

CORPORATE INTEGRITY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
AND  
*WEST GEORGIA MEDICAL CENTER*

I. PREAMBLE

West Georgia Medical Center (“West Georgia”) hereby enters into this Corporate Integrity Agreement (“CIA”) with the Office of Inspector General (“OIG”) of the United States Department of Health and Human Services (“HHS”) to promote compliance with the statutes, regulations, and written directives of Medicare, Medicaid, and all other Federal health care programs (as defined in 42 U.S.C. § 1320a-7b(f)) (“Federal health care program requirements”). Contemporaneously with this CIA, West Georgia is entering into a Settlement Agreement with the United States, and this CIA is incorporated by reference into the Settlement Agreement.

Prior to the execution of this CIA, West Georgia established a corporate compliance program (“Compliance Program”). West Georgia agrees to continue the operation of its Compliance Program for the term of this CIA. West Georgia may modify the Compliance Program as appropriate, but at a minimum, West Georgia shall ensure that it complies with the integrity obligations enumerated in this CIA.

The scope of this CIA shall be governed by the following definitions and shall apply to the following individuals:

1. “Covered Persons”: includes all of West Georgia’s officers, directors, employees, contractors, and agents. This definition excludes housekeeping staff, maintenance workers, and dietary employees.
2. “Covered Medical Staff”: includes all physicians with staff privileges at West Georgia. For purposes of this CIA, Covered Medical Staff are included in the Covered Persons definition.
3. “Relevant Covered Persons”: includes each Covered Person who is involved directly or in a supervisory role in the preparation or submission of claims for items or services (including, but not limited to, coding or billing)

to any Federal health care program. This definition excludes Covered Medical Staff.

## II. TERM OF THE CIA

The period of the compliance obligations assumed by West Georgia under this CIA shall be three (3) years from the Effective Date of this CIA (unless otherwise specified). The Effective Date shall be the date on which the final signatory of this CIA executes this CIA.

Sections VII, VIII, IX, X and XI shall expire no later than 120 days after OIG's receipt of: (i) West Georgia's final annual report; or (ii) any additional materials submitted by West Georgia pursuant to the OIG's request, whichever is later.

## III. CORPORATE INTEGRITY OBLIGATIONS

West Georgia shall maintain a Compliance Program that includes the following elements:

### A. Compliance Officer and Committee.

1. *Compliance Officer.* West Georgia has represented to OIG that, pursuant to its corporate compliance program, it has established the position of Compliance Officer and appointed an individual to serve in that capacity. The Compliance Officer shall be responsible for developing and implementing policies, procedures, and practices designed to ensure compliance with the requirements set forth in this CIA and with Federal health care program requirements. The Compliance Officer shall be a member of senior management of West Georgia, shall make periodic (at least quarterly) reports regarding compliance matters directly to the Board of Trustees of West Georgia, and shall be authorized to report on such matters to the Board of Trustees at any time. The Compliance Officer shall be responsible for monitoring the day-to-day compliance activities engaged in by West Georgia as well as for any reporting obligations created under this CIA.

West Georgia shall report to OIG, in writing, any changes in the identity or position description of the Compliance Officer, or any actions or changes that would affect the Compliance Officer's ability to perform the duties necessary to meet the obligations in this CIA, within 15 days after such a change.

2. *Compliance Committee.* West Georgia has represented to OIG that, pursuant to its corporate compliance program, it has established a Compliance Committee and appointed individuals to serve on the Compliance Committee. The Compliance Officer shall chair the Compliance Committee and the Committee shall support the Compliance Officer in fulfilling his/her responsibilities (e.g., shall assist in the analysis of the organization's risk areas and shall oversee monitoring of internal and external audits and investigations).

West Georgia shall report to OIG, in writing, any changes in the composition of the Compliance Committee, or any actions or changes that would affect the Compliance Committee's ability to perform the duties necessary to meet the obligations in this CIA, within 15 days after such a change.

B. Written Standards.

1. *Code of Ethics and Compliance Program Overview.* West Georgia has produced to OIG a written Code of Ethics and Compliance Program Overview. To the extent not already accomplished, the Code of Ethics and Compliance Program Overview shall be distributed to all Covered Persons within 90 days after the Effective Date. West Georgia shall make the promotion of, and adherence to, the Code of Ethics and Compliance Program Overview an element in evaluating the performance of all employees. The Code of Ethics and Compliance Program Overview sets forth, and, at a minimum, shall continue to set forth:

- a. West Georgia's commitment to full compliance with all Federal health care program requirements, including its commitment to prepare and submit accurate claims consistent with such requirements;
- b. West Georgia's requirement that all of its Covered Persons shall be expected to comply with all Federal health care program requirements and with West Georgia's own Policies and Procedures as implemented pursuant to Section III.B (including the requirements of this CIA);
- c. the requirement that all of West Georgia's Covered Persons shall be expected to report to the Compliance Officer or other appropriate individual designated by West Georgia suspected

violations of any Federal health care program requirements or of West Georgia's own Policies and Procedures;

- d. the possible consequences to both West Georgia and Covered Persons of failure to comply with Federal health care program requirements and with West Georgia's own Policies and Procedures and the failure to report such noncompliance; and
- e. the right of all individuals to use the Disclosure Program described in Section III.E, and West Georgia's commitment to maintain confidentiality, as appropriate, and nonretaliation with respect to such disclosures.

To the extent not already certified, within 90 days after the Effective Date, each Covered Person shall certify, in writing, that he or she has received, read, understood, and shall abide by West Georgia's Code of Ethics and Compliance Program Overview. New Covered Persons shall receive the Code of Ethics and Compliance Program Overview and shall complete the required certification within 30 days after becoming a Covered Person or within 90 days after the Effective Date, whichever is later.

West Georgia shall periodically review the Code of Ethics and Compliance Program Overview to determine if revisions are appropriate and shall make any necessary revisions based on such a review. Any such revised Code of Ethics and Compliance Program Overview shall be distributed within 30 days after finalizing such changes. Covered Persons shall certify that he or she has received, read, understood and shall abide by the revised Code of Ethics and Compliance Program Overview within 30 days after the distribution of such revisions.

*2. Policies and Procedures.* Within 90 days after the Effective Date, West Georgia shall implement written Policies and Procedures regarding the operation of West Georgia's compliance program and its compliance with Federal health care program requirements. At a minimum, the Policies and Procedures shall:

- a. address the subjects relating to the Code of Ethics and Compliance Program Overview identified in Section III.B.1;
- b. require that all diagnosis codes submitted for claims purposes to any Federal health care program be properly supported by

documentation of the diagnosis by the treating physician in the patient's medical record; and

- c. require that all inpatient claims with a principal diagnosis of 482.89 (or any successors to these codes) intended for submission to Medicare shall first be subject to pre-billing review to ensure the diagnosis code was properly assigned.

Within 90 days after the Effective Date, the relevant portions of the Policies and Procedures shall be distributed to all individuals whose job functions relate to those Policies and Procedures. Appropriate and knowledgeable staff shall be available to explain the Policies and Procedures.

At least annually (and more frequently if appropriate), West Georgia shall assess and update as necessary the Policies and Procedures. Within 30 days after the effective date of any revisions, the relevant portions of any such revised Policies and Procedures shall be distributed to all individuals whose job functions relate to those Policies and Procedures.

