

2023 Indian Health Service Partnership Conference

Current IHS-VA Reimbursement Agreement: COVID-19 claims - Federal Programs

CAPT John Rael
Director
Office of Resource Access and Partnerships
Indian Health Service

Robin Watkins, MSN, RN, CCM
FI Project Officer
ORAP/Division of Contract Care
Indian Health Service

Natasha Royal, CO
IAA Lead
OMS
Indian Health Service HQ



August 23, 2023

Audience

The information on the following slides pertain to **IHS-operated facilities and programs**. We have worked with the VA on reimbursement processes related to the COVID-19 claims within the scope of the current IHS-VA reimbursement agreement. We are still in the testing phase of this project.

Tribal Health Programs can contact the VA for process formulation under their separate reimbursement agreements.



Topics

- Background
- Eligibility
- Process
- Coversheet/spreadsheets
- G-Invoicing
- Helpful Hints
- Future
- Questions



Background

For over two decades, the Indian Health Service and the Department of Veterans Affairs have partnered to improve the health status of American Indian and Alaska Native veterans. This is critical to the population we serve, as American Indians and Alaska Natives serve in the U.S. military at higher rates than other groups.



Background (cont.)

The agencies signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in February 2003 to improve access and health outcomes for Native veterans, and subsequently updated the MOU in 2010 and 2021. In 2012, they signed an IHS-VA reimbursement agreement to facilitate reimbursement by VA to the IHS for direct care services provided by the IHS-operated facilities and programs to eligible American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Veterans. The IHS-VA reimbursement agreement has been amended four times.



Background (cont.)

Tribal Health Programs each negotiate their own separate reimbursement agreements with VA. Tribal Health Programs, and also urban Indian organizations, that are interested in establishing a reimbursement agreement with VA will need to contact the VA to negotiate their own agreements.



Background (cont.)

We are currently in the process of updating the IHS-VA reimbursement agreement to further strengthen our partnership. More information about those updates will be coming soon.

This presentation addresses the IHS-VA process for implementing a particular provision of the current IHS-VA reimbursement agreement, which was added in 2020 and relates to reimbursement for certain PRC provided during the COVID-19 emergency period.



Background (cont.)

The below sections shall be added, effective on March 1, 2020.

XIII. During the coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency period **ONLY**, the Secretary for VA shall reimburse for care or service provided by IHS through a contract established by IHS (Purchased Referred Care) for care provided outside of the facility, **when** that care consists of: **1.** items and services as described in section 6006(b) of division F of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (or the administration of such products) for eligible American Indian/Alaska Native Veterans; or **2.** hospital care and medical services for covered Veterans for the treatment of the virus SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19.

VA will reimburse at the rate paid by the United States to a provider of services (as defined in section 1861(u) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(u))) or a supplier (as defined in section 1861(d) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(d))) under the Medicare program under title XI or title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.), including section 1834 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m), for the same care or services. IHS will seek payment from all other liable payers, as permissible by law, prior to billing VA. VA is responsible only for the balance remaining after other third-party reimbursements. The term "COVID-19 emergency period" means the emergency period described in section 1135(g)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.1320b 5(g)(1)(B)).

ACCEPTED:

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

/Richard A. Stone, M.D./
Executive in Charge

September 28, 2020

ACCEPTED:

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES
INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

/RADM Michael D. Weahkee/
Director

September 30, 2020



Covid-19 Reimbursement

Through the 2020 amendment to the IHS-VA reimbursement agreement, VA will reimburse the IHS-operated PRC programs for certain COVID related care provided during the Public Health Emergency (PHE). We have been working with our VA partners to develop a process for this reimbursement to occur.

Current exclusions for reimbursement for COVID-19 claims-Transportation costs, Durable Medical Equipment (DME).



Eligibility

The Veteran's benefits must be verified to ensure they have the Veteran's Medical Benefits Package (VMBP). This is usually on the Registration page in the RPMS system. If not then then we must call the VA to verify eligibility. We can call the Health Eligibility Center (HEC) 1-877-222-8387.

Reach out to the sites which are nearest to the veteran for information.

