

Topic

Electronic settlement for health insurers via EDI.

Customer

pfm AG, in particular the pfm subsidiary applica GmbH.

For over 30 years, pfm Produkte für die Medizin AG has been one of Germany's leading independent marketing and sales specialists for medical technology products in the fields of pathology/histology, OP/anaesthesia, infusion therapy, and interventional technologies. Pfm AG supplies international hospitals and the homecare market with medical consumables from their own production line as well as from reputable manufacturers.

The pfm subsidiary, applica GmbH, develops and sells incontinence and infusion pump products and services to patients whom are members of the statutory health insurance scheme (non-private health insurance).

Task

In the settlement of services provided by applica with the health insurers, additional statutory patients' payments for health-care must be considered. In the past, settlement of master documents (e.g. prescriptions) were collected and submitted together with the invoice to the health insurers. These settlements were therefore based on the invoice's paper documents. „Prescription processing” was introduced in SAP, which was based on a combination of standard SAP programs, extensions of standard programs, and completely self-defined Z-programs.

The legislative body has released a new law affecting the Statutory Health Insurance Modernisation Act, whereby health insurers must now settle payments via electronic data transfer methods. At the same time, it was decided that the health insurers' data has to be collected later, even if these are paper documents. If no usable data can be electronically transferred for reasons beyond the supplier's control, the suppliers have to present to the health insurance the costs related to the affected

service by a reduction of up to 5 per cent of the invoiced amount.

Pfm AG has chosen to execute their data transfers with an external service provider whom has processed similar settlements for many health insurance companies.

Implementation

PIKON has designed and developed the interface between pfm's SAP system and the external service provider.

PIKON's activities:

- Project and requirements management
- Analysis of the compulsory requirements and the external service provider's requirements
- Design of an extraction program including conversion rules
- Implementation of the necessary programs in ABAP
- Extension of master data and SD order data for additional fields
- Carrying out tests (functional tests and integration tests with the service provider)
- Training users and supporting the productive start
- Optimisation and further development of functions after the productive start
- Documentation.