

HIGLAS

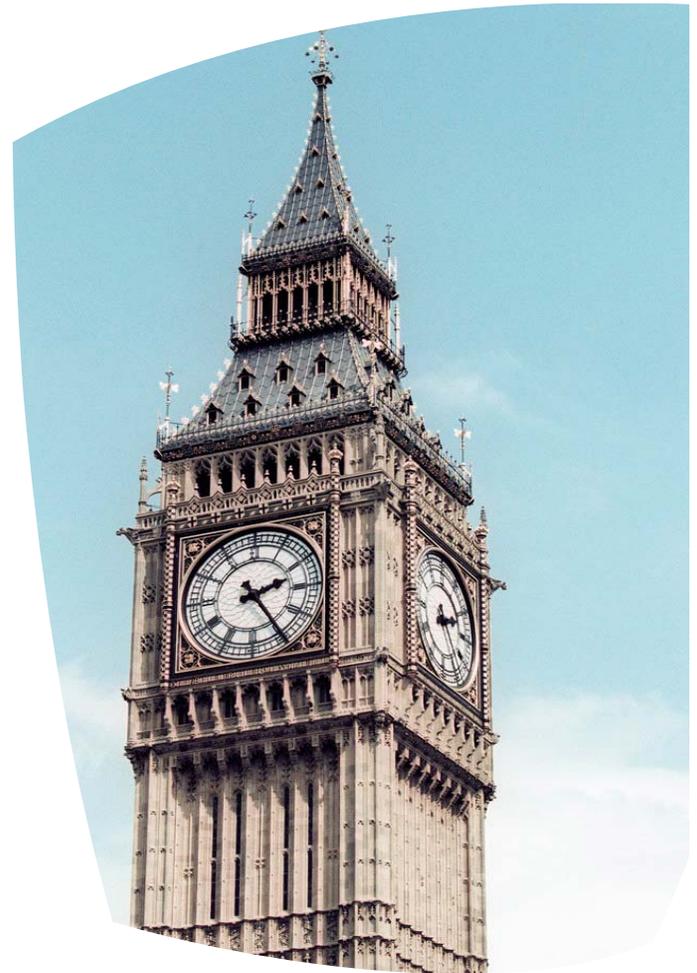
highlights

MODERNIZING MEDICARE ACCOUNTING

CMS Leaders Consult with United Kingdom Government Officials!

On April 28 and 29, 2008, senior leadership (Janet L.D. Vogel and George E. Jenkins) from the Office of Financial Management's Financial Management Systems Group (FMSG) met with leadership of the United Kingdom's (UK) Department of Work and Pensions (DWP.) One purpose of the meeting was to understand the status of DWP's current efforts towards implementing a financial accounting system to provide payments to retirees across the UK. Productive meetings were held to exchange lessons learned and approaches to technical, business function, and management challenges. The DWP has completed a proof of concept for their system, and shared multiple complexities that they have resolved regarding interfaces and storage.

CMS provided insight on role based security, change management, and use of software and technical tools for HIGLAS. We were able to share some of our HIGLAS lessons learned about upgrading HIGLAS software (Oracle) to a newer version. These meetings were highly technical in nature and focused on the performance of the software being used. This visit is viewed as another CMS chapter in our long-standing relationship with the UK team!



HIGLAS Statistics

HIGLAS Production Processing Year-To-Date Total: (As of 05/06/08)

Period	# of Claims Processed	Claims \$ Amount	# of Payments Processed	Payment Totals
May 2005 through May 2008 Totals:	634,181,947	\$309,344,197,012.00	27,129,378	\$276,320,696,924.71

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.

July 2008 Release

- Beta Test is in process of completion and User Test started on 6/09 and is also in progress.
- HCR 603/CMS CR 5873 Section 935 Appeals functionality will be deferred to 9/02.

October 2008 Release

- Design and Development phase is in process and on schedule to complete by 7/11.
- 18 HCRs are planned for implementation of enhancements to Medicare Benefits.
- New interfaces for HIGLAS with Treasury FMS will be implemented for CMS to become a participant in the Federal Payment Levy Program (FPLP) effective FY2009.
- Enhanced Administrative Program Accounting (APA) functionality will also be implemented to produce CMS agency-level financial statements in conjunction with the

National Provider Identifier Solution Go-Live

An integrated NPI solution for HIGLAS with the CMS shared systems was successfully deployed to production with the April '08 Release to meet the mandated NPI implementation date of 5/23/08. This effort could not have been accomplished without the continuous collaboration and hard work between CMS (FMSG, OIS and CMM), the HIGLAS systems integrator (IBM), the CMS FISS and MCS shared system maintainer teams and the STC. Kudos to all for a successful outcome!

Federal Payment Levy Program Update

HIGLAS continues to be fully engaged in implementing the necessary functionality and interfaces to participate in the FPLP as mandated by Congress by the start of FY2009. Participation in the FPLP means that Medicare Fee-For-Service benefit payments to providers will be offset for debt owed to other Federal Government agencies, namely the Internal Revenue Service.

CMS has chosen the Non-Treasury Disbursing Office (NTDO) model of integration with the FPLP in HIGLAS, and is on target to implement the NTDO solution with HIGLAS with the October 2008 Release. Four new interfaces will be implemented between HIGLAS and Treasury Financial Management Service (FMS), as well as other necessary HIGLAS modifications. Integration testing and validation of the NTDO solution with Treasury FMS will begin in June 2008 prior to the scheduled start of Alpha Testing in July for the October 2008 Release.