### C. Training and Education.

1. *General Training.* Within 90 days after the Effective Date, West Georgia shall provide at least two hours of general training to each Covered Person. This training, at a minimum, shall explain West Georgia's:

- a. CIA requirements; and
- b. Compliance Program (including the Code of Ethics and the Policies and Procedures as they pertain to general compliance issues).

New Covered Persons shall receive the general training described above within 30 days of becoming a Covered Person or within 90 days after the Effective Date, whichever is later. After receiving the initial training described above, each Covered Person shall receive at least one hour of general training annually.

2. *Coding Training.* Within 90 days of the Effective Date, Relevant Covered Persons shall receive at least five hours of coding training in addition to the general training required above. This coding training shall include a discussion of:

- a. the submission of accurate bills for services rendered to Federal health care program beneficiaries;
- b. policies, procedures, and other requirements applicable to the documentation of medical records;
- c. the personal obligation of each individual involved in the billing process to ensure that such billings are accurate;
- d. applicable reimbursement statutes, regulations, and program requirements and directives;
- e. the legal sanctions for improper billings; and
- f. examples of proper and improper billing practices.

Persons providing the coding training must be knowledgeable about the subject area.

Relevant Covered Persons shall receive this coding training within 30 days of the beginning of their employment or becoming Relevant Covered Persons or within 90 days of the Effective Date, whichever is later. A West Georgia employee who has completed the coding training shall review a new Relevant Covered Person's work, to the extent that the work relates to the preparation or submission of claims for reimbursement from any Federal health care program, until such time as the new Relevant Covered Person completes his or her applicable training.

After receiving the initial training described in this Section, every Relevant Covered Person shall receive at least three hours of coding training annually.

Training provided to Relevant Covered Persons within 6 months prior to the Effective Date that satisfies the requirement of this Section III.C.2 shall be deemed to meet the initial training requirements of this Section III.C.2.

3. *Training for Covered Medical Staff.* Notwithstanding any other provision of this CIA, West Georgia shall make general and coding training, where appropriate, available to Covered Medical Staff, and shall use its best efforts to encourage their attendance and participation. The Compliance Officer shall maintain records of the percentage of Covered Medical Staff who attend such training.

4. *Certification.* Each individual who is required to attend training shall certify, in writing, that he or she has received the required training. The certification shall specify the type of training received and the date received. The Compliance Officer (or his or her designee) shall retain the certifications, along with all course materials. These shall be made available to OIG, upon request.

D. Review Procedures.

1. *General Description.*

a. Retention of Independent Review Organization. Within 90 days after the Effective Date, West Georgia shall retain an entity (or entities), such as an accounting, auditing, or consulting firm (hereinafter “Independent Review Organization” or “IRO”), to perform reviews to assist West Georgia in assessing and evaluating its billing and coding practices and certain other obligations pursuant to this CIA and the Settlement Agreement. Each IRO retained by West Georgia shall have expertise in the billing, coding, reporting, and other requirements of the particular section of the health care industry pertaining to this CIA and in the general requirements of the Federal health care program(s) from which West Georgia seeks reimbursement. Each IRO shall assess, along with West Georgia, whether it can perform the IRO review in a professionally independent fashion taking into account any other business relationships or engagements that may exist. The IRO(s) review shall address and analyze West Georgia’s billing and coding to the Federal health care programs (“Claims Review”) and shall analyze whether West Georgia sought payment for certain unallowable costs (“Unallowable Cost Review”).

b. Frequency of Claims Review. The Claims Review shall be performed annually and shall cover each of the Reporting Periods. The IRO(s) shall perform all components of the first annual Claims Review. For subsequent Reporting Periods, West Georgia may conduct an internal billing review as provided in Section III.D.8.

c. Frequency of Unallowable Cost Review. The IRO shall perform the Unallowable Cost Review for the first Reporting Period.

d. Retention of Records. The IRO and West Georgia shall retain and make available to OIG, upon request, all work papers, supporting documentation, correspondence, and draft reports (those exchanged between the IRO and West Georgia) related to the reviews.

2. *Claims Review*. The Claims Review shall include a Discovery Sample and, if necessary, a Full Sample. The applicable definitions, procedures, and reporting requirements are outlined in Appendix A to this CIA, which is incorporated by reference.

a. Discovery Sample. The IRO shall randomly select and review a sample of 50 Medicare Paid Claims submitted by or on behalf of West Georgia. The Paid Claims shall be reviewed based on the supporting documentation available at West Georgia or under West Georgia's control and applicable billing and coding regulations and guidance to determine whether the claim submitted was correctly coded, submitted, and reimbursed.

i. If the Error Rate (as defined in Appendix A) for the Discovery Sample is less than 5%, no additional sampling is required, nor is the Systems Review required. (Note: The threshold listed above does not imply that this is an acceptable error rate. Accordingly, West Georgia should, as appropriate, further analyze any errors identified in the Discovery Sample. West Georgia recognizes that OIG or other HHS component, in its discretion and as authorized by statute, regulation, or other appropriate authority, may also analyze or review Paid Claims included, or errors identified, in the Discovery Sample.)

ii. If the Discovery Sample indicates that the Error Rate is 5% or greater, the IRO shall perform a Full Sample and a Systems Review, as described below.

b. Full Sample. If necessary, as determined by procedures set forth in Section III.D.2.a, the IRO shall perform an additional sample of Paid Claims using commonly accepted sampling methods and in accordance with Appendix A. The Full Sample shall be designed to (i) estimate the actual Overpayment in the population with a 90%



confidence level and with a maximum relative precision of 25% of the point estimate; and (ii) conform with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' statistical sampling for overpayment estimation guidelines. The Paid Claims shall be reviewed based on supporting documentation available at West Georgia or under West Georgia's control and applicable billing and coding regulations and guidance to determine whether the claim submitted was correctly coded, submitted, and reimbursed. For purposes of calculating the size of the Full Sample, the Discovery Sample may serve as the probe sample, if statistically appropriate. Additionally, West Georgia may use the Items sampled as part of the Discovery Sample, and the corresponding findings for those 50 Items, as part of its Full Sample. OIG, in its full discretion, may refer the findings of the Full Sample (and any related workpapers) received from West Georgia to the appropriate Federal health care program payor, including the Medicare contractor (e.g., carrier, fiscal intermediary, or DMERC), for appropriate follow-up by that payor.

c. Systems Review. If West Georgia's Discovery Sample identifies an Error Rate of 5% or greater, the IRO shall also conduct a Systems Review. Specifically, for each claim in the Discovery Sample and Full Sample that resulted in an Overpayment, the IRO shall perform a "walk through" of the system(s) and process(es) that generated the claim to identify any problems or weaknesses that may have resulted in the identified Overpayments. The IRO shall provide its observations and recommendations on suggested improvements to the system(s) and process(es) that generated the claim.

d. Repayment of Identified Overpayments. In accordance with Section III.H.1, West Georgia shall repay any Overpayment(s) identified in the Discovery Sample or the Full Sample (if applicable), regardless of the Error Rate, to the appropriate payor and in accordance with payor refund policies. West Georgia shall make available to OIG any and all documentation that reflects the refund of the Overpayment(s) to the payor.

