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### **Client Alert**

#### **Veterans Choice Program Contract**

To: Maine clients who received the VA Choice Program Contract Solicitation

From: Gwen Simons

Date: 7/1/2016

RE: VA Choice Program Contract Analysis

You may have recently received a letter from Corey Wilson, Supervisory Medical Administrator Specialist at the Department of Veterans Affairs in Augusta inviting you to contract directly with the VA in their Veterans Choice Program. I reviewed [this contract](#) and have no concerns about it, so it is ok to sign. You can access the contract [here](#).

The letter states this contract does not replace the Patient-Centered Community Care (PC3)/Choice contracts with HealthNet or Tri West but is intended to cover authorized services when the patient has been or will be waiting more than 30 days for VA medical care or when the patient lives more than 40 miles away from a VA medical care facility or has excessive travel burdens. So coverage under this Agreement may be an option when your patient experiences delays in receiving authorizations from HealthNet. Only certain VA patients are eligible and they have to apply for the benefit and choose a primary care physician on [www.va.gov/opa/choiceact/](http://www.va.gov/opa/choiceact/). Also, please note that you *must have authorization* for all services.

The Agreement requires you to accept Medicare payment rates and services must meet Medicare's Conditions for Payment, which are available in [Chapter 15 of the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual](#) (PT, OT and Speech conditions start at Section 220). As part of your Medicare Compliance Plan, you should read Sections 220 - 230 and train your staff on these requirements. CMS has a good set of slides you can use for staff training on Medicare's Conditions of Payment that you can access [here](#).

For more information on the Veterans Choice Program, go to [www.va.gov/opa/choiceact/](http://www.va.gov/opa/choiceact/).