



Texas Health Care Information Council

206 East 9th Street • Suite 19.140 • Austin Texas 78701 • Phone 512-482-3312 • Fax 512-453-2757 • www.thcic.state.tx.us

January 18, 2002

Hospital Numbered Letter Volume 5 Number 1

THCIC Hospital Training

The next hospital training session will be held on February 6th in Austin and is at no cost to hospital. Training will be from 9:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. at the Stephen F. Austin Building, 1700 N. Congress, Room 118 and will cover the submission, correction, and certification of data. “Handouts” will be available at the training. For questions concerning the training agenda, please contact Terry Salazar at 512-482-3322.

To sign up for the February 6th hospital training or get information on parking, please contact Sandra Martin at 512-482-3312 or by e-mail at Sandra.Martin@thcic.state.tx.us.

Physicians To Review Certification Data

Reminder: Physicians and other health professionals must be given the opportunity to review, request correction of, and comment on records of patients for whom they are shown as admitting or treating in the data contained in each quarterly Certification File sent to hospitals. (*Texas Administrative Code §1301.17 (c)*). This should be done before a hospital submits the certification letter to THCIC.

Once hospitals receive a certification file, they are given approximately 90 days to review and correct (30 days to submit corrections) any data before the certification letter is due to THCIC.

2q01 Certification File Release

The 2q01 Certification Files were released to hospitals on December 27th. The deadline for making corrections to this file is **TODAY**. If you have not received the 2q01 Certification File, please contact the Helpdesk at 888-308-4953.

Hospital Rules Posted on the *Texas Register*

Amendments to the Hospital Discharge Data rules and the new rules regarding Council reports were published in the December 28th edition of the *Texas Register* (<http://lamb.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/index.html>) and are available on THCIC’s web site. Written comments on the proposed rules will be accepted through the close of business on January 28, 2002.

One major topic in the proposed Hospital Discharge Data amendments includes new definitions for “Attending Physician” and “Operating or other physician”. The definitions provide guidance or clarification to the hospitals regarding which physician or other health practitioner should be listed in the respective fields on the UB92 electronic format.

A second topic is that only late or missing claims from one quarter prior will be accepted into the data processing system. That is, claims from hospitals that have a "Statement covers period through date" in the quarter prior to the quarter currently being certified.

PUDFs Available for Purchase

The 1999 and 2000 Public Use Data Files (PUDFs) are available for purchase. The files include hospital discharges from over 400 hospitals, including patient geographic data, age group, sex, race and ethnicity, diagnoses and procedures, and sources of payment. Detailed charges data were released beginning with the third quarter 2000. For information on purchasing the PUDF, information is available on the THCIC web site at <http://www.thcic.state.tx.us> or by calling 512-482-3312.

Spring 2002...the release of the 1st quarter 2001 PUDF and the availability of the 2000 PUDF by regions.

Upcoming Meetings or Training

- Quality Methods TAC and Consumer Education TAC (joint) meeting – 1/22/02
- Health Information Systems TAC meeting – 2/1/02
- Executive Committee meeting – 2/1/02
- Hospital Training – 2/6/02

Agendas for all Technical Advisory Committee, Committee, and Council meetings are posted on the THCIC web site and the Texas Register seven days prior to the meeting date.

Reminders and Deadlines

- 1/18/02 – Last day to submit changes to the 2nd quarter 2001 certification file
- 2/6/02 - Last day to submit changes to the 3rd quarter 2001 data
- 3/1/02 – Last day to submit the 4th quarter 2001 data
- 3/4/02 – 2nd quarter 2001 certification letters due to THCIC
- 3/8/02 – Hospitals to receive the 3rd quarter 2001 certification file

Questions?

Phone: (888) 308-4953 Fax (434) 979-1047

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February 6, 2002

Hospital Numbered Letter Volume 5 Number 2

Data Concerns?

