

about.txt

The purpose of the VistA Fee-IPAC Interface is to enhance the VistA Fee application to be used to process payments for veterans' care provided by Department of Defense (DoD) Military Treatment Facilities (MTF) through the Department of the Treasury's Intra-governmental Payment and Collection (IPAC) system.

The Intra-governmental Payment and Collection System (IPAC) patch (FB*3.5*123) provides a standardized inter-agency funds transfer mechanism for Veterans Health Administration (VHA). It facilitates the intra-governmental transfer of funds, with descriptive data, from the VHA to another federal agency. Processing payments through IPAC provides the Financial Management Service (FMS) with the ability to meet its statutory requirements for accounting and reporting.

The new system functions will provide a streamlined method to send Department of Defense (DoD) claims to IPAC leveraging current Veterans Integrated Systems Technology Architecture (Vista) Fee Basis application capabilities and data processes, and to provide the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) with the ability to electronically process transmitted payments to any federal health care provider who is contracted to the VA.

Some of the information needed to process a claim through IPAC is easier to collect at local facilities and document in VistA Fee Basis. Other information is more easily obtained nationally by Central Fee. Federal Accounting Service Payment and Collection (FASPAC) (the web-based application used for processing documents to IPAC) does not currently have the ability to receive data electronically from Central Fee. VistA Fee Basis, Central Fee and FASPAC will all be involved in processing a claim through IPAC.

This patch brings the VA into compliance with the Department of Treasury and Veterans Health Administration (VHA) guidelines to use IPAC to make payments between Federal agencies. As sharing agreements expands between DoD and VHA facilities, the modifications made to VistA Fee Basis will allow for the additions of additional agreements seamlessly.

This patch adds two files (Fee Basis IPAC Agreement, #161.95 and IPAC Agreement MRA, #161.96) to the Fee Basis application. The IPAC Agreement file will maintain the IPAC Agreements made between a VHA facility and a DoD facility. The IPAC Agreement number and the DoD Invoice number will both be recorded on Fee Basis invoices that are associated with an IPAC Agreement.

The input of the Fee Basis outpatient/Ancillary Services invoices, inpatient invoices and pharmacy invoices will be modified to collect the IPAC Agreement ID and DoD invoice number, if present on the invoice. The DoD invoice number will be found in box 3a of the UB04 and block 26 of the CMS1500 forms, depending on which is being input into the VistA Fee Basis application. Any user with the proper security key (FB IPAC VENDOR) will be able to enter an IPAC agreement, change an IPAC agreement and, if allowable, delete an IPAC agreement. Editing and deleting an IPAC agreement will only be allowed if there is not invoice activity associated with the IPAC agreement.