

MAS 500

CUSTOMER

Altius Health Plans

www.altiushealthplans.com

CORPORATE PROFILE

Type of Business

Non-profit government agency

Number of Locations

10

Number of Employees

60

Annual Budget

\$5 million

SYSTEM PROFILE

Computer System

Microsoft Windows NT on SQL Server

MAS 500 Modules in Operation

- Accounts Payable
- Accounts Receivable
- Cash Management
- Customizer
- General Ledger
- Purchase Order

MAS 500 Implemented in Record Time at Altius Health Plans

Trying to attain a higher standard in health care, Altius Health Plans was born in Utah in October of 1998 — the offspring of a group of local health care professionals and investors that purchased the Utah HMO operation from its previous owner, PacifiCare, a large California-based HMO. With a membership of more than 100,000, Altius Health Plans offers a variety of employer-sponsored health insurance plans in the region extending from Ogden through Salt Lake City and Provo. The challenge Altius faced when launching its business was centered around migrating its technology and operations from PacifiCare.

Adopting a New System

After the purchase closed, Altius Health Plans was not yet fully autonomous, and remained tied to PacifiCare's accounting system. "We had one year to get off their system," says Doug Finlinson, accounting manager. "That meant researching and setting up new software before October 1999. Although we might



have plugged along with our old program indefinitely, PacifiCare's system did not have the functionality we needed — so being forced to change was better for us in the long run."

Delivering Efficiency

Altius Health Plans looked at accounting systems from several vendors, and was impressed by the implementation team from one of Best Software's most successful resellers. In addition, while the competitors said implementation would require six to nine months, Best's reseller

CHALLENGE

Obtain a core accounting solution that is powerful and functional enough to handle the business complexities of a statewide 100,000-member health insurance organization.

SOLUTION

MAS 500 financial modules.

RESULTS

Streamlined integration; Increased operational efficiency; Quick, easy reports; Instant analysis capabilities; Improved strategic planning; Seamless interface with custom software; Custom invoices and enrollment statements.

“Although we’ve just started to use the program, our processes are already much more efficient than before.”

*Doug Finlinson
Accounting Manager
Altius Health Plans*

promised a much faster turnaround for installing the MAS 500 system. With their deadline looming in the fall, Altius had no time for a long setup, and selected MAS 500 on April 1, 1999.

They are extremely pleased with the results. Only three months later, on July 1, the system’s Accounting and Accounts Payable (AP) modules were fully operational. “Our employees are already more productive,” raves Finlinson. “Plus, the software generates reports more quickly and easily. Now managers can better evaluate where we are and where we need to go, which is helping our strategic planning.”

The conversion was fast, but intense. Best’s reseller helped set up Microsoft SQL Server, the platform used for MAS 500. Altius then created a chart of accounts to fit the new system. Historical financial and accounts payable vendor data for the previous months were reformatted to match the MAS 500 system, and transferred electronically. Entirely new transmission procedures were arranged with the bank.

The two most significant accomplishments in this quick-turn MAS 500 implementation were the development of multiple interfaces and customizations. An interface was created between MAS 500 and QMACS, the Altius enrollment software that enabled customized premium

invoicing and enrollment statements. Information from QMACS, which contains all the employer group and rate information for the subscribers, could then be fed to MAS 500 and combined into a consolidated billing. In addition, other interfaces were developed to automate lockbox, ACH cash receipts and surepay transactions directly to and from the bank.

“Our conversion to MAS 500 has gone much better than we expected,” says Finlinson. “Although we’ve just started to use the program, our processes are already much more efficient than before.”



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