MAC Workload Split News

The Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act (MMA) of 2003 requires that CMS replace the current fiscal intermediary (FI) and carrier contracts with competitively procured contracts that conform to the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR). The new contractors are referred to as Medicare Administrative Contractor (MACs).

The transitioning of the FIs and Carriers to each of the MACs includes the movement of existing HIGLAS data from one HIGLAS Organization to another. In many cases, the existing HIGLAS workload moves to multiple MAC jurisdictions. When a single existing HIGLAS contractor/organization is split among multiple MACs, it is called a “Workload Split.”

Currently, there are three MAC Workload Split transitions that are in progress with the first to go live in early summer 2008.

Administrative Program Accounting

The HIGLAS Administrative Program Accounting (APA) solution is based on the Department-wide United Financial Management System (UFMS) effort, which is a key component of the Secretary’s “One HHS.”

In FY 2007, APA completed Phase One (the implementation of Medicaid and State Children’s Health Insurance Plan (SCHIP) Grants processing in HIGLAS) of the three planned phases. Medicaid and SCHIP grants activity accounts for approximately 32.7% of CMS outlays; the largest dollar value transition to HIGLAS.

CMS remains on track to complete “Phase 2 Step 1” of the APA solution in FY 2009 which includes the generation of the CMS financial statements in HIGLAS. We also remain committed to continuing out year efforts towards having Medicare Part C and Part D accounting transactions on HIGLAS by FY 2010 – e.g., APA solution “Phase 2, Step 2.”



The CMS-APA team has made enormous progress during the past quarter. We have completed nine Unit Test Demonstrations (UTD) of the key Oracle Modules required to support our October go-live of producing the agencies financial Statements from HIGLAS. The entire CMS team continues working hard to ensure the continuation of HIGLAS accounting efforts as well as the successful continuation of APA development activities going forward. Special thanks to the following members of the FMSG Division of Business Processes (DBP):

Jennifer Dubbs, Lauren Glass, Diane Hall, Nathalia Martin, Bernice Pendley, Paul Rigney, Donna Sanders, Greg Schwienteck, Jeff Silver, and Margaret Tate.

HIGLAS Implementation News

Transitions/Deployment Status:

Pilot-1	Palmetto (A)	In Production Since May 4, 2005
Pilot-2	Empire (B)	In Production Since July 6, 2005
Wave 1-1	Empire (A)	In Production Since August 5, 2005
Wave 1-2	First Coast (A)	In Production Since September 9, 2005
Wave 1-3	Trailblazer (A)	In Production Since November 4, 2005
Wave 1-4	Mutual of Omaha (A)	In Production Since February 10, 2006
Wave 2-1	TrailBlazer (B)	In Production Since September 8, 2006
Wave 2-2	Palmetto (B)	In Production Since December 11, 2006
Wave 2-3	Highmark (B)	In Production Since March 12, 2007
Wave 2-4	UGS (A)	In Production Since August 14, 2007
Wave 3-1	Wisconsin Physician Services (B)	In Production Since December 10, 2007
Wave 3-2	Anthem Maine (A)	In Production Since March 10, 2008
Wave 3-3	Anthem KY, OH, IL, IN	In Production Since June 6, 2008
Wave 3-4	Cahaba AL (A) and RHHI	Preparing Data For Production Simulation
MAC	HIGLAS Workload Split	Workload Split Conversion Testing is Underway

Two More Successful Transitions!

Anthem Maine transitioned in March 2008 with Anthem KY, OH, IL, IN successfully transitioning in June 2008. These transitions were characterized by a low report of errors, backlog cycles were run over the weekend and payments were issued by the carrier without experiencing dark days. The on-going transition for Cahaba AL remains in progress. Congratulations to all participants for making this such a smooth cut-over.

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 HUG meeting was held April 21st – 23rd with huge success. Attendees included the Medicare contractor community, Enterprise Data Centers, Shared System Maintainers, as well as other internal CMS business partners. Topics included CFO reconciliation, HIPAA, and the Federal Payment Levy Program just to mention a few. Round-table discussions were also held to provide CMS feedback on lessons learned and potential areas for process improvement.



The HUG Webinar is tentatively scheduled for July 15th, September 16th, and October 21st 2008.

If you have any HUG meeting, or Webinar related comments and concerns; please contact Portia Vertreese at: Portia.Vertreese@cms.hhs.gov

HIGLAS Change Control Board News

The HIGLAS Change Control Board (HCCB) is comprised of CMS component-wide and regional office membership whose chartered role is to participate in the review and evaluation of HIGLAS Change Requests (HCRs), as well as recommend approval, revision, deferring, or rejection of proposed HIGLAS changes.

On June 4, 2008, the HCCB convened to discuss required and proposed HCRs, and recommended approval of all HCR requests. OFM / FMSG leadership as well as the HIGLAS System Integration contractor also provided a brief HIGLAS program status to the Board. The meeting was well received and future HCCB meeting will be convened as needed.

Questions? Comments?

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

Christopher McMahon: Christopher.McMahon@cms.hhs.gov