3. *Claims Review Report*. The IRO shall prepare a report based upon the Claims Review performed (the "Claims Review Report"). Information to be included in the Claims Review Report is detailed in Appendix A.

4. *Unallowable Cost Review.* The IRO shall conduct a review of West Georgia's compliance with the unallowable cost provisions of the Settlement Agreement. The IRO shall determine whether West Georgia has complied with its obligations not to charge to, or otherwise seek payment from, Federal or State payors for unallowable costs (as defined in the Settlement Agreement) and its obligation to identify to applicable Federal or State payors any unallowable costs included in payments previously sought from the United States, or any State Medicaid program. This unallowable cost analysis shall include, but not be limited to, payments sought in any cost reports, cost statements, information reports, or payment requests already submitted by West Georgia or any of its subsidiaries. To the extent that such cost reports, cost statements, information reports, or payment requests, even if already settled, have been adjusted to account for the effect of the inclusion of the unallowable costs, the IRO shall determine if such adjustments were proper. In making this determination, the IRO may need to review cost reports and/or financial statements from the year in which the Settlement Agreement was executed, as well as from previous years.

5. *Unallowable Cost Review Report.* The IRO shall prepare a report based upon the Unallowable Cost Review performed. The Unallowable Cost Review Report shall include the IRO's findings and supporting rationale regarding the Unallowable Costs Review and whether West Georgia has complied with its obligation not to charge to, or otherwise seek payment from, Federal or State payors for unallowable costs (as defined in the Settlement Agreement) and its obligation to identify to applicable Federal or State payors any unallowable costs included in payments previously sought from such payor.

6. *Validation Review.* In the event OIG has reason to believe that: (a) West Georgia's Claims Review or Unallowable Cost Review fails to conform to the requirements of this CIA; or (b) the IRO's or West Georgia's internal audit findings or Claims Review results are inaccurate, OIG may, at its sole discretion, conduct its own review to determine whether the Claims Review or Unallowable Cost Review complied with the requirements of the CIA and/or the findings or Claims Review results are inaccurate ("Validation Review"). West Georgia shall pay for the reasonable cost of any such review performed by OIG or any of its designated agents so long as it is initiated within one year after West Georgia's final submission (as described in Section II) is received by OIG.

Prior to initiating a Validation Review, OIG shall notify West Georgia of its intent to do so and provide a written explanation of why OIG believes such a review is

necessary. To resolve any concerns raised by OIG, West Georgia may request a meeting with OIG to discuss the results of any Claims Review or Unallowable Cost Review submissions or findings; present any additional or relevant information to clarify the results of the Claims Review or Unallowable Cost Review or to correct the inaccuracy of the Claims Review; or propose alternatives to the proposed Validation Review. West Georgia shall provide any additional information as may be requested by OIG under this Section in an expedited manner. OIG will attempt in good faith to resolve any Claims Review or Unallowable Cost Review with West Georgia prior to conducting a Validation Review. However, the final determination as to whether or not to proceed with a Validation Review shall be made at the sole discretion of OIG.

7. *Independence Certification.* The IRO shall include in its report(s) to West Georgia a certification or sworn affidavit that it has evaluated its professional independence, with regard to the Claims Review or Unallowable Cost Review and that it has concluded that it is, in fact, independent.

8. *Internal Billing Review Option.* Subject to approval from OIG and subject to the conditions set forth below, after the completion of the first Claims Review period in which the IRO has performed the Claims Review as required in Section III.D.2, West Georgia may, at its option, conduct an internal review of its billings to the Federal health care programs for Claims Review periods 2 and 3 in lieu of having the IRO conduct the Claims Review. This internal review shall comply with all of the requirements outlined herein and in Section III.D.2 above.

Prior to conducting its internal billing review, West Georgia agrees: i) to develop and adopt a written formal internal audit work plan consistent with the terms of this CIA; ii) to devote sufficient resources and staff to enable it to accomplish an internal billing review based on its internal work plan; and iii) that its internal billing review staff shall at all times include persons qualified and experienced in accepted auditing and control processes, who possess expertise in billing, coding and Medicare program requirements. In addition, West Georgia agrees that its internal billing review staff shall not include persons who were involved in the submission of bills or claims to the Medicare programs during the period to be audited and shall not include persons who are presently involved in such submissions.

If, in its sole discretion, OIG determines that such internal review satisfactorily establishes the adequacy of West Georgia's billing and compliance practices pursuant to this CIA, the OIG will allow West Georgia to perform an internal review in lieu of the IRO conducting the Claims review for the year following the receipt of a satisfactory

Claims Review report from the IRO. Consistent with the requirements of Section III.D.2, the internal billing review shall include a Claims Review and the required respective reports of West Georgia's findings.

In the event West Georgia is unable to satisfactorily implement an audit work plan, devote sufficient resources and appropriate qualified staff, or conduct a satisfactory internal review, West Georgia agrees, at OIG's discretion, to engage the IRO to complete all remaining Claims Review requirements under this CIA. To the extent that OIG permits West Georgia to perform internal billing reviews, West Georgia shall submit all the information required in Section III.D.2. If West Georgia decides not to exercise its internal review option, the requirements of the IRO Claims Review shall remain in effect for the term of the CIA.

E. Disclosure Program.

West Georgia has represented to OIG that, pursuant to its corporate compliance program, it has established a Disclosure Program, that includes a mechanism (e.g., a toll-free compliance telephone line) to enable individuals to disclose, to the Compliance Officer or some other person who is not in the disclosing individual's chain of command, any identified issues or questions associated with West Georgia's policies, conduct, practices, or procedures with respect to a Federal health care program, believed by the individual to be a potential violation of criminal, civil, or administrative law. West Georgia shall appropriately publicize the existence of the disclosure mechanism (e.g., via periodic e-mails to employees or by posting the information in prominent common areas).

The Disclosure Program shall emphasize a nonretribution, nonretaliation policy, and shall include a reporting mechanism for anonymous communications for which appropriate confidentiality shall be maintained. Upon receipt of a disclosure, the Compliance Officer (or designee) shall gather all relevant information from the disclosing individual. The Compliance Officer (or designee) shall make a preliminary, good faith inquiry into the allegations set forth in every disclosure to ensure that he or she has obtained all of the information necessary to determine whether a further review should be conducted. For any disclosure that is sufficiently specific so that it reasonably: (1) permits a determination of the appropriateness of the alleged improper practice; and (2) provides an opportunity for taking corrective action, West Georgia shall conduct an internal review of the allegations set forth in such a disclosure and ensure that proper follow-up is conducted.

The Compliance Officer (or designee) shall maintain a disclosure log, which shall include a record and summary of each disclosure received (whether anonymous or not), the status of the respective internal reviews, and any corrective action taken in response to the internal reviews. The disclosure log shall be available to OIG, upon request.

F. Ineligible Persons.

1. *Definition.* For purposes of this CIA, an “Ineligible Person” shall be an individual or entity who: (a) is currently excluded, debarred, suspended, or otherwise ineligible to participate in the Federal health care programs or in Federal procurement or nonprocurement programs; or (b) has been convicted of a criminal offense that falls within the ambit of 42 U.S.C. § 1320a-7(a), but has not yet been excluded, debarred, suspended, or otherwise declared ineligible.

