

June 20, 2014

Mark Fisher  
Chief Executive Officer  
Mercy Care Plan Acute and LTC  
4350 East Cotton Center Blvd.  
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Phoenix, AZ 85040

**SUBJECT: Final Results of Sanctionable Pended Encounters December 2013**

Dear Mr. Fisher:

The attached information will provide the final aged pended encounter sanctions for the quarter ending December 2013. According to the Contract, Mercy Care Plan (MCP) is required to resolve all pended encounters within 120 calendar days of the processing date. If this requirement is not met, the Contractor is subject to sanctions.

The exception to the above is when the pended encounter is due to an Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) error. AHCCCS error is defined as a pended encounter, which AHCCCS acknowledges to be the result of its own error, and requires a change to the system programming, an update to the database reference table, or further research by AHCCCS. Contractors must notify AHCCCS, in writing that the resolution of a pended encounter depends on AHCCCS instead of the Contractor. Pended encounters do not qualify as AHCCCS error if AHCCCS reviews the Contractor's notification and asks the Contractor to research the issue and provide additional substantiating documentation, or if AHCCCS disagrees with the Contractor's claims of AHCCCS error.

AHCCCS distributed the preliminary sanction results, including a summary of encounters excluded from sanctions as AHCCCS error on March 28, 2014. The Contractor was provided an opportunity to review the preliminary results, and challenge those encounters believed to be sanctioned in error. The Contractor's mitigation was considered, and when appropriate, the mitigated encounters were removed from the final sanctionable encounters. The preliminary sanctionable number of pended encounters for MCP was 5,743 and the final sanction number pended encounters for this quarter is 4,770. The final sanction dollar amount is \$59,000.00. AHCCCS is providing a \$2,760.00 credit to that total, as a result of a correction to the pended sanction amount for the quarter ending September 2013. Please see the April 22, 2014 correspondence from Shelli Silver to Lorry Botrill.

Therefore, the final sanction dollar amount is \$56,240.00.

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Even if sanctions are waived, the Contractor is liable for addressing all pending encounters (except those errors which have been identified as due to AHCCCS error or as being under review by AHCCCS). When error codes are identified as an AHCCCS error and are corrected, or are identified as being under AHCCCS review and then released, the Contractor is responsible for addressing any remaining error codes and will be afforded a new 120 day clock for resolution. However, the true age for these pending encounters will continue to appear on the Aging Reports.

Enclosed is a summary of the final sanction results. Please retrieve your pending encounter sanction information from AHCCCS' FTP server. The path is `sftp.state.medicaid.us\MER\OTHER\` and the file names are:

- MER December 2013 Final Sanctions.txt
- MER December 2013 Final Excluded Enc.pdf
- MER December 2013 Final Error Summary.pdf
- MER December 2013 Final Age Category.pdf

Per the terms of the Contract, sanctions are not the Administration's exclusive remedy. In particular and without limiting possible future actions, if any legal action is brought against the Administration as the result of your non-compliance with the Contract, the Administration will seek compensation from you for any damages arising from such legal action including but not limited to the Administration's cost of representation as well as the cost of any attorneys' fees and costs payable to the party bringing the action.

If you have any questions regarding your pending encounter sanctions, please contact Gina Aker at [Gina.Aker@azahcccs.gov](mailto:Gina.Aker@azahcccs.gov), (602) 417-4016.

Sincerely,



Michael Veit  
Contracts & Purchasing, Administrator  
Division of Business and Finance  
Mail Drop #5700

c: Shelli Silver  
Lori Petre  
Devra Navas  
Nancy Neroni  
Virginia Roundtree  
Gina Aker  
Melanie Herring, MCP  
DAR File