THCIC encourages hospitals to contact the agency when problems or concerns relating to the discharge data program arise. Issues will be addressed by agency staff on a case-by-case basis. THCIC works with hospital vendors to resolve problems and encourages hospitals to keep their vendors apprised of issues that impact the work performed by the vendor on behalf of the hospital. Our preference is to work directly with the hospitals, thus keeping them “in the loop”. It is ultimately the responsibility of the individual hospitals to comply with THCIC’s guidelines.

Cut-off Dates

A “hospital schedule of important dates” is available on the THCIC web site. These dates indicate when hospitals must submit, correct, and certify data, and were established before THCIC’s latest rule change in August 2001. Following the rule change in August 2001, some of the dates on the current schedule on the THCIC web site are not within the new rule guidelines. In order to get “on track” with the new rules, THCIC had to compress the schedule. Working with hospital vendors and other hospital sources, the current schedule was reviewed and generally approved in July 2001, knowing that the timeline alterations would only be temporary. (The choice at the time was to either “scrunch” timelines or certify two (2) quarters of data at the same time.)

With this said, please know that THCIC will work with any hospital that misses a **shortened** deadline (that is, outside the scope of the new rules). However, hospitals expecting to miss the scheduled deadlines must notify THCIC in writing before the deadline passes, so that THCIC can make arrangements with our vendors to accept the data.

Hospital Discharge Data Rules may be found at:

[http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pub/plsql/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=4&ti=25&pt=16&ch=1301](http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pub/plsql/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=4&ti=25&pt=16&ch=1301)

The current hospital reporting schedule may be found at:

<http://www.thcic.state.tx.us/hospitals/schedule/schedule.htm>

Late Claim Certification File

Beginning with the third quarter 2001 certification data, hospitals will be receiving the late claims from the prior quarter (second quarter 2001), data that were not submitted in time to create an encounter. These can be identified by sorting the data using your Certview software. Click on the Statement Covers Period Thru Date field (Stmt Period Thru) and right click over the

field and select to sort by ascending order. This will put the older claims at the beginning of the Certview record list.

If you import the THNNNNNN_01C.cft.txt into your statistical software or a data manager program (SAS, SPSS, MSAccess, MSEXcel, Lotus, QuattroPro etc...), you will need to go to the 22nd column (Statement Covers Period Thru Date field – {Stmt Period Thru}) and sort the date in the same manner to observe the prior quarter's data. Our observations of the data show that there are usually very few late claims.

PUDFs Available for Purchase

The 1999 and 2000 Public Use Data Files (PUDFs) are available for purchase. The files include hospital discharges from over 400 hospitals, including patient geographic data, age group, sex, race and ethnicity, diagnoses and procedures, and sources of payment. Detailed charges data are included beginning with the third quarter 2000. For information on purchasing the PUDF, information is available on the THCIC web site at <http://www.thcic.state.tx.us> or by calling 512-482-3312.

The release of the 1st quarter 2001 PUDF is expected by the end of March 2002 and the availability of the 2000 PUDF by regions will be available by the end of February 2002.

Hospital Reports

The first comparative reports on the performance of Texas hospitals in year 2000 will be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting (tentatively set for March 8th). Once approved by the Executive Committee, THCIC will notify all hospitals included in the where to view the reports. Hospitals will then have 60 days to submit comments before the reports are made available to the public.

Upcoming Meetings or Training

- Hospital Discharge Data Committee meeting – 3/1/02 (tentative)
- Executive Committee meeting – 3/8/02 (tentative)
- THCIC Council meeting – 3/22/02 (tentative)

Agendas for all Technical Advisory Committee, Committee, and Council meetings are posted on the THCIC web site and the Texas Register seven days prior to the meeting date.

Reminders and Deadlines

- 2/6/02 - Last day to submit changes to the 3rd quarter 2001 data
- 3/1/02 – Last day to submit the 4th quarter 2001 data
- 3/4/02 – 2nd quarter 2001 certification letters due to THCIC
- 3/8/02 – Hospitals to receive the 3rd quarter 2001 certification file

Questions?

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March 4, 2002

Hospital Numbered Letter Volume 5 Number 3

1Q01 PUDF Available for Purchase

The 1st quarter 2001 (1Q01) Public Use Data File (PUDF) is scheduled for release by the end of March 2002 and is available at a **discounted** price if payment is received by May 1, 2002.