2. *Screening Requirements.* West Georgia shall not hire as employees or engage as contractors any Ineligible Person. To prevent hiring or contracting with any Ineligible Person, West Georgia shall screen all prospective employees and prospective contractors prior to engaging their services by: (a) requiring applicants to disclose whether they are Ineligible Persons; and (b) appropriately querying the General Services Administration’s List of Parties Excluded from Federal Programs (available through the Internet at <http://epls.arnet.gov>) and the HHS/OIG List of Excluded Individuals/Entities (available through the Internet at <http://oig.hhs.gov>) (these lists shall hereinafter be referred to as the “Exclusion Lists”). Nothing in this Section affects the responsibility of (or liability for) West Georgia to refrain from billing Federal health care programs for services of the Ineligible Person.

3. *Review and Removal Requirement.* Within 90 days after the Effective Date, West Georgia shall review its list of current employees and contractors against the Exclusion Lists. Thereafter, West Georgia shall review its list of current employees and contractors against the Exclusion Lists annually. In addition, West Georgia shall require employees and contractors to disclose immediately any debarment, exclusion, or other event that makes the employee or contractor an Ineligible Person.

If West Georgia has actual notice that an employee or contractor has become an Ineligible Person, West Georgia shall remove such person from responsibility for, or involvement with, West Georgia’s business operations related to the Federal health care programs and shall remove such person from any position for which the person’s compensation or the items or services rendered, ordered, or prescribed by the person are paid in whole or part, directly or indirectly, by Federal health care programs or otherwise

with Federal funds at least until such time as the person is reinstated into participation in the Federal health care programs.

4. *Pending Charges and Proposed Exclusions.* If West Georgia has actual notice that an employee or contractor is charged with a criminal offense related to any Federal health care program, or is proposed for exclusion during his or her employment or contract term, West Georgia shall take all appropriate actions to ensure that the responsibilities of that employee or contractor have not and shall not adversely affect the quality of care rendered to any beneficiary, patient, or resident, or the accuracy of any claims submitted to any Federal health care program.

#### G. Notification of Government Investigation or Legal Proceedings.

Within 30 days after discovery, West Georgia shall notify OIG, in writing, of any ongoing investigation known to West Georgia or legal proceeding conducted or brought by a governmental entity or its agents involving an allegation that West Georgia has committed a crime or has engaged in fraudulent activities. This notification shall include a description of the allegation, the identity of the investigating or prosecuting agency, and the status of such investigation or legal proceeding. West Georgia shall also provide written notice to OIG within 30 days after the resolution of the matter, and shall provide OIG with a description of the findings and/or results of the proceedings, if any.

#### H. Reporting.

##### 1. *Overpayments*

a. Definition of Overpayments. For purposes of this CIA, an “Overpayment” shall mean the amount of money West Georgia has received in excess of the amount due and payable under any Federal health care program requirements.

b. Reporting of Overpayments. If, at any time, West Georgia identifies or learns of any Overpayment, West Georgia shall notify the payor (e.g., Medicare fiscal intermediary or carrier) within 30 days after identification of the Overpayment and take remedial steps within 60 days after identification (or such additional time as may be agreed to by the payor) to correct the problem, including preventing the underlying problem and the Overpayment from recurring. Also, within 30 days after identification of the Overpayment, West

Georgia shall repay the Overpayment to the appropriate payor to the extent such Overpayment has been quantified. If not yet quantified, within 30 days after identification, West Georgia shall notify the payor of its efforts to quantify the Overpayment amount along with a schedule of when such work is expected to be completed.

Notification and repayment to the payor shall be done in accordance with the payor's policies, and for Medicare contractors, shall include the information contained on the Overpayment Refund Form, provided as Appendix B to this CIA. Notwithstanding the above, notification and repayment of any Overpayment amount that routinely is reconciled or adjusted pursuant to policies and procedures established by the payor should be handled in accordance with such policies and procedures.

## 2. *Material Deficiencies.*

a. Definition of Material Deficiency. For purposes of this CIA, a "Material Deficiency" means anything that involves:

- i. a substantial Overpayment; or
- ii. a matter that a reasonable person would consider a probable violation of criminal, civil, or administrative laws applicable to any Federal health care program for which penalties or exclusion may be authorized.

A Material Deficiency may be the result of an isolated event or a series of occurrences.

b. Reporting of Material Deficiencies. If West Georgia determines through any means that there is a Material Deficiency, West Georgia shall notify OIG, in writing, within 30 days after making the determination that the Material Deficiency exists. The report to OIG shall include the following information:

- i. If the Material Deficiency results in an Overpayment, the report to OIG shall be made at the same time as the notification to the payor required in Section III.H.1, and shall

include all of the information on the Overpayment Refund Form, as well as:

(A) the payor's name, address, and contact person to whom the Overpayment was sent; and

(B) the date of the check and identification number (or electronic transaction number) by which the Overpayment was repaid/refunded;

ii. a complete description of the Material Deficiency, including the relevant facts, persons involved, and legal and Federal health care program authorities implicated;

iii. a description of West Georgia's actions taken to correct the Material Deficiency; and

iv. any further steps West Georgia plans to take to address the Material Deficiency and prevent it from recurring.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS UNITS OR LOCATIONS**

In the event that, after the Effective Date, West Georgia changes locations or sells, closes, purchases, or establishes a new business unit or location related to the furnishing of items or services that may be reimbursed by Federal health care programs, West Georgia shall notify OIG of this fact as soon as possible, but no later than within 30 days after the date of change of location, sale, closure, purchase, or establishment. This notification shall include the address of the new business unit or location, phone number, fax number, Medicare provider number (if any), and the corresponding contractor's name and address that has issued each Medicare provider number. All Covered Persons at each such business unit or location shall be subject to the applicable requirements in this CIA (e.g., completing certifications and undergoing training).

#### **V. IMPLEMENTATION AND ANNUAL REPORTS**

A. Implementation Report. Within 120 days after the Effective Date, West Georgia shall submit a written report to OIG summarizing the status of its implementation of the requirements of this CIA. This Implementation Report shall include:



1. the name, address, phone number, and position description of the Compliance Officer required by Section III.A, and a summary of other noncompliance job responsibilities the Compliance Officer may have;
2. the names and positions of the members of the Compliance Committee required by Section III.A;
3. a copy of West Georgia's Code of Conduct required by Section III.B.1;
4. a copy of all Policies and Procedures required by Section III.B.2;
5. a copy of all training materials used for the training required by Section III.C, a description of such training, including a description of the targeted audiences, length of sessions, which sessions were mandatory and for whom, percentage of attendance, and a schedule of when the training sessions were held;
6. a certification by the Compliance Officer that:
  - a. the Policies and Procedures required by Section III.B have been developed, are being implemented, and have been to all appropriate Covered Persons;
  - b. all Covered Persons have completed the Code of Conduct certification required by Section III.B.1; and
  - c. all Covered Persons have completed the applicable training and executed the certification(s) required by Section III.C.

The documentation supporting this certification shall be available to OIG, upon request.

