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Present: Debra Diaz-Lara, Charles Reyna represented the HWCN Division, Martin Coleman, Olga Escobedo, Elizabeth Wollet, Justin Beam

TOPIC	DISCUSSION/ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
Antitrust Statement	Presented by Martin Coleman	
Exhibit 18	Presented by Martin Coleman The two issues we've seen lately are that we are not receiving the Spanish version in a timely fashion. After the network has been certified, we don't actually require the Spanish version until we have approved the English version. We are seeing some definite lag time between those two events. Before we approve the network we do need the Spanish version of Exhibit 18. The second issue I wanted to speak about today is Exhibit 18 section 28 TAC §10.60(g). The requirement is a statement that except for emergencies, networks must arrange for services including referrals to specialists to be accessible to an employee Services must be arranged on a timely basis on request and within the time appropriate to the circumstances and condition of the injured employee but not later than 21 days after the date of the request. We are seeing two issues when the applicants are attempting to	

	comply with that requirement The first, is that it is not only referrals to specialist that must occur within 15 days but it is all care. The network must arrange for services including referrals to specialist. It is not just referrals to specialists: all care must be received within 21 days. The other issue that we've seen a couple of times in Exhibit 18 applications is an attempt to re-word the statement "but not later than 21 days" to say something along the lines of "the last day of the third week of the request" .This is not sufficient to me based on the requirement. It is statutory that it has to be in 21 days and obviously if you look at that, you can see where the last day of the third week after the request is not always within 21 days. If there any questions on Exhibit 18 I'll be glad to answer those now.	
Network Modifications to Service Area	Presented by Olga Escobedo I have two subjects, Network Modifications which we have received very many of, thank you very much everyone. We are pleased to say that they are getting better and better every time. My goal	

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for the perfect modification is almost true. As you all know, we'll continue to receive modifications, the required exhibits for the modifications are Exhibits 9, 11, 13 and 18. There have been times when we have received exhibits 10 or 3 and unless you are sending those exhibits because something has changed since certification, there is no need to re-send those for a modification. For example if exhibit 3 changed for some reason then send it as well. If no changed has occurred please leave it out of the service area modification application. Exhibits 9 and 11 require maps, narrative, provider list, and access plans. More than likely, after we receive the modification we will be requiring copies of contracts for the new network. There are several tips that we have placed in the minutes for modifications and I would encourage you to look at those. Review those tips before you send in a medication request. Marty will talk a little bit about Exhibit 18 unless there is something you want to add now.

Marty speaking: If for some reason you want to change the sentence in Exhibit 18, you don't like the way it states something or you think it can be stated differently, please send us a red lined version and an attestation that nothing else has changed in that document. This helps because we don't have to review the entire document and delay the approval process. If we receive your Exhibit 18 without the attestation and without it being red lined, then we have to review the entire

	document again. This will obviously slow down the approval process. If you are making minor changes or any change, just let us know by red lining and attesting that nothing else has changed. Q: If you file a modification and you include your service area, would it be only the new parts of the service area or do you basically send in the whole service area as if it were modified? In other words, the original certified area including the new modification? A: Yes and No. First, you must send a map of the counties or service area that has been certified and a map of the proposed service area. We would like to see three maps if possible, a map of just currently certified counties, a map of the proposed and another map of both of those service areas together in different colors. One color for certified and another color for the proposed. This way we can see the entire service area as one in the state of Texas. This is helpful because for provider access for instance, if any of the counties that are proposed for the modification or the contiguous or close to certified areas, we can tell whether accessibility was dependent on those certified counties. Marty speaking: I just wanted to mention that on	

Exhibit 18 we would only be interested in the one map of the final proposed service area. It would include any additional counties and/or service areas, etc. We don't need to see the three maps in Exhibit 18, only the final map of the proposed service area.

The other issue I have with Exhibit 18 is to be aware that we review these simultaneously. Exhibits 18 are reviewed along with Olga's exhibits 10 & 11 so I may sign off on your Exhibit 18 but that's all pending on Olga's area approving the service area. For instance, if one county in the proposed area does not meet the requirements then you'll have to go back and modify Exhibit 18 also to exclude that service area or county, whatever it may be. This would all be sent in a deficiency letter.