THCIC is offering the discounted price of \$400 for participating hospitals and \$800 for all other purchasers (plus shipping). The purchaser must submit the PUDF order form, a signed User's Agreement, and payment by Wednesday, May 1, 2002 to receive the discounted rate.

Information for purchasing the PUDF is available on the THCIC web site at

<http://www.thcic.state.tx.us> or by calling 512-482-3312.

The 1999 and 2000 Public Use Data Files are also available for purchase. The files contain hospital discharges from over 400 hospitals, including patient geographic data, age group, sex, race and ethnicity, diagnoses and procedures, and sources of payment. Detailed charge data are included beginning with the third quarter 2000.

The 2000 PUDF is now available by regions. (See the article in this newsletter.)

Hospital Reports

The first comparative reports on the performance of Texas hospitals using year 2000 data will be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting (March 8th). Once approved by the Executive Committee, THCIC will provide the hospitals that are included in the report an opportunity to review and comment on a masked version of the report. Hospitals will then have 60 days to submit comments before the reports are made available to the public.

Upcoming Meetings or Training

- Executive Committee meeting – 3/8/02
- Consumer Education TAC meeting – 3/21/02
- THCIC Council meeting – 3/22/02

Agendas for all Technical Advisory Committee, Committee, and Council meetings are posted on the THCIC web site and the Texas Register seven days prior to the meeting date.

Reminders and Deadlines

- 3/1/02 – Last day to submit the 4th quarter 2001 data
- 3/4/02 – 2nd quarter 2001 certification letters due to THCIC
- 3/8/02 – Hospitals to receive the 3rd quarter 2001 certification file

Interested in Statistics About Hospitals in Your Area?

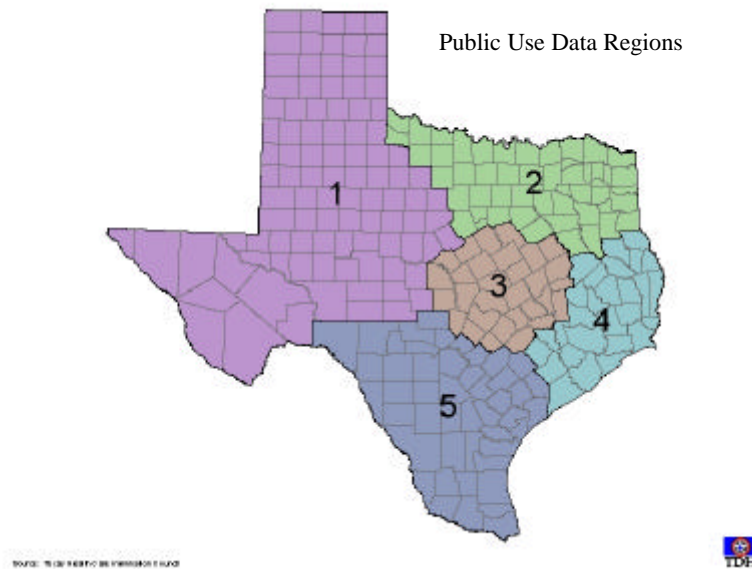
The Texas Health Care Information Council (THCIC) has released inpatient data for calendar year 2000 from over 400 Texas hospitals and packaged it into 5 region files. Regional breakouts are depicted on the map at the bottom of this page.

The Public Use Data Files (PUDFs) contains over 100 data elements pertaining to each patient stay, including the hospital name, patient age group, diagnosis and procedure codes, accommodation and ancillary charges (beginning with the 3rd quarter 2000 discharges), length of hospital stay, patient status upon discharge, and other data elements.

THCIC has divided the statewide PUDF into 5 regions using Texas county boundaries to make the cost more affordable to hospitals, businesses, and the individual consumer. To view the list of counties within a region, go to <http://www.thcic.state.tx.us/RegionalFiles.htm>. The PUDF order form may be downloaded at <http://www.thcic.state.tx.us/DataRequestForm.htm>.