7. a description of the Disclosure Program required by Section III.E;
8. the identity of the IRO(s), a summary/description of all engagements between West Georgia and the IRO, including, but not limited to, any outside financial audits or reimbursement consulting, and the proposed start and completion dates of the Claims Review, Unallowable Cost Review, or Systems Review, if applicable;

9. a certification from the IRO regarding its professional independence from West Georgia;
10. a summary of personnel actions (other than hiring) taken pursuant to Section III.F.;
11. a list of all of West Georgia's locations (including locations and mailing addresses), the corresponding name under which each location is doing business, the corresponding phone numbers and fax numbers, each location's Medicare provider identification number(s), and the name and address of the Medicare contractor to which West Georgia currently submits claims;
12. a description of West Georgia's corporate structure, including identification of any parent and sister companies, subsidiaries, and their respective lines of business; and
13. the certification required by Section V.C.

B. Annual Reports. West Georgia shall submit to OIG Annual Reports with respect to the status of, and findings regarding, West Georgia's compliance activities for each of the three Reporting Periods.

Each Annual Report shall include:

1. any change in the identity, position description, or other noncompliance job responsibilities of the Compliance Officer and any change in the membership of the Compliance Committee described in Section III.A.;
2. a certification by the Compliance Officer that:
  - a. all Covered Persons have completed any Code of Conduct certifications required by Section III.B.1;
  - b. all Covered Persons have completed the applicable training and executed the certification(s) required by Section III.C.;
  - c. West Georgia has complied with its obligations under the Settlement Agreement: (i) not to resubmit to any Federal health care

program payors any previously denied claims related to the Covered Conduct addressed in the Settlement Agreement, and not to appeal any such denials of claims; (ii) not to charge to or otherwise seek payment from Federal or State payors for unallowable costs (as defined in the Settlement Agreement); and (iii) to identify and adjust any past charges or claims for unallowable costs;

The documentation supporting this certification shall be available to OIG, upon request.

3. a summary of any significant changes or amendments to the Policies and Procedures required by Section III.B and the reasons for such changes (e.g., change in contractor policy) and copies of any compliance-related Policies and Procedures;
4. a copy of all training materials used for the training required by Section III.C (to the extent it has not already been provided as part of the Implementation Report), a description of such training conducted during the Reporting Period, including a description of the targeted audiences, length of sessions, which sessions were mandatory and for whom, percentage of attendance, and a schedule of when the training sessions were held;
5. a complete copy of all reports prepared pursuant to the IRO's or West Georgia's claims review, unallowable cost review, and systems review, if applicable. The report(s) shall include a copy of the methodology used and if applicable, a copy of the IRO's engagement letter;
6. West Georgia's response and corrective action plan(s) related to any issues raised by the IRO(s) or by West Georgia in its internal review;
7. a revised summary/description of all engagements between West Georgia and the IRO, including, but not limited to, any outside financial audits, compliance program engagements, or reimbursement consulting, if different from what was submitted as part of the Implementation Report;
8. a certification from the IRO regarding its professional independence from West Georgia;

9. a summary of Material Deficiencies (as defined in Section III.H) identified during the Reporting Period and the status of any corrective and preventative action relating to all such Material Deficiencies;
10. a report of the aggregate Overpayments that have been returned to the Federal health care programs. Overpayment amounts shall be broken down into the following categories: inpatient Medicare, outpatient Medicare, Medicaid (report each applicable state separately, if applicable), and other Federal health care programs. Overpayment amounts that are routinely reconciled or adjusted pursuant to policies and procedures established by the payor do not need to be included in this aggregate Overpayment report;
11. a summary of the disclosures in the disclosure log required by Section III.E that: (a) relate to Federal health care programs; or (b) allege abuse or neglect of patients;
12. a description of any personnel actions (other than hiring) taken by West Georgia as a result of the obligations in Section III.F, and the name, title, and responsibilities of any person who is determined to be an Ineligible Person under Section III.F.4, and the actions taken in response to the obligations set forth in that Section;
13. a summary describing any ongoing investigation or legal proceeding required to have been reported pursuant to Section III.G. The summary shall include a description of the allegation, the identity of the investigating or prosecuting agency, and the status of such investigation or legal proceeding;
14. a description of all changes to the most recently provided list (as updated) of West Georgia's locations (including addresses) as required by Section V.A.11, the corresponding name under which each location is doing business, the corresponding phone numbers and fax numbers, each location's Medicare provider identification number(s), and the contractor name and address that issued each Medicare provider number; and
15. the certification required by Section V.C.

The first Annual Report shall be received by OIG no later than 60 days after the end of the first Reporting Period. Subsequent Annual Reports shall be received by OIG no later than the anniversary date of the due date of the first Annual Report.

C. Certifications. The Implementation Report and Annual Reports shall include a certification by the Compliance Officer that: (1) to the best of his or her knowledge, except as otherwise described in the applicable report, West Georgia is in compliance with all of the requirements of this CIA; and (2) the Compliance Officer has reviewed the Report and has made reasonable inquiry regarding its content and believes that the information is accurate and truthful.

D. Designation of Information. West Georgia shall clearly identify any portions of its submissions that it believes are trade secrets, or information that is commercial or financial and privileged or confidential, and therefore potentially exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552. West Georgia shall refrain from identifying any information as exempt from disclosure if that information does not meet the criteria for exemption from disclosure under FOIA.

## VI. NOTIFICATIONS AND SUBMISSION OF REPORTS

Unless otherwise stated in writing after the Effective Date, all notifications and reports required under this CIA shall be submitted to the following entities:

OIG:

Administrative and Civil Remedies Branch  
Office of Counsel to the Inspector General  
Office of Inspector General  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Cohen Building, Room 5527  
330 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201  
Telephone: (202) 619-2078  
Facsimile: (202) 205-0604

West Georgia:

~~Ms. Elizabeth Fritchley~~ George W. Kish  
Compliance Officer  
West Georgia Medical Center  
1514 Vernon Road  
LaGrange, Georgia 30240

Unless otherwise specified, all notifications and reports required by this CIA may be made by certified mail, overnight mail, hand-delivery, or other means, provided that there is proof that such notification was received. For purposes of this requirement, internal facsimile confirmation sheets do not constitute proof of receipt.

#### **VII. OIG INSPECTION, AUDIT AND REVIEW RIGHTS**

In addition to any other rights OIG may have by statute, regulation, or contract, OIG or its duly authorized representative(s) may examine or request copies of West Georgia's books, records, and other documents and supporting materials and/or conduct on-site reviews of any of West Georgia's locations for the purpose of verifying and evaluating: (a) West Georgia's compliance with the terms of this CIA; and (b) West Georgia's compliance with the requirements of the Federal health care programs in which it participates. The documentation described above shall be made available by West Georgia to OIG or its duly authorized representative(s) at all reasonable times for inspection, audit or reproduction. Furthermore, for purposes of this provision, OIG or its duly authorized representative(s) may interview any of West Georgia's employees, contractors, or agents who consent to be interviewed at the individual's place of business during normal business hours or at such other place and time as may be mutually agreed upon between the individual and OIG. West Georgia shall assist OIG or its duly authorized representative(s) in contacting and arranging interviews with such individuals upon OIG's request. West Georgia's employees may elect to be interviewed with or without a representative of West Georgia present.

#### **VIII. DOCUMENT AND RECORD RETENTION**

West Georgia shall maintain for inspection all documents and records relating to reimbursement from the Federal health care programs, or to compliance with this CIA, for four years (or longer if otherwise required by law).

