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#### TPAS: A CURE FOR THE INDIAN HEALTH INSURANCE SECTOR

# MANJUSHREE S LECTURER DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE KUVEMPU UNIVERSITY SHANKARAGHATTA

#### **ABSTRACT**

Despite ample natural and significant infrastructural endowments, the Indian health sector projects a dismal scenario. Third Party Administrator (TPA) sounds like an antigen that is expected to have the efficacy to bridge this gap. However, the insurance sector still faces challenge of effectively institutionalizing the services of the TPA. A lot needs to be done in this direction. The present articles provides a fair idea about TPAs, cashless services, core activities and their present status in India. This article provides a platform to understand the TPA, cashless services and claim settlement procedure in India.

#### **KEYWORDS**

Health insurance, Third party Administrator.

#### INTRODUCTION

ndia has a very poor health insurance penetration, in a country where only about 10% of the population has health insurance, most of the Indians pay their healthcare expenses from their pocket. Despite ample natural and significant infrastructural endowments, the Indian health sector projects a dismal scenario. Third Party Administrator (TPA) sound like an antigen that is expected to have the efficacy to bridge this gap. However, the insurance sector still faces challenge of effectively institutionalizing the services of the TPA. A lot needs to be done in this direction.

A Third Party Administrator is an organization which processes claims or provides cashless facilities as a separate entity. Seen as an outsourcing of claim processing, TPA processes claims for both retail and corporate policies. The risk of loss incurred remains with the insurance company. The insurance company usually contracts a reinsurance company to share its risk. An insurance company hires TPA to manage its claims processing, provider network and utilization review. While some TPA operates as units of insurance companies, most are often independent. TPA is also involved in handling employee benefit plans such as processing retirement plans. Handling healthcare or employee benefit claims requires using a specialized set of manpower and technology, therefore hiring a TPA for the same is a more cost effective method. Being one of the prominent players in the managed care industry, it has the expertise and capability to administer all or a portion of the claims process. The services include claims processing, premium collection, enrollment and cashless processing

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDA) defines **TPA** as a Third Party Administrator who, for the time being, is licensed by the Authority, and is engaged, for a fee or remuneration, in the agreement with an insurance company, for the provision of health services. TPA was introduces by the IRDA in 2001.

#### TPA FOR CLAIMS AND CASHLESS HEALTH INSURANCE

Third Party Administrator handles claims processing, collection of premiums, manages workers' compensation, and wellness programs. Insurance companies use third party administrators as a way to save money and time. Some insurance companies outsource compete administrative work related to health insurance whereas others choose to outsource only part of the program.

TPAs are remunerated by insurers and remuneration is fixed on a mutually agreeable terms. However Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDA) plays down a maximum ceiling on the commission that can be given to a TPA, which stands at 15 percent of premium amount. Each TPA may tie up with many numbers of insurers and likewise each insurance company can empanel any number of TPAs.

From the time the policyholder informs the TPA about issuance of policy, the records will be transferred to the TPA. The TPA will issue identity cards to all policyholders, which they have to show to the hospital authorities before availing any hospitalization services. In case of a claim, policyholder has to inform the TPA on a 24-hour toll-free line about the treatment and hospital. In case of cashless, he will be directed to a hospital where the TPA has a tied up network. However, the policyholder will have the option to join any other hospital of their choice, but in such case payment shall be on reimbursement basis.