Have questions or don't have access to the internet? Contact THCIC at 512-482-3312 for more information concerning the regional PUDF.

Check out the THCIC web site at www.thcic.state.tx.us for other reports on health care in Texas.



Questions?

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April 4, 2002

Hospital Numbered Letter Volume 5 Number 4

1Q01 PUDF Available for Purchase

The 1st quarter 2001 Public Use Data File (PUDF), released April 3rd, is available for a **discounted** price if payment is received by May 1, 2002. THCIC is offering the discounted price of \$400 for participating hospitals and \$800 for all other purchasers (plus shipping). The purchaser must submit the PUDF order form, a signed User's Agreement, and payment by Wednesday, May 1, 2002 to receive the discounted rate. Information for purchasing the PUDF is available on the THCIC web site at <http://www.thcic.state.tx.us> or by calling 512-482-3312.

THCIC Hospital Training

The next hospital training session is scheduled for May 14, 2002 in Austin and will cover the submission, correction, and certification of data. Training will begin at 9:00a.m. in the Brown-Heatly building located at 4900 North Lamar in room 1410. Please contact Sandra Martin at 512-482-3312 for a reservation. The training is free!!



Release of Hospital Level Reports

On March 22, 2002 the THCIC Board voted to release hospital level reports on all 25 Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP II) quality indicators. Public release of the hospital level reports is set for July 22nd, following a period of review and comment. The 25 HCUP II indicators are as follows:

AMI mortality
 CHF mortality
 GI hemorrhage mortality
 Hip fracture mortality
 Pneumonia mortality
 Stroke mortality
 AAA repair mortality
 CABG mortality
 Craniotomy mortality

Esophageal resection mortality
 Hip replacement mortality
 Pancreatic resection mortality
 Pediatric heart surgery mortality
 Bi-lateral cardiac catheterization rate
 Cesarean section rate
 VBAC rate
 Incidental appendectomy among elderly rate
 Laparoscopic cholecystectomy

AAA repair volume
 CABG volume
 Carotid endarterectomy volume
 Esophageal resection volume
 Pancreatic resection volume
 Pediatric heart surgery volume
 PTCA volume

THCIC will mail instructions to assist hospitals with reviewing and commenting on the provider reports. Instructions will be mailed to both hospital administrators and primary contacts for each facility. Please verify that THCIC has correct information on the Administrator/CEO and primary contact by visiting the THCIC web site at

http://www.thcic.state.tx.us/hospitals/Hospital_Liaison.PDF. Updates to this listing should be faxed to 512-453-2757 on hospital letterhead and signed by the administrator/CEO or complete the form located on the THCIC web site at <http://www.thcic.state.tx.us/hospitals/liaison.pdf>.

THCIC Requests Comments on Reducing Bill Types Accepted in Submissions

In conjunction with beginning to move toward accepting the new 837-claim format that is required by HIPAA, THCIC also is looking for opportunities to improve and simplify the systems and procedures involved in Hospital Discharge Data Collection.

What is THCIC proposing?

THCIC is proposing to simplify the complexity of systems and procedures used by THCIC for collection of the hospital discharge data by reducing the variety of bill types for claims that THCIC will accept in claim submissions.

Currently, THCIC accepts all claim bill types that are accepted by Medicare, which includes the following:

- xx0 – admission thru discharge (with no charge),
- xx1 - admission thru discharge (with charges),
- xx2 – admission,
- xx3 – interim,
- xx4 – discharge,
- xx5, xx6 – adjustments,
- xx7 – replacement, and
- xx8 – cancel.

THCIC is considering reducing the acceptable bill types to the following:

- xx0 – admission thru discharge (with no charge),
- xx1 - admission thru discharge (with charges), and
- xx8 - cancel.

If adopted, only admission thru discharge claims would be submitted by hospitals for inpatient stays. Any patient stays that currently are submitted on xx2, xx3, xx4 bill types would need to

be consolidated and submitted with an xx0 or xx1 bill type. Claims could continue to be voided (deleted) using the xx8 bill type. Adjustments (xx5, xx6) or replacements (xx7) will be accomplished by resubmitting the original bill (xx0 or xx1) with the corrected information. The resubmission will automatically replace the original claim.