## IX. DISCLOSURES

Consistent with HHS's FOIA procedures, set forth in 45 C.F.R. Part 5, OIG shall make a reasonable effort to notify West Georgia prior to any release by OIG of information submitted by West Georgia pursuant to its obligations under this CIA and identified upon submission by West Georgia as trade secrets, or information that is commercial or financial and privileged or confidential, under the FOIA rules. With respect to such releases, West Georgia shall have the rights set forth at 45 C.F.R. § 5.65(d).

## X. BREACH AND DEFAULT PROVISIONS

West Georgia is expected to fully and timely comply with all of its CIA obligations.

A. Stipulated Penalties for Failure to Comply with Certain Obligations. As a contractual remedy, West Georgia and OIG hereby agree that failure to comply with certain obligations set forth in this CIA may lead to the imposition of the following monetary penalties (hereinafter referred to as "Stipulated Penalties") in accordance with the following provisions.

1. A Stipulated Penalty of \$2,500 (which shall begin to accrue on the day after the date the obligation became due) for each day West Georgia fails to have in place any of the obligations described in Section III:

- a. a Compliance Officer;
- b. a Compliance Committee;
- c. a written Code of Conduct;
- d. written Policies and Procedures;
- e. a requirement that Covered Persons be trained; and
- f. a Disclosure Program.

2. A Stipulated Penalty of \$2,500 (which shall begin to accrue on the day after the date the obligation became due) for each day West Georgia fails to retain an IRO or conduct an Internal Billing Review, as required in Section III.D.

3. A Stipulated Penalty of \$2,500 (which shall begin to accrue on the day after the date the obligation became due) for each day West Georgia fails to meet any of the deadlines for the submission of the Implementation Report or the Annual Reports to OIG.

4. A Stipulated Penalty of \$2,000 (which shall begin to accrue on the date the failure to comply began) for each day West Georgia employs or contracts with an Ineligible Person and that person: (a) has responsibility for, or involvement with, West Georgia's business operations related to the Federal health care programs; or (b) is in a position for which the person's salary or the items or services rendered, ordered, or prescribed by the person are paid in whole or part, directly or indirectly, by Federal health care programs or otherwise with Federal funds (the Stipulated Penalty described in this Subsection shall not be demanded for any time period during which West Georgia can demonstrate that it did not discover the person's exclusion or other ineligibility after making a reasonable inquiry (as described in Section III.F) as to the status of the person).

5. A Stipulated Penalty of \$1,500 for each day West Georgia fails to grant access to the information or documentation as required in Section VII. (This Stipulated Penalty shall begin to accrue on the date West Georgia fails to grant access.)

6. A Stipulated Penalty of \$1,000 for each day West Georgia fails to comply fully and adequately with any obligation of this CIA. In its notice to West Georgia, OIG shall state the specific grounds for its determination that West Georgia has failed to comply fully and adequately with the CIA obligation(s) at issue and steps West Georgia shall take to comply with the CIA. (This Stipulated Penalty shall begin to accrue 10 days after West Georgia receives notice from OIG of the failure to comply.) A Stipulated Penalty as described in this Subsection shall not be demanded for any violation for which OIG has sought a Stipulated Penalty under Subsections 1-5 of this Section.

B. Timely Written Requests for Extensions. West Georgia may, in advance of the due date, submit a timely written request for an extension of time to perform any act or file any notification or report required by this CIA. Notwithstanding any other provision in this Section, if OIG grants the timely written request with respect to an act, notification, or report, Stipulated Penalties for failure to perform the act or file the notification or report shall not begin to accrue until one day after West Georgia fails to



meet the revised deadline set by OIG. Notwithstanding any other provision in this Section, if OIG denies such a timely written request, Stipulated Penalties for failure to perform the act or file the notification or report shall not begin to accrue until three business days after West Georgia receives OIG's written denial of such request or the original due date, whichever is later. A "timely written request" is defined as a request in writing received by OIG at least five business days prior to the date by which any act is due to be performed or any notification or report is due to be filed.

### C. Payment of Stipulated Penalties.

1. *Demand Letter.* Upon a finding that West Georgia has failed to comply with any of the obligations described in Section X.A and after determining that Stipulated Penalties are appropriate, OIG shall notify West Georgia of: (a) West Georgia's failure to comply; and (b) OIG's exercise of its contractual right to demand payment of the Stipulated Penalties (this notification is hereinafter referred to as the "Demand Letter").

2. *Response to Demand Letter.* Within 10 days after the receipt of the Demand Letter, West Georgia shall either: (a) cure the breach to OIG's satisfaction and pay the applicable Stipulated Penalties; or (b) request a hearing before an HHS administrative law judge ("ALJ") to dispute OIG's determination of noncompliance, pursuant to the agreed upon provisions set forth below in Section X.E. In the event West Georgia elects to request an ALJ hearing, the Stipulated Penalties shall continue to accrue until West Georgia cures, to OIG's satisfaction, the alleged breach in dispute. Failure to respond to the Demand Letter in one of these two manners within the allowed time period shall be considered a material breach of this CIA and shall be grounds for exclusion under Section X.D.

3. *Form of Payment.* Payment of the Stipulated Penalties shall be made by certified or cashier's check, payable to: "Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services," and submitted to OIG at the address set forth in Section VI.

4. *Independence from Material Breach Determination.* Except as set forth in Section X.D.1.c, these provisions for payment of Stipulated Penalties shall not affect or otherwise set a standard for OIG's decision that West Georgia has materially breached this CIA, which decision shall be made at OIG's discretion and shall be governed by the provisions in Section X.D, below.

D. Exclusion for Material Breach of this CIA.

1. *Definition of Material Breach.* A material breach of this CIA means:

- a. a failure by West Georgia to report a Material Deficiency, take corrective action, and make the appropriate refunds, as required in Section III.H;
- b. a repeated or flagrant violation of the obligations under this CIA, including, but not limited to, the obligations addressed in Section X.A;
- c. a failure to respond to a Demand Letter concerning the payment of Stipulated Penalties in accordance with Section X.C; or
- d. a failure to retain and use an IRO or conduct an Internal Billing Review in accordance with Section III.D.

2. *Notice of Material Breach and Intent to Exclude.* The parties agree that a material breach of this CIA by West Georgia constitutes an independent basis for West Georgia's exclusion from participation in the Federal health care programs. Upon a determination by OIG that West Georgia has materially breached this CIA and that exclusion is the appropriate remedy, OIG shall notify West Georgia of: (a) West Georgia's material breach; and (b) OIG's intent to exercise its contractual right to impose exclusion (this notification is hereinafter referred to as the "Notice of Material Breach and Intent to Exclude").

3. *Opportunity to Cure.* West Georgia shall have 30 days from the date of receipt of the Notice of Material Breach and Intent to Exclude to demonstrate to OIG's satisfaction that:

- a. West Georgia is in compliance with the obligations of the CIA cited by OIG as being the basis for the material breach;
- b. the alleged material breach has been cured; or
- c. the alleged material breach cannot be cured within the 30-day period, but that: (i) West Georgia has begun to take action to cure the material breach; (ii) West Georgia is pursuing such action with

due diligence; and (iii) West Georgia has provided to OIG a reasonable timetable for curing the material breach.

