fully engaged in implementing the necessary functionality and interfaces to participate in the Federal Payment Levy Program (FPLP) as mandated by Congress by the start of fiscal year 2009.

FPLP Update:

Conference Room Pilot was completed on time in September 2007 to determine the feasibility of the NTDO approach.

A Gap Closure Alternative (GCA) document was completed and signed off by CMS on October 5, 2007, that outlined the proposed design approach to implement a solution in HIGLAS that will address the identified gaps.

Implementation of the Treasury NTDO solution in HIGLAS is planned for the October 2008 Quarterly Release that will allow CMS to become an FPLP participant effective FY09.

National Provider Identifier Solution Coming Soon!



The National Provider Identifier (NPI) Initiative, published January 23, 2004, mandates the following:

- Establishes the standard for a unique health identifier
- Announces the adoption of the NPI as the standard
- Establishes implementation specifications for obtaining and using the NPI (45 CFR Part 162, CMS-0045-F) Effective May 23, 2008 for Medicare Claims Processing

During NPI Stage 3, CMS Change Requests #5590 and #5654 were developed outlining the requirements for both HIGLAS and the non-HIGLAS CMS Shared Systems (FISS/MCS/VMS) to send and receive NPI data and perform Accounts Receivable netting to recoup Medicare overpayments from providers using legacy and NPI combinations.

The expected outcome of this project is to implement the NPI solution in HIGLAS with the April 2008 Quarterly Release that will align with the CMS Shared Systems' release dates for the implementation of NPI Stage 3 functionality.

HIGLAS Implementation News

Transitions/Deployment Status:

Pilot-1	Palmetto (A)	In Production Since May 4, 2005	3 rd Quarter 2005
Pilot-2	Empire (B)	In Production Since July 6, 2005	4 th Quarter 2005
Wave 1-1	Empire (A)	In Production Since August 5, 2005	4 th Quarter 2005
Wave 1-2	First Coast (A)	In Production Since September 9, 2005	4 th Quarter 2005
Wave 1-3	Trailblazer (A)	In Production Since November 4, 2005	1 st Quarter 2006
Wave 1-4	Mutual of Omaha (A)	In Production Since February 10, 2006	3 rd Quarter 2006
Wave 2-1	TrailBlazer (B)	In Production Since September 8, 2006	4 th Quarter 2006
Wave 2-2	Palmetto (B)	In Production Since December 11, 2006	1 st Quarter 2007
Wave 2-3	Highmark (B)	In Production Since March 12, 2007	2 nd Quarter 2007
Wave 2-4	UGS (A)	In Production Since August 14, 2007	3 rd Quarter 2007
Wave 3-1	Wisconsin Physician Services (B)	In Production Since December 10, 2007	1 st Quarter 2008
Wave 3-2	Anthem Maine (A)	Running Round Trip Cycles to Complete Production Simulation	2 nd Quarter 2008
Wave 3-3	Anthem KY, OH, IL, IN	Preparing for User Testing	3 rd Quarter 2008
Wave 3-4	Cahaba AL (A) and RHHI	Completed First Round of Conversion Code Testing	4 th Quarter 2008
MAC	HIGLAS Workload Split	Workload Split Testing is Under Way	On-Going

HIGLAS Users Group (HUG)

The HIGLAS Users Group (HUG) embraces the following objectives:

- Enhance communication and building a stronger partnership between CMS and the business partners (Contractors, Maintainers, Data Centers, and the System Integrator)
- Discuss improvements that have been made for the past year
- Discuss concerns and identify solutions collectively



The next HUG session is tentatively scheduled for April 28, 29, and 30, 2008 in Baltimore at CMS Headquarters.

If you have any HUG meeting questions or comments please contact Portia Vertreese at:

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Questions? Comments?

Your input, feedback, and story ideas are welcome.
Please provide all comments to:

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