31

Vipul Med Corp

Total

	TABLE 1: NUMBER OF CLAIMS RECEIVED DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR					
SI no	Name of TPA	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	
1	Alankit Health Care	17961	55308	85987	104332	
2	Anmol Medicare	18	4186	13036	6615	
3	Anyuta Medinet Healthcare	-	49	76	82	
4	Bhaichand Amoluk	-	-	-	82	
5	Dedicated Healthcare Services	29356	-	157109	139255	
6	Dawn Services	-	-		-	
7	E Meditek Services	217799	259635	319807	331278	
8	East West Assist	2894	-	51110	49015	
9	Family Health Plan	215396	94013	13014	163163	
10	Focus Healthcare	-	338	1469	1741	
11	Genins India	106543	81651	78476	82832	
12	Good Health plan	14017	24886	36709	42461	
13	Grand Healthcare Services	-	-	-	-	
14	Health India Services	80464	190859	234058	147458	
15	Health India Services	36684	65674	75440	98387	
16	I Care Health Management	-	=	5479	16541	
17	MD India Healthcare Services	108730	208331	405852	876693	
18	Med Save Health Care	81740	327640	118426	105654	
19	Medi Assist India	210089	327640	376000	411308	
20	Medicare Services	64238	75250	74307	71530	
21	Paramount Health Services	325176	185643	148527	182395	
22	Parekh Health Management	14305	35229	81989	93141	
23	Park Mediclaim	17064	20671	9257	33773	
24	Raksha	95451	250211	394606	159758	
25	Rothshield Healthcare Services	-	20	529	1332	
26	Safeway Services	209	8101	13856	10035	
27	Spurthi Meditech Solutions	-	-	-	-	
28	Sri Gokulam Health Services	-	-	-	-	
29	TTK Healthcare	289709	313948	305017	272223	
30	Universal Medi-Aid Services	1232	-	-	NA	

2446713 1986859 Sources: IRDA annual report 2010-2011

57784

240582

3641584

248790

3365940

109119

#### TABLE 2: NUMBER OF CLAIM SETTLED WITHIN 1 MONTH DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR no Name of the TPA 2007-2008 2008-2009 2009-2010 2010-2011 Si no Name of the TPA

SI no	Name of the TPA	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
1	Alankit Health Care	11559	24282	28099	93708
2	Anmol Medicare	4	2218	8926	3935
3	Anyuta Medinet Healthcare	-	49	76	76
4	Bhaichand Amoluk	-	-	-	-
5	Dedicated Healthcare Services	21018	-	93376	92685
6	Dawn Services	-	-	-	-
7	E Meditek Services	189659	227036	25586	267332
8	East West Assist	1693	-	29879	33870
9	Family Health Plan	147064	75907	52525	58588
10	Focus Healthcare	-	151	109	886
11	Genins India	72316	63827	52605	70662
12	Good Healthplan	12584	20598	10912	10790
13	Grand Healthcare Services	-		-	-
14	Health India Services	60393	129603	118807	125941
15	Health India Services	21329	27990	30427	52306
16	I Care Health Management	-	-	3099	11525
17	MD India Healthcare Services	93026	185144	373118	631694
18	Med Save Health Care	41777	80068	70909	70039
19	Medi Assist India	117984	202631	308818	344845
20	Medicare Services	43039	52004	49085	40577
21	Paramount Health Services	319173	167612	117013	144164
22	Parekh Health Management	9490	19769	47357	57680
23	Park Mediclaim	9595	8671	8164	9874
24	Raksha	76745	242082	325415	156455
25	Rothshield Healthcare Services	-	12	363	639
26	Safeway Services	125	3782	9679	6631
27	Spurthi Meditech Solutions	-	-	-	-
28	Sri Gokulam Health Services	-	-	-	-
29	TTK Healthcare	246766	262397	162303	225040
30	Universal Medi-Aid Services	855	-	-	NA
31	Vipul Med Corp	17181	51379	191293	234819
	Total	1513375	1847163	2348137	2745661