4. *Exclusion Letter.* If, at the conclusion of the 30-day period, West Georgia fails to satisfy the requirements of Section X.D.3, OIG may exclude West Georgia from participation in the Federal health care programs. OIG shall notify West Georgia in writing of its determination to exclude West Georgia (this letter shall be referred to hereinafter as the "Exclusion Letter"). Subject to the Dispute Resolution provisions in Section X.E, below, the exclusion shall go into effect 30 days after the date of the Exclusion Letter. The exclusion shall have national effect and shall also apply to all other Federal procurement and nonprocurement programs. Reinstatement to program participation is not automatic. If, at the end of the period of exclusion, West Georgia wishes to apply for reinstatement, West Georgia shall submit a written request for reinstatement in accordance with the provisions at 42 C.F.R. §§ 1001.3001-.3004.

#### E. Dispute Resolution

1. *Review Rights.* Upon OIG's delivery to West Georgia of its Demand Letter or of its Exclusion Letter, and as an agreed-upon contractual remedy for the resolution of disputes arising under this CIA, West Georgia shall be afforded certain review rights comparable to the ones that are provided in 42 U.S.C. § 1320a-7(f) and 42 C.F.R. Part 1005 as if they applied to the Stipulated Penalties or exclusion sought pursuant to this CIA. Specifically, OIG's determination to demand payment of Stipulated Penalties or to seek exclusion shall be subject to review by an HHS ALJ and, in the event of an appeal, the HHS Departmental Appeals Board ("DAB"), in a manner consistent with the provisions in 42 C.F.R. §§ 1005.2-1005.21. Notwithstanding the language in 42 C.F.R. § 1005.2(c), the request for a hearing involving Stipulated Penalties shall be made within 10 days after receipt of the Demand Letter and the request for a hearing involving exclusion shall be made within 25 days after receipt of the Exclusion Letter.

2. *Stipulated Penalties Review.* Notwithstanding any provision of Title 42 of the United States Code or Chapter 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations, the only issues in a proceeding for Stipulated Penalties under this CIA shall be: (a) whether West Georgia was in full and timely compliance with the obligations of this CIA for which OIG demands payment; and (b) the period of noncompliance. West Georgia shall have the burden of proving its full and timely compliance and the steps taken to cure the noncompliance, if any. OIG shall not have the right to appeal to the DAB an adverse ALJ decision related to Stipulated Penalties. If the ALJ agrees with OIG with regard to a finding of a breach of this CIA and orders West Georgia to pay Stipulated Penalties, such

Stipulated Penalties shall become due and payable 20 days after the ALJ issues such a decision unless West Georgia requests review of the ALJ decision by the DAB. If the ALJ decision is properly appealed to the DAB and the DAB upholds the determination of OIG, the Stipulated Penalties shall become due and payable 20 days after the DAB issues its decision.

3. *Exclusion Review.* Notwithstanding any provision of Title 42 of the United States Code or Chapter 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations, the only issues in a proceeding for exclusion based on a material breach of this CIA shall be:

- a. whether West Georgia was in material breach of this CIA;
- b. whether such breach was continuing on the date of the Exclusion Letter; and
- c. whether the alleged material breach could not have been cured within the 30-day period, but that: (i) West Georgia had begun to take action to cure the material breach within that period; (ii) West Georgia has pursued and is pursuing such action with due diligence; and (iii) West Georgia provided to OIG within that period a reasonable timetable for curing the material breach and West Georgia has followed the timetable.

For purposes of the exclusion herein, exclusion shall take effect only after an ALJ decision favorable to OIG, or, if the ALJ rules for West Georgia, only after a DAB decision in favor of OIG. West Georgia's election of its contractual right to appeal to the DAB shall not abrogate OIG's authority to exclude West Georgia upon the issuance of an ALJ's decision in favor of OIG. If the ALJ sustains the determination of OIG and determines that exclusion is authorized, such exclusion shall take effect 20 days after the ALJ issues such a decision, notwithstanding that West Georgia may request review of the ALJ decision by the DAB. If the DAB finds in favor of OIG after an ALJ decision adverse to OIG, the exclusion shall take effect 20 days after the DAB decision. West Georgia shall waive its right to any notice of such an exclusion if a decision upholding the exclusion is rendered by the ALJ or DAB. If the DAB finds in favor of West Georgia, West Georgia shall be reinstated effective on the date of the original exclusion.

4. *Finality of Decision.* The review by an ALJ or DAB provided for above shall not be considered to be an appeal right arising under any statutes or regulations.

Consequently, the parties to this CIA agree that the DAB's decision (or the ALJ's decision if not appealed) shall be considered final for all purposes under this CIA.

#### **XI. EFFECTIVE AND BINDING AGREEMENT**

Consistent with the provisions in the Settlement Agreement pursuant to which this CIA is entered, and into which this CIA is incorporated, West Georgia and OIG agree as follows:

- A. This CIA shall be binding on the successors, assigns, and transferees of West Georgia;
- B. This CIA shall become final and binding on the date the final signature is obtained on the CIA;
- C. Any modifications to this CIA shall be made with the prior written consent of the parties to this CIA;
- D. OIG may agree to a suspension of West Georgia's obligations under the CIA in the event of West Georgia's cessation of participation in Federal health care programs. If West Georgia withdraws from participation in Federal health care programs and is relieved of its CIA obligations by OIG, West Georgia shall notify OIG at least 30 days in advance of West Georgia's intent to reapply as a participating provider or supplier with the Federal health care programs. Upon receipt of such notification, OIG shall evaluate whether the CIA should be reactivated or modified.
- E. The undersigned West Georgia signatories represent and warrant that they are authorized to execute this CIA. The undersigned OIG signatory represents that he is signing this CIA in his official capacity and that he is authorized to execute this CIA.

ON BEHALF OF WEST GEORGIA

Gerald N. Fulks

~~CHARLES L. FOSTER, JR.~~ Gerald N. Fulks  
President and CEO  
West Georgia Medical Center  
1514 Vernon Road  
LaGrange, Georgia 30240

4-25-03

DATE

Donna P. Bergeson

DONNA BERGESON  
Alston & Bird, LLP  
One Atlantic Center  
1201 West Peachtree Street  
Atlanta, GA 30309-3424

5-6-03

DATE

J. Kennard Neal

KENNARD NEAL  
Alston & Bird, LLP  
One Atlantic Center  
1201 West Peachtree Street  
Atlanta, GA 30309-3424

5-6-03

DATE

ON BEHALF OF THE OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

*Larry J. Goldberg*

LARRY J. GOLDBERG

Assistant Inspector General for Legal Affairs  
Office of Inspector General

U. S. Department of Health and Human Services

*June 12, 2003*

DATE

## APPENDIX A

### A. Claims Review.

1. **Definitions.** For the purposes of the Claims Review the following definitions shall be used:

- a. Overpayment: The amount of money West Georgia has received in excess of the amount due and payable under any Federal health care program requirements.
- b. Item: Any discrete unit that can be sampled (e.g., code, line item, beneficiary, patient encounter, etc.).
- c. Paid Claim: A code or line item submitted by West Georgia for inpatient treatment and for which West Georgia has received reimbursement from the Medicare program.
- d. Population: All Items for which West Georgia has submitted a code or line item and for which West Georgia has received reimbursement from the Medicare program for inpatient treatment (i.e., a Paid Claim) during the 12-month period covered by the Claims Review. To be included in the Population, an Item must have resulted in at least one Paid Claim.
- e. Error Rate: The Error Rate shall be the percentage of net overpayments identified in the sample. The Error Rate is calculated by dividing the net Overpayment identified in the sample by the total dollar amount associated with the Items in the sample.