Olga speaking: On 10/26/2006 we had a conference call which included the tips for applicants for network modifications. I would like for you all to see that. I need to reiterate that on occasion we receive the maps and the provider lists that intermingle the certified maps and the proposed and although that is helpful to some degree, in the long run and if you want to send that, that is fine but for purposes for us to review the proposed, please do not intermingle both.

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	Q: I was just on the website and I was able to view the agenda but not the outcome? A: Let me find out what happened to the meeting minutes. The meeting minutes have now been posted.	
WCNetwork Newsletter	Presented by Martin Coleman We have begun a newsletter called WCNet News and have published one issue which is on the website. It would be in the Worker's Compensation Health networks page under Latest News and it will say NEW - WCNet News - Issue I, Volume I . . http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/wc/wcnet/index.html . We are currently working on Issue 2 which we anticipate publishing on Feb 1, 2007. We hope through this newsletter to provide updates and information for a variety of people. Applicants, providers, anyone who is interested and stakeholders in the Networks will have access to this information. For instance, some of the articles in Issue 2 related to certification requirements for certified networks including background, general filing requirements information on Exhibits 1 through 9 and what we are looking for when we review those exhibits. Quality improvement plans,	

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	there will be information and links in there for samples and Debra Diaz-Lara will talk about those QI reports shortly. We also have an article about the new fingerprint rule which went into effect Jan 1, 2007. There will be some FAQ's in the newsletter and calendar events which would include this conference call and any other conference calls or speaking engagements regarding networks. Those are just some of the highlights. If you are interested in subscribing to the newsletter electronically, send us an email at wcnet@tdi.state.tx.us with a quick note that you would like to subscribe to the WCNet newsletter. We'll be glad to add you to that list where you'll automatically receive the newsletter via email. Otherwise, feel free to check the website. Our schedule for 2007 is currently scheduled to be published in even numbered months. Example: Feb, April, June, etc. We are also willing to take suggestions for articles for the newsletter that would benefit any interested parties in the network.	
WCNetwork Workshop 01/31/2007	Presented by Olga Escobedo As you all know we are having a workshop on January 31, 2007 and it will be held at the Capitol auditorium located at 1400 Congress Avenue Room E1.004. The purpose of the workshop is to	

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	inform and educate everyone about networks and to answer any questions regarding networks. In general, the topics will be about network information, what has not changed in worker's compensation that is the non-network, or labor code requirements that also apply to networks, The Independent Review Organization (IRO) transition that is about to take place, someone will be talking to everyone about that. There will be a network representative panel at this point, however, we don't know who will be on it but that's to be announced. We will also have a panel in relation to legislation related to the next steps for Worker's Comp in Texas. Unfortunately all the seats are already taken; we have 338 attendees thus far. However the registry will be left open so that people can register anyway at this point. We may have an overflow room available that is yet to be known but we'll let everyone know if that is the case. If you are unable to attend the workshop there will be a live web cast for everyone to participate. For questions send an email to wc@tdi.state.tx.us .	
Annual QI Reports	Presented by Debra Diaz-Lara The annual QI reports will be due on 03/01/07 and if you haven't been thinking about that as a certified network, you need to bring that to the forefront of your burners now. Out on our website under the Worker's Compensation Network page	

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http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/wc/wcnet/index.html we do have two samples for the reporting and the sample report format. The QI Plan Report and the QI Report from the Network. They are in two different formats. One is more of a narrative and the other is more of a grid form. Once we get all the reports in, we will be reviewing them,and comparing them to you QI work plan to see how clsoely you followed the QI work plans that you sent in to us on Exhibit 10. This will be a good opportunity for us to see how the networks are working and you may be seeing some of us in your offices after that. Lots of new things to look forward to. Keep in mind that these will be due on 03/01/07. If you have any questions we'll be glad to assist you with those. Our sample report that is out there is basically taking the grids that were provided for QI plans and adding some columns to them so I think it's fairly easy to understand.

Q: Do you want us to use the format that you're providing and fill in the blanks?

A: Well, that was a sample; it doesn't have to be that way. You just need to make sure that we can follow your process whatever format you decide to use. We had a lot of people that didn't know where to start so we wanted to give them a starting point. I am not requiring anyone to use that format.

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Q: You mentioned that the reports are due 03/01/07 and for whatever reason I thought it was 04/01/07?

A: The financial reports are due on 04/01/07.