**Sources:** IRDA annual Report 2010-2011

TABLE 3: NUMBER OF CLAIMS SETTLED BETWEEN 1-3 MONTHS DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR					
SI no	Name of TPA	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
1	Alankit Health Care	5813	22247	35661	15055
2	Anmol Medicare	4	581	3390	839
3	Anyuta Medinet Healthcare	-	-	-	3
4	Bhaichand Amoluk	-	-	-	-
5	Dedicated Healthcare Services	2498	-	59626	32722
6	Dawn Services	-	-	-	-
7	E Meditek Services	16220	18578	31984	19906
8	East West Assist	527	-	18454	9281
9	Family Health Plan	61129	17851	36166	46118
10	Focus Healthcare	-	-	604	290
11	Genins India	24145	12583	23332	7862
12	Good Healthplan	6	2477	16518	16497
13	Grand Healthcare Services	-	-	-	-
14	Health India Services	14710	39384	72889	26480
15	Health India Services	11697	26030	36248	34725
16	I Care Health Management	_	=	744	1845
17	MD India Healthcare Services	2356	6942	19692	141432
18	Med Save Health Care	25488	36950	36859	29233
19	Medi Assist India	57024	72555	18019	12313
20	Medicare Services	7332	7755	8137	10911
21	Paramount Health Services	8376	364	12546	11924
22	Parekh Health Management	3592	11103	22366	27569
23	Park Mediclaim	5397	7042	201	11400
24	Raksha	10806	8129	35412	972
25	Rothshield Healthcare Services	ı	3	117	464
26	Safeway Services	23	2280	2667	1061
27	Spurthi Meditech Solutions	1	-	-	-
28	Sri Gokulam Health Services	ı	-	-	-
29	TTK Healthcare	22607	29359	94294	38046
30	Universal Medi-Aid Services	295	-	-	NA
31	Vipul Med Corp	22785	37960	11484	20121
	Total	302820	360173	597408	517069

#### **TABLE 4: NUMBER OF CLAIMS**

SI no	Name of the TPA	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	
1	Alankit Health Care	2397	4744	11241	1663	
2	Anmol Medicare	-	249	415	53	
3	Anyuta Medinet Healthcare	-	-	-	3	
4	Bhaichand Amoluk	-	-	-	-	
5	Dedicated Healthcare Services	636	-	6880	4935	
6	Dawn Services	-	-	-	-	
7	E Meditek Services	4969	4543	7803	10058	
8	East West Assist	86	-	1742	5401	
9	Family Health Plan	-	-	11055	17329	
10	Focus Healthcare	-	-	638	-	
11	Genins India	9828	4387	7162	2409	
12	Good Healthplan	1	93	5787	6995	
13	Grand Healthcare Services	-	-	-	-	
14	Health India Services	2370	5305	24667.00	3594	
15	Health India Services	2144	6227	9355	5807	
16	I Care Health Management	-	-	14	198	
17	MD India Healthcare Services	410	773	1538	38864	
18	Med Save Health Care	2916	2833	6422	5786	
19	Medi Assist India	8141	8952	865	763	
20	Medicare Services	156	240	208	3172	
21	Paramount Health Services	593	58	1248	3372	
22	Parekh Health Management	160	847	1184	2126	
23	Park Mediclaim	500	3939	53	13208	
24	Raksha	2519	-	0	-	
25	Rothshield Healthcare Services	-	-	24	143	
26	Safeway Services	2	1474	935	884	
27	Spurthi Meditech Solutions	-	-	-	-	
28	Sri Gokulam Health Services	-	-	-	-	
29	TTK Healthcare	3840	8020	21343	6231	
30	Universal Medi-Aid Services	117	-	-	NA	
31	Vipul Med Corp	7130	8338	906	2814	
	Total	48908	61022	121485	135808	
SETTLED RETWEEN 3-6 MONTHS DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR						

SETTLED BETWEEN 3-6 MONTHS DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR

Sources: IRDA annual report 2010-2011

TARIF 5. NIIMBER	OF CLAIM SETTLED	AETER 6 MONTH

SI no	Name of the TPA	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
1	Alankit Health Care	1460	1446	3143	521
2	Anmol Medicare	-	-	-	4827
3	Anyuta Medinet Healthcare	-	-	-	-
4	Bhaichand Amoluk	-	-	-	-
5	Dedicated Healthcare Services	-	-	1679	734
6	Dawn Services	-	-	-	-
7	E Meditek Services	-	-	-	-
8	East West Assist	11	-	265	265
9	Family Health Plan	-	-	3807	6788
10	Focus Healthcare	-	-	24	415
11	Genins India	1889	2064	2190	388
12	Good Healthplan	-	-	1302	1835
13	Grand Healthcare Services	-	-	-	-
14	Health India Services	-	-	5231	-
15	Health India Services	279	1191	1769	1259
16	I Care Health Management	-	-	-	7
17	MD India Healthcare Services	-	-	-	6968
18	Med Save Health Care	258	350	1613	1841
19	Medi Assist India	2358	2245	276	312
20	Medicare Services	58	66	111	963
21	Paramount Health Services	88	125	749	909
22	Parekh Health Management	13	41	183	297
23	Park Mediclaim	98	125	6	-
24	Raksha	-	-	-	-
25	Rothshield Healthcare Services	-	-	5	25
26	Safeway Services	-	215	-	265
27	Spurthi Meditech Solutions	-	-	-	-
28	Sri Gokulam Health Services	-	-	-	-
29	TTK Healthcare	2987	3101	6857	1544
30	Universal Medi-Aid Services	-	-	-	NA
31	Vipul Med Corp	3156	1965	152	9696
	Total	12660	12934	29362	39859

Third Party Administrators is an important link between Insurance companies, policyholders & healthcare providers in servicing health insurance.

#### **CORE ACTIVITIES OF TPA**

- 1. Record maintenance of policies of an insurer
- Issuing identity cards to all the policy holders
- 3. 24 hour toll free line
- 4. Building up a provider network
- 5. Tracking fraudulent claim cases
- 6. Issues cashless facility to insured
- 7. Handling reimbursement claims

#### STEPS FALLOWED IN THE BASIC FUNCTIONS OF TPAS

#### 1 Cashless Facilitation Procedure

- a) Receipt and record of member enrollment
- b) Issuance of unique ID card
- c) Providing with the reference list of network hospitals offering cashless facility
- d) Receipt and securitization of pre-authorization request
- e) Pre-admission authorization after checking doctor prescriptions ,admission form hospital information
- f) Claim form should be submitted with original bills along with prescription, diagnostic report and discharge summary.

When the insured goes to a network hospital and makes the payment for all hospital expenses all by himself, then he needs to submit all the original documents of treatment viz:

- a) ID/policy card number
- b) Policy copy
- c) Dare of hospitalization
- d) Reasons for hospitalization
- e) Date of discharge

Claim form duly filled and signed by the claimant policy holder

- f) Medical certificate form duly filled by the treating doctor
- g) All original diagnostic test report performed patient during hospitalization
- h) All medical bills accompanied by the prescription

#### **3 Claim Control**

- a) Original bills are scrutinized against standard discounted tariff rates
- b) Cost containment by medical procedure audit and bill scrutiny
- c) Medical opinion Taken for complicated cases
- d) Eliminates reimbursement frauds
- e) Medical procedure audits.

#### BENEFITS OF TPA TO THE INSURANCE WORLD

- 1. Faster and focused claims management
- 2. Lower overhead cost and reduced cost of claim management
- 3. Immediate access to highly trained claim administrators
- 4. Improved control over claims outcomes
- 5. Safeguarding of customer relationship
- 6. Protection of brand reputation
- 7. Control of possible frauds by the private healthcare providers.

#### CONCLUSION

Third party administration the much hyped system for improving health care and spreading health insurance in India, but still in the nascent stage to comment on their efficacy. Presently there are around 31 licensed TPAs in India. The authorities must recognize the growing necessity of TPAs and should enhance the number of licensed TPAs around the country. It is prudent on the part of IRDA that they have allowed the them presently only for the health services, which is need of the hour in India. They should continue the moratorium on the TPAs for the rest of the insurance services so that the concentration may be on health insurance.

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With sincere regards

Thanking you profoundly

Academically yours

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