Review the claims and EOBRs for the codes as follows:



Approved Codes

U07.1 COVID-19

U09.9 POST COVID-19

B34.2 CORONAVIRUS Infection, unspecified

B97.29 OTH CORONAVIRUS as the cause of diseases

J12.81 Pneumonia due to SARS-associated coronav

J12.82 Pneumonia due to coronavirus disease 2019

B97.21 SARS-associated coronavirus causing diseases class elswhr

B97.29 Oth coronavirus as the cause of diseases classd elswhr

One of the codes listed above must be on the claim in order for the VA to consider the claim for reimbursement under the current IHS-VA reimbursement agreement.



Process

IHS facilities must submit the COVID-19 related health care services invoice provided through PRC using the G-invoicing system to receive reimbursement from VA. IHS PRC healthcare service billing and requirements follows a different process than those used for Direct Care services. VA is unable to accept COVID-19 PRC invoices through the standard healthcare claims submission process using Electronic Data Interchange (EDI), CMS 1500 (HCFA), or CMS 1450 (UB). Invoices for reimbursement of COVID-19 related PRC services must be submitted via G-Invoicing with supporting documentation sent to VA via IHS secure data transfer.



Process (cont.)

Request an ad-hoc report from the Fiscal Intermediary (FI) on all paid claims for the specified timeframe on VA eligible patients. You can also obtain this information by creating a report in RCIS limiting the patients to VA eligible with PRC paid claims during the PHE which have the reimbursable COVID-19 codes.

The Areas will need to submit their COVID-19 PRC invoice with the following required supporting documentation:

1. Cover sheet
2. Claims and associated EOBs (if applicable).
3. EOBR from the FI showing the payment was made by IHS will need to be sent to the VA via IHS secure data transfer to NW PO at email vha_104p_ops_western_region_nw_ihs_thp_support@va.gov.
4. The VA team will review the cover sheet along with the supporting documents. Once a determination has been made the VA will e-mail IHS with the decision.



VA Determinations

If the submission is rejected or denied the VA will email IHS with the rejection/denial reason(s) with the request for correction and resubmission.

If the submission is approved the VA will submit an order in g-invoicing with the approved amount. Once this has been approved in g-invoicing then the performance will need to be entered in g-invoicing by IHS Finance. The performance will be reviewed and approved for payment by the VA.



Coversheet/Spreadsheet Submission

- IHS Area PRC POC will send approved coversheet to IHS Area finance POC for entering the performance in G-Invoicing.
- The VA will enter one order in GT&C for the entire fiscal year per Area.
- The coversheet will be submitted monthly or can be submitted on an interim basis if a large group of reimbursable claims are identified. This practice will help alleviate the burden of submitting a large batch at once.



G-Invoicing

- G-Invoicing is a long-term solution for Federal Program Agencies (FPAs) to manage and improve the quality of their Intragovernmental (IGT) buy/sell transactions; the Department of the Treasury has mandated all federal agencies adopt G-Invoicing beginning October 1, 2022.
- G-Invoicing is a secure, web-based system that provides agencies with a central, common platform and repository to buy and sell goods and services to each other.



Terminology Utilized in G-Invoicing

General Terms & Conditions (GT&C) – 7600A

Order – 7600B

Requesting Agency/Buyer – VA

Servicing Agency/Seller - IHS

Performance – Services provided for the month (designated on coversheet)

