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Subject: FW: User Story Template

Value Statement:

As a <insert user role> I need the ability to <insert function> so that I can <insert activity and/or value that the user gets from this feature>

The 'user role' represented in the value statement should, in most cases, identify the end user that will reap the benefits of implementing the story. Forstories that address technical debt, where the end user will not experience any difference in functionality or performance, the 'user role' should identify the VBMS Team Member.

Assumptions:

The purpose of assumptions is to capture constraints to implementing the story that are outside of the development team's control. Assumptions allow us to proceed with development in the absence of absolute knowledge. As we negotiate story functionality we'll see where we must assume certain conditions will be met. It's these assumptions we want to note.

We also want to note distinctions between what functionality the story will and will not deliver. Including clarifying statements on what functionality will not be included is important for alignment between TRAs, developers, QA teams and development leadership.

Here are examples of assumptions:

- "A BGS service is available to obtain necessary data for presentation to UI page."
- "This story will not include validation of the input data; this will be handled in story nnnnnn."
- "The VBMS project team will use the WODM tool to manage business rules, as this is the chosen tool for the application."

Acceptance Criteria

Acceptance criteria capture the end state of the application once this feature is implemented. The criteria should describe all business rules to be incorporated into the feature. For example: The <user role> user has the ability to <one piece of the delivered functionality> if <business rule>. The criteria will be used to verify by developers and QA team members that the story is fully implemented. In other words, we define how we know the storydelivers its intended functionality. These are not detailed test cases but high-level summaries of independent verifications.

Follow this guidance when you write acceptance criteria:

Include expected behavior for results of validating inbound data.

- It should cover when data is required versus optional.
- It should cover validation rules for the data.
- It should include relationships between fields.

This applies to data provided by users on a UI page, data provided by a consumer of a Web service, and data provided through other integration methods.

For example:

- When user enters a date of claim that is in the future, present an exception message stating ‘Date of claim cannot be in the future’.
- When a claim establishment service request does not have file number, an error is returned to the consumer that the request has failed; a message indicates that the file number is required.
- If the user indicates that the claim is a pre-discharge claim, then the user cannot provide a date of claim; the user is required to provide a future date of claim.

Include criteria that explain new or changed user navigation. For example:

- A user has the ability to access the Veteran financial payment page from the top navigation bar under the **Veteran** drop down.
- A user has the ability to access the complete work item function from an action on the work queue from an icon on **Claim Details** screen, etc.

Include criteria that explain the policy requirements for a new function and how that policy will be enforced. For example:

- When a user who does not have permissions to access the **Deferrals** tab views the **Claim Detail** page, the **Deferrals** tab is hidden, even if there is deferral data for the claim.

Include criteria that ensure internal and external documentation is updated. For example:

- The Claim Service SDD document has been updated to describe the pre-discharge indicator, the validation for this indicator, and the rules for using this indicator with other data.
- The Developer wiki has been updated to provide instructions for installing an instance of WODM on a local environment.

Include criteria that document instructions for Production Operations. For example:

- Instructions on how to execute the Scorecard Synchronization process has been documented. Documentation has been posted to Sharepoint and reviewed with Production Operations.
- Documentation has been produced that describes the RO Pending Scanning configuration, the valid values, the impacts of changing this value, etc.

Notes:

The purpose of notes is two-fold:

1. Capture functionality refinement resulting from negotiation conversations with TRAs. For example: "We considered implementing using xxxxx, but chose not to because of yyyy."
2. Capture outstanding issues to be resolved during negotiation conversations with TRAs, and ultimate resolutions when obtained.

As developers and TRAs collaborate on story functionality, note relevant details so knowledge is not lost. Do not include so much detail that Notes become a “contractual” requirements listing. Some extraneous details may imply test case scenarios. Those that imply test cases can be noted as such – “Test with <test case constraints/parameters>”

For technical stories, details will typically come from development’s understanding of the technical problem and solution. Technical story negotiations will happen between the developers and development leadership. While the context differs from functional stories, the purpose of notes for technical storiesis unchanged. Likewise, limit the details to the two-fold purpose and convert those details that imply test cases to actual test cases.