Q: On the annual work plan did we need to submit an annual work plan to TDI or just have that in place?

A: You need to have a work plan in place. The annual reports should be based directly on your work plan.

Q: Correct, so when we submit our annual report, provide you with a copy of our annual work plan also?

A: Yes. This will be one of the topics on the Workshop agenda on Jan 31, 2007. Stay tuned, that will be posted on the web and hopefully the documents we'll be using will be available as well. We will put the PowerPoint presentations out on the web once they're completed.

Q: Where are the sample forms?

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	A: It's on the Worker's Compensations Net page under the list that says More Worker's Compensation Health Care Network Information. http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/wc/wcnet/index.html	
	Q: We have been certified but we have not implemented the network yet, do we still need to turn in an annual report?	
	A: Yes you do need to submit an annual report. Your report will be that you've been certified but have not implemented the network. If you don't file a report we will be contacting you for one.	
	Marty speaking: We'll have an article in the February Issue 2. We'll talk about QI reports for those of you who would like more information.	
	I will provide a list of the newly certified WCNetworks. Since Dec. 1, 2006 these are the networks that have been certified :	
	CMI Barron Risk Mgmt. Inc. also known as Southwest Medical Provider Network	
	National ChoiceCare also known as NCC Choice Net	
	Aetna Worker's Comp Access (AWCA)	

North Texas Innovative Health Care Network

Zurich Services Corp Health Care Network-Corvel

Argus Provider Network

Bunch & Associates Inc. TX HCN

Genex Care for Texas Comp Access (AWCA)

Intracorp Lockheed Martin Aero Employee Select Network

Interplan Health Group Inc- Zenith Health Care Network (ZHCN)

Those are the networks that were certified between Dec. 1, 2006 and Dec. 29, 2006.

Open for Discussion:

Q: I have a question about the IRO transition process, should I speak to the URA group about that or send them an email through their generic mailbox?

A: You can send them an email to the URA group

	mailbox. uragrp@tdi.state.tx.us and we'll be glad to answer those questions for you.	
	Everyone should be aware of the IRO transition taking place on Jan. 15, 2007; do we need to briefly discuss the process?	
	A: Yes, please.	
	On Jan. 15, 2007 we will be turning the switch. Currently, and through this weekend, the HWCN Division in TDI at Hobby, has been doing IRO request for our health care plans as well as Worker's Comp Networks. On the 15th we will take over the responsibility of the IRO assignment for all of the Worker's Comp plans. (Networks and Non-Networks). The process is a little different; they will no longer be going to the Medical Dispute Resolution. That entity at DWC has changed it's name to Medical Fee Dispute Resolution (MFDR). They will only be doing fee disputes, not anything that has to do with medical necessity. If something is denied for medical necessity then it will come to us. We have a request form and have changed the terminology. People are used to the terminology medical necessity denials for DWC and we are changing that terminology to a request for review by an Independent Review Organization. On our web page, if you go to the TDI Home Page, click on	

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	Industry and scroll down to Independent Review Organization-Request for Review by an IRO http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/company/iro_requests.html . We have the process and the form that needs to be filled out to request an IRO. As of Monday, you will not be using the DWC-60 form. The new form is called LHL009 and it is on our web page in English and Spanish. The instructions for completing the form are on the page. The requestor can fill out the form. The requestor can be the injured employee, the enrollee or the health care provider. Upon completion, submit the form to the carrier or the URA. We have a new online request form that we've been using since December. To do an IRO request, we are no longer encouraging people to mail or fax the forms to us. We would really like for everyone to use the online request form. You do need to have a password for TxComp, because it is a portal into that on-line form. All that information is on the web page, http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/company/iro_requests.html . We will be doing a presentation on the new process and we'll be putting that documentation on the web page as well.	
Adjournment / Next meeting	We will adjourn at this time, thank you for participating and we look forward to the next call on Feb. 15, 2007.	

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Q: Did you say that the Worker's Comp working group meeting would start in February and then be on even numbered months?

A: No, that was the Newsletter Issues.

Q: Are the meetings going to start up again in 2007?

A: Yes they will. We are trying to get through the legislative session first or at least get started in that session to see how we can manage all the requirements we're going to have throughout the session.

Thank you for participating and we hope to hear from you again on Feb. 15, 2007.