Case Study:

Zotec Provides Helpful Feedback for CMS' Identity & Access Management System



Since 2019, Zotec Partners has been providing feedback on the useability of various aspects of CMS' Identity & Access Management System (I&A) portal.

This is the online portal to the CMS computer system where physician credentials are registered with Medicare. Without the required registration being completed, physicians that offer care to the 63.5 million + Medicare patients in the U.S., wouldn't be eligible to receive payment from the government for their services. The I&A portal gives multiple access to Provider Enrollment, Chain, and Ownership (PECOS), Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program, and National Plan & Provider Enumerations System (NPPES).



Having a one stop shop to start the credentialing process is a great resource. Zotec, like many other RCM providers, acts as a "surrogate" for their clients so they can access, view, and modify information within the CMS computer system to ensure compliance. However, it became clear to Zotec's credentialing team that adding multiple clinicians with shared information wasn't an option.



Stephanie Lambert, project analyst, with the credentialing department, has represented Zotec as an active user of CMS' I&A Management System

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Being part of the feedback process with CMS is very beneficial to our clients and our company; however, in this specific instance, we continued to face significant inefficiencies since we could only request access to one physician's information at a time.

Stephanie Lambert



The credentialing team was determined to find a solution, and Stephanie reached out to her contacts at CMS.

They received approval to send large files to CMS to load into the I&A Management System. Even though this proved to be a short term solution it wasn't efficient, so Stephanie asked them to consider adding some type of functionality that made it possible to request access to multiple providers at the same time.

In early November 2022, CMS did exactly that when they deployed this functionality to the I&A Management System.



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"We are really grateful for our relationship with CMS and their receptivity to improving the usability of this system. It sounds like such a simple feature, but it enables our credentialing team to be much more effective and efficient."

"Zotec appreciates CMS' willingness to consider this feature and taking the time to implement it. It makes ensuring compliance with credentialing that much easier."

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Timeline

Since 2019, Zotec Partners has been providing feedback on the useability of various aspects of CMS' Identity & Access Management System (I&A) portal.

March 2019

ZPAC meets with CMS at the 2019 CMS National Provider Enrollment Conference to address initial concerns with the policy.

September 2019

CMS Implements new MFA Usage Policy.

March 2020

ZPAC meets with Carl Schell, Vani Annadata, and Keith Washington from the Center for Program Integrity within CMS to discuss concerns; confirms approval for delaying MFA policy rollout.

June 2020

ZPAC and Zotec's provider enrollment team works closely with CMS to fine-tune and clarify the policy guidelines found on page 104.

July 2020

P)ECOS

ZPAC is proceeding with the necessary steps to set up compliant access for the MFA rollout, which was rescheduled to April 2021.

August 2020 - April 2021

ZPAC continued to work with the team at CMS. CMS decides to reschedule the MFA rollout to September 2021.

June 2021

CMS begins to re-engineer PECOS. As a result of our communications on the MFA rollout CMS' vendor, CGS, a Medicare administrative contractor, offers Zotec an opportunity to collaborate with the design, workflow, and usability of PECOS 2.0.

July 2022

Zotec Credentialing Team discovers that they cannot add multiple clinicians with shared information at the same time on CMS' I&A Management System portal and recommends additional functionality to be added.

November 2022

CMS deploys Zotec recommended functionality to the I&A Management System portal allowing for multiple provider requests to be loaded at the same time.