CAN – Common Accounting Number

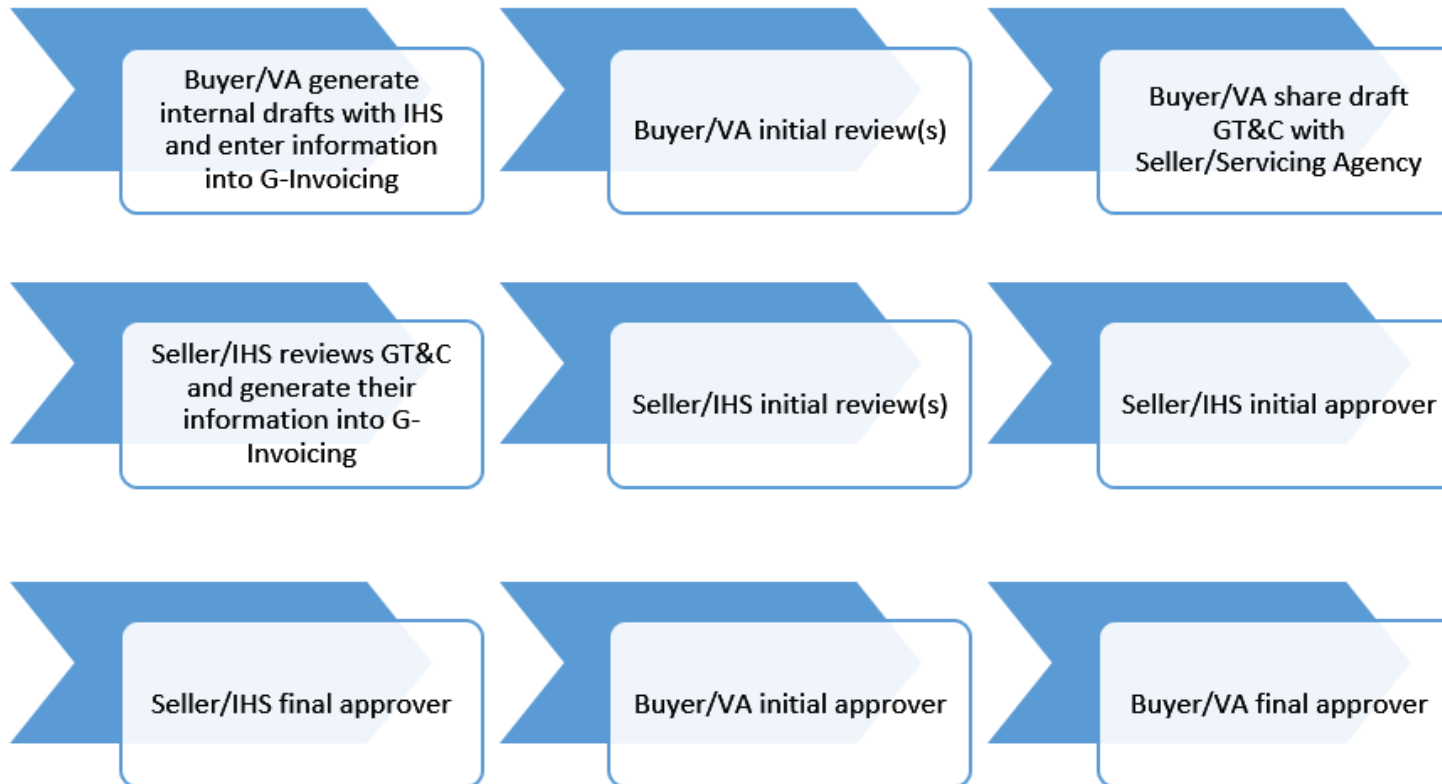
TAS – Treasury Account Symbol

ALC – Agency Locator Code



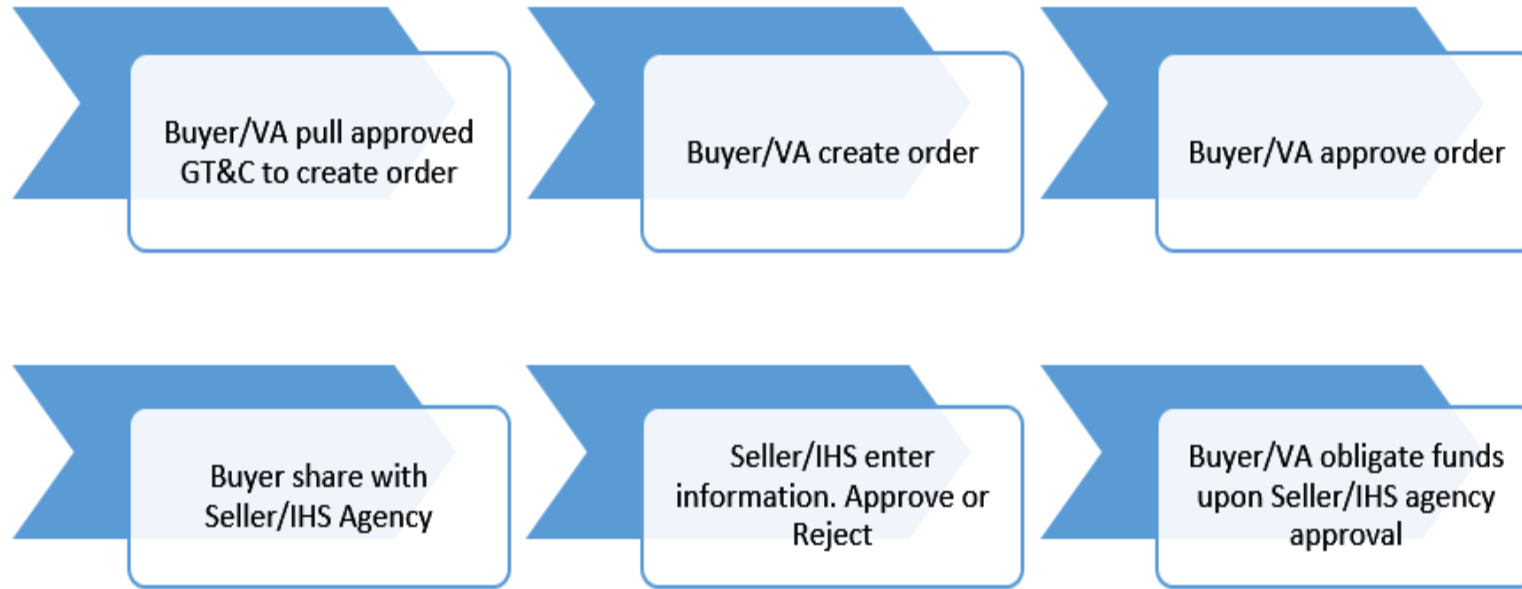
GT&C - 7600A

General Terms and Conditions (GT&C) System Process – 7600A. VA | – Requesting Agency/Buyer & IHS
– Servicing Agency/Seller



Orders – 7600B

Orders UFMS System Process Without Requisitions – 7600B



Program Exchange (cont.)

IHS Area PRC POC will document the veterans' information using the VA reimbursement cover sheet and send it to VA for review through the IHS Secure Data Transfer System. *(Please copy the IHS HQE Program POC)*. This process can be repeated more than once a month.

1. VA will return the approved/reviewed coversheet back to IHS Area PRC POC.
2. IHS Area PRC POC will send approved coversheet to IHS Area finance POC for entering the performance in G-Invoicing.