### 2. **Other Requirements.**

- a. Paid Claims without Supporting Documentation. For the purpose of appraising Items included in the Claims Review, any Paid Claim for which West Georgia cannot produce documentation sufficient to support the Paid Claim shall be considered an error and the total reimbursement received by West Georgia for such Paid Claim shall be deemed an Overpayment. Replacement sampling for Paid Claims with missing documentation is not permitted.



b. Use of First Samples Drawn. For the purposes of all samples (Discovery Sample(s) and Full Sample(s)) discussed in this Appendix, the Paid Claims associated with the Items selected in each first sample (or first sample for each strata, if applicable) shall be used. In other words, it is not permissible to generate more than one list of random samples and then select one for use with the Discovery Sample or Full Sample.

B. Claims Review Report. The following information shall be included in the Claims Review Report for each Discovery Sample and Full Sample (if applicable).

1. **Claims Review Methodology.**

a. Sampling Unit. A description of the Item as that term is utilized for the Claims Review. For purposes of this Claims Review, the term "Item" may refer to any discrete unit that can be sampled (e.g., claim, line item, beneficiary, patient encounter, etc.).

b. Claims Review Population. A description of the Population subject to the Claims Review.

c. Claims Review Objective. A clear statement of the objective intended to be achieved by the Claims Review.

d. Sampling Frame: A description of the sampling frame, which is the totality of Items from which the Discovery Sample and, if any, Full Sample has been selected and an explanation of the methodology used to identify the sampling frame. In most circumstances, the sampling frame will be identical to the Population.

e. Source of Data: A description of the documentation relied upon by the IRO and/or West Georgia when performing the Claims Review (e.g., medical records, physician orders, certificates of medical necessity, requisition forms, local medical review policies, CMS program memoranda, Medicare carrier or intermediary manual or bulletins, other policies, regulations, or directives).

f. Review Protocol: A narrative description of how the Claims Review was conducted and what was evaluated.

## **2. Claims Review Findings.**

- a. a description of West Georgia's billing and coding system(s), including the identification, by position description, of the personnel involved in coding and billing;
- b. West Georgia's and/or the IRO's findings, supporting rationale, and a summary of such findings and rationale regarding the Claims Review, including the results of the Discovery Sample, and the results of the Full Sample (if any) with the gross Overpayment amount, the net Overpayment amount, and the corresponding Error Rate(s) related to the net Overpayment. Note: for the purpose of this reporting, any potential cost settlements or other supplemental payments should not be included in the net Overpayment calculation. Rather, only underpayments identified as part of the Discovery Sample or Full Sample (as applicable) shall be included as part of the net Overpayment calculation; and
- c. West Georgia's and/or the IRO's findings and recommendations concerning the Systems Review (if any).

## **3. Statistical Sampling Documentation.**

- a. The number of Items appraised in the Discovery Sample and, if applicable, in the Full Sample.
- b. A copy of the printout of the random numbers generated by the "Random Numbers" function of the statistical sampling software used by the IRO and/or West Georgia.
- c. A copy of the statistical software printout(s) estimating how many Items are to be included in the Full Sample.
- d. A description or identification of the statistical sampling software package used to conduct the sampling.

## **4. Claims Review Results.**

- a. Total number and percentage of instances in which the IRO and/or West

Georgia determined that the Paid Claims submitted by West Georgia (“Claims Submitted”) differed from what should have been the correct claim (“Correct Claim”), regardless of the effect on the payment.

b. Total number and percentage of instances in which the Claim Submitted differed from the Correct Claim and in which such difference resulted in an Overpayment to West Georgia.

c. Total dollar amount of paid Items included in the sample and the net Overpayment associated with the sample.

d. Error Rate in the sample.

e. A spreadsheet of the Claims Review results that includes the following information for each Paid Claim appraised: Federal health care program billed, beneficiary health insurance claim number, date of service, procedure code submitted, procedure code reimbursed, allowed amount reimbursed by payor, correct procedure code (as determined by the IRO and/or West Georgia), correct allowed amount (as determined by the IRO and/or West Georgia), dollar difference between allowed amount reimbursed by payor and the correct allowed amount. (See Attachment 1 to this Appendix.)

**5. Systems Review.** Observations and recommendations on possible improvements to the system(s) and process(es) that generated the Overpayment(s) in the sample Population.

**6. Credentials.** The names and credentials of the individuals who: (1) designed the statistical sampling procedures and the review methodology utilized for the Claims Review; and (2) performed the Claims Review.

APPENDIX B

**OVERPAYMENT REFUND**

**TO BE COMPLETED BY MEDICARE CONTRACTOR**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contractor Deposit Control # \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Deposit: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contractor Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contractor Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contractor Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

**TO BE COMPLETED BY PROVIDER/PHYSICIAN/SUPPLIER**

*Please complete and forward to Medicare Contractor. This form, or a similar document containing the following information, should accompany every voluntary refund so that receipt of check is properly recorded and applied.*

PROVIDER/PHYSICIAN/SUPPLIER NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 PROVIDER/PHYSICIAN/SUPPLIER # \_\_\_\_\_  
 CHECK NUMBER# \_\_\_\_\_  
 CONTACT PERSON: \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT OF CHECK \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 CHECK DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**REFUND INFORMATION**

**For each Claim, provide the following:**

Patient Name \_\_\_\_\_ HIC \_\_\_\_\_  
 # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Medicare Claim Number \_\_\_\_\_ Claim Amount Refunded  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Reason Code for Claim Adjustment: \_\_\_\_\_ (Select reason code from list below. Use one reason per claim)

*(Please list all claim numbers involved. Attach separate sheet, if necessary)*

*Note: If Specific Patient/HIC/Claim #/Claim Amount data not available for all claims due to Statistical Sampling, please indicate methodology and formula used to determine amount and reason for overpayment: \_\_\_\_\_*

**For Institutional Facilities Only:**

Cost Report Year(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (If multiple cost report years are involved, provide a breakdown by amount and corresponding cost report year.)

**For OIG Reporting Requirements:**

Do you have a Corporate Integrity Agreement with OIG? Yes No

**Reason Codes:**

<u>Billing/Clerical Error</u>	<u>MSP/Other Payer Involvement</u>	<u>Miscellaneous</u>
01 - Corrected Date of Service Documentation	08 - MSP Group Health Plan Insurance	13 - Insufficient
02 - Duplicate HMO	09 - MSP No Fault Insurance	14 - Patient Enrolled in an
03 - Corrected CPT Code	10 - MSP Liability Insurance	15 - Services Not Rendered
04 - Not Our Patient(s)	11 - MSP, Workers Comp.(Including Black Lung	16 - Medical Necessity
05 - Modifier Added/Removed	12 - Veterans Administration	17 - Other (Please Specify)
06 - Billed in Error		_____
07 - Corrected CPT Code		