

Army National Guard Centralized Credentialing Program Wins Excalibur Award

ALPHARETTA, GA - February 3, 2010 - The Army National Guard's centralized credentialing program was awarded the prestigious Surgeon General's Excalibur Award at the Military Health System Conference held last week in Washington, DC.

Tenon Consulting began working with the ARNG in 2006 to develop this benchmark program and has led the effort from concept through national implementation. The ARNG credentialing program was selected by the Army Surgeon General's office from a pool of 22 applicants. Evaluation criteria included program sustainability, system-wide replication potential, improvements in efficiency, increased quality, and enhanced resource management. Tenon's solution design consists of a scalable operation leveraging collaborative public-private partnerships, proven commercial technology, and healthcare industry best practices. Furthermore, the program development and implementation effort was completed on plan, on budget, and has either met or exceeded targeted performance objectives throughout the deployment process.

Military Credentialing Solutions, Inc. (MCS) manages the end-to-end credentialing process to ensure quality standards, timelines, and customer service objectives. MCS effectively coordinates the necessary interactions with the ARNG leadership, providers, third party stakeholders, and program partners while providing visibility into the status of individual and aggregate files as they move through each step of the credentialing process.

The program is leveraging the CAQH Universal Provider Datasource® (UPD) to collect and maintain provider credentials information. Serving as the industry-standard, the UPD electronic provider data system is currently utilized by nearly 800,000 providers.

"UPD is minimizing the paperwork burden for providers, while streamlining administrative processes for ARNG," said Sorin Davis, director of marketing and business development, CAQH. UPD users submit and manage their credentialing data using this secure, simple to use, web-based utility. Providers maintain total control of their information and can authorize access for insurers, hospitals, and other healthcare operations. UPD also provides real-time monitoring of sanctions information reported from over 400 sanctions sources nationwide.

“Our primary objective in developing this solution was to leverage existing best practices and capabilities within both the public and private sectors. UPD provides a standard, low-cost, and reliable system for allowing providers to maintain their credentials information in one place and disseminate it to the various entities requiring that information. This now includes the Army National Guard,” stated Anthony D. Begando, Tenon’s CEO. The ARNG credentialing program represents the first time the military has electronically collected and actively monitored credentials information in this manner.

Anthem Credentialing Services, Inc. (ACSI) supports the program by conducting the prime source verification of required credentials data. ACSI is the credentials verification organization (CVO) for the WellPoint family of companies and brings extensive credentialing industry experience and best practices into the ARNG’s credentialing program. Following the award ceremony, ACSI’s Christina McGovern noted these strengths, “This engagement allows us to leverage our extensive private sector expertise to support the military in this very important area. The work we do contributes directly to the agility and readiness of medical staff deployment through our ongoing verification and monitoring of credentials. This is critical to supporting our troops and we are proud to be a part of it.”

Working together, these organizations have developed a world-class operation that has transformed the credentialing activities for the ARNG. “We are honored to have had the opportunity to develop this program for the Army National Guard. We believe the solution can serve as a template for similar needs throughout the military, in various homeland security support functions, and with other large healthcare institutions,” noted Mr. Begando.

About Tenon Consulting

Tenon Consulting is a management consulting firm providing professional services to Fortune 500, government, and emerging growth entities. The firm assists its clients in leading the development of new business operations and the definition and implementation of strategic business initiatives. The firm maintains broad experience in the healthcare, bio-security, technology, pharmaceutical, and defense industries. www.tenonconsulting.com

About Military Credentialing Solutions (MCS)

Military Credentialing Solutions™, Inc. is an end-to-end credentials management organization established to streamline and manage the clinical credentialing process for healthcare providers serving in the Armed Forces. MCS performs the credentialing process by leveraging industry-leading credentialing services, information technology, and by providing exceptional levels of service to minimize the administrative burden placed on providers. The organization provides a consistent, highly reliable product and has consistently met or exceeded client quality and customer service expectations. www.militarycredentialing.com

About the Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare (CAQH)

CAQH, a nonprofit alliance of health plans and trade associations, serves as a catalyst for healthcare industry collaboration on initiatives that simplify and streamline healthcare administration. CAQH solutions help promote quality interactions between plans, providers and other stakeholders, reduce costs and frustrations associated with healthcare administration, facilitate administrative healthcare information exchange and encourage administrative and clinical data integration. www.caqh.org

About Anthem Credentialing Services, Inc. (ACSI)

Anthem Credentialing Services™, Inc is a national Credentials Verification Organization (CVO) offering accurate and cost-effective solutions for the verification of health professionals' credentials. The firm provides flexible solutions for provider and specialty networks, health plans and hospitals, each designed to integrate seamlessly with our client's credentialing programs. Services offer clients the control and access to information of an in-house solution with the time savings needed to focus on what matters most. Anthem Credentialing Services has been fully certified by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) for 10 out of 10 verification services. www.anthemcredentialing.com

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Media Contacts:

Tenon Consulting
Anthony D. Begando, 678-990-0417 x201, abegando@tenonconsulting.com
Julie J. Peel, 678-990-0417 x203, jpeel@tenonconsulting.com