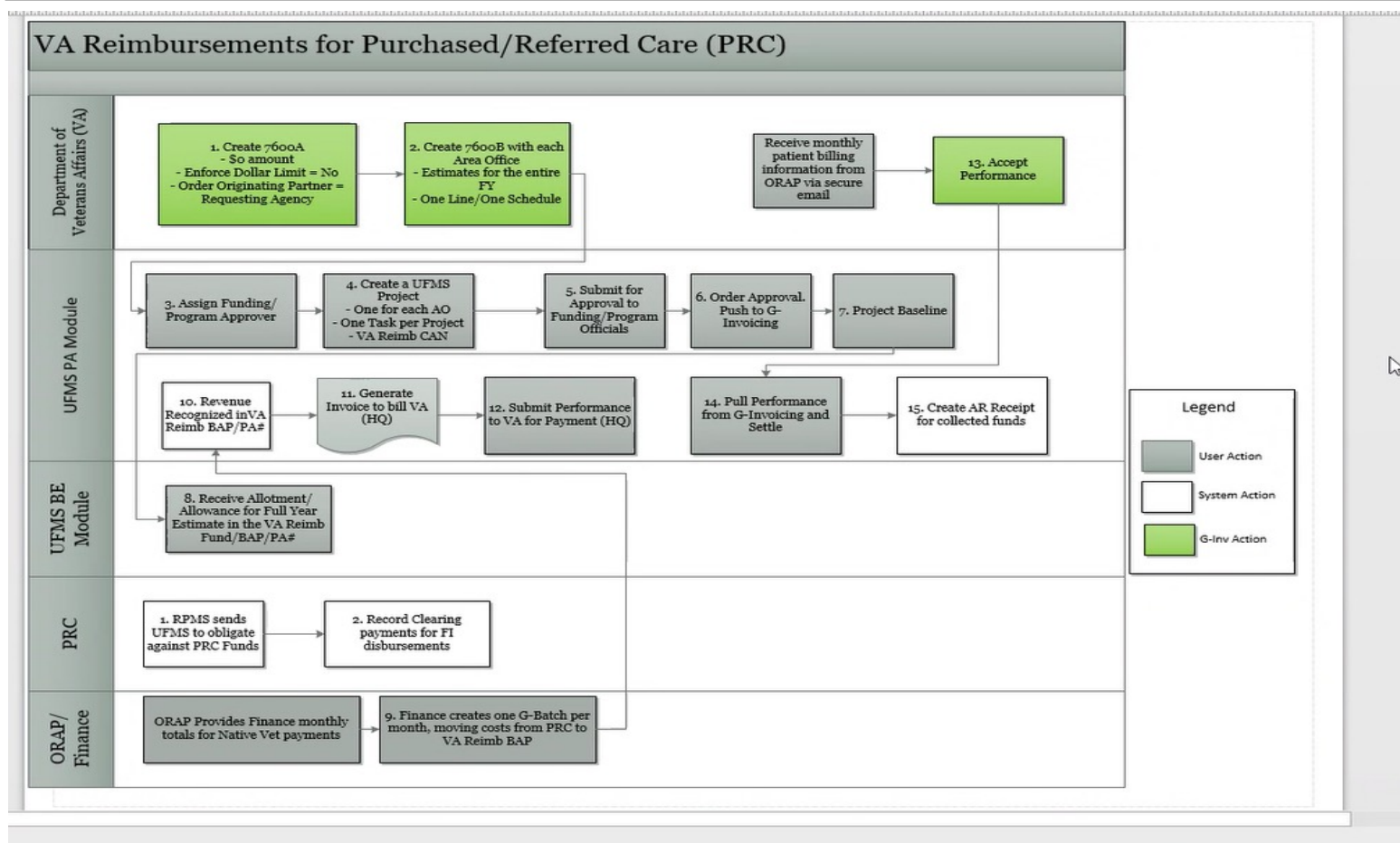


Program Exchange (cont.)

3. IHS Area finance will create G-batch on monthly basis to transfer cost from direct PRC CANs to J(AP)PRCR for G-Invoicing. Areas are advised to use 2023 BFY CANs (pointing to FY 0000 fund) in case of prior year g-batches. (A new supplier will be created to use for the g-batches, pending supplier name) The approved patient cost/spreadsheet should match the G-batch amount for the month.
4. At the month-end (7 days prior), IHS HQE Division of Systems, Review and Procedures (DSRP) finance POC would generate the invoice for the incurred cost. This will be a monthly performance interfaced with G-Invoicing.
5. VA would pull the performance from G-Invoicing and pay by accepting the performance.



G-Invoicing Process



Helpful Hints

On the current COVID reimbursement, the VA will not pay for DME or transportation, but please save those claims for potential submission once the IHS-VA reimbursement agreement is updated.

Great Plains submitted the first batch of invoices to the VA on 6/7/23. As of today's date the VA needs to enter the order in G-Invoicing. Once this is done IHS can enter the performance.



Future

This is a labor intensive process we will roll out Area by Area.

At this time we have only tested the Great Plains area.

It is important your Area Directors get set up through the GT&C invoicing process and they must log on to this system at least every 90 days in order to maintain access.

All Area Directors must begin the process for obtaining access as it can take some time.



Helpful Hints

May use either the SSN or the ICN # this number is a number given to the veterans by the VA. We can look up this information on the Health Eligibility Center (HEC) 1-877-222-8387.

Under the current IHS-VA reimbursement agreement, please do not waste time by submitting claims which do not have the COVID-19 codes listed above as they will be rejected.



Coversheet Example

Coversheet:



Microsoft Excel
Worksheet



G-Invoicing Access

How to obtain access to G-Invoicing:



Adobe Acrobat
Document



Questions



Contact Information



Robin Watkins, MSN, RN, CCM

FI Project Officer

Office of Resource Access and
Partnerships

Division of Contract Care

robin.watkins@ihs.gov