Why is THCIC looking at reducing the bill types?

Statistics from 2000 and 2001 data indicate that out of 3 million claims received in a year, only 3.5% contain a bill type other than xx0, xx1, xx8. These other bill types require THCIC to maintain a system with a level of complexity that is inversely proportional to the numbers of claims being processed.

Reducing the complexity of the system will have the following positive effects:

1. Reduce the learning curve for the hospital personnel that correct claims,
2. Simplify the claims correction process, and
3. Increase the opportunity for changes to THCIC systems and procedures to further reduce time commitment of hospital personnel.

THCIC recognizes that some hospitals, their vendors or their submitting agents will have to change procedures and make modifications to their systems in order to submit claims using only xx0, xx1, and xx8 bill types.

However, given that hospitals and vendors will have to modify systems and procedures to create claim data in the new 837 claim format, it would be appropriate timing for making the necessary adjustments to submit only xx0, xx1 and xx8 claims to THCIC.

THCIC will examine the impact of the change from the cost, ease of use and effectiveness standpoints, both to THCIC and to hospitals.

To ensure that THCIC has a complete understanding of the ease and/or difficulty that this change would have on hospitals, their vendors and their submitting agents, THCIC requests hospitals, their vendors and their submitting agents provide written comments on this proposal. Comments may be sent via letter to Ron Weiss, Comments on Proposed Bill Types, at the above address or via email (ron.weiss@thcic.state.tx.us). Comments must be received by April 15th.

Adopted Rules and Amendments

On March 22, 2002, the Council voted to adopt the new Council Report Rules (Subchapter C) §§1301.41-1301.44 and the amendments to the Hospital Discharge Data Rules (Subchapter A) §§1301.11, 1301.16-1301.18 and 1301.20. These rules will be published in the *Texas Register* on April 12, 2002 (<http://lamb.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/index.html>). Below is a summary of the adopted rules and amendments.

New Council Report Rules

The Council Report Rules provide guidelines regarding the process for creating Council developed provider level reports including:

1. Procedures for the creation of a provider report.
2. Procedures for the release of technical documentation.

3. Masked release of the information in the report to the hospitals
4. Hospitals will have 60 calendar days to review and comment on the report and technical documentation. (The Council is required to attach the comments to the reports with each release).
5. Procedures, forms, and format requirements for hospitals submitting comments.

Amendments to the Hospital Discharge Data Rules

The Council made the following modifications to the Hospital Discharge Data rules:

1. Clarified the definition of “Attending Physician”
2. Added a definition for “Operating or Other Physician”
3. Removed the definition “Treating Physician”
4. Restricted the submission of late or missing claims data to one quarter prior to the current quarter’s data being processed
5. Modified existing language to accommodate changes to the definitions
6. Restricted the release of data elements in the research data file to only data elements requested and approved by the Scientific Review Panel.

Upcoming Meetings or Training

- Hospital Training – 5/14/02 in Austin

Agendas for all Technical Advisory Committee, Committee, and Council meetings are posted on the THCIC web site and the Texas Register seven days prior to the meeting date.

Reminders and Deadlines

- 4/15/02 – Last day to submit corrections to the 3q01 certification file
- 5/1/02 – Final encounters for 3q01 certification file available to the hospitals
- 5/1/02 – Last day to submit corrections to the 4q01 submission file
- 6/1/02 – 3q01 Certification letters due
- 6/1/02 – Submission of 1q02 data to THIN by hospitals
- 6/1/02 – Hospitals to retrieve/receive the 4q01 certification file

Questions?

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May 3, 2002

Hospital Numbered Letter Volume 5 Number 5

THCIC Hospital Training

The next hospital training session is scheduled for May 14, 2002 in Austin and will cover the submission, correction, and certification of data. Training will begin at 9:00a.m. at the Brown-Heatly building located at 4900 North Lamar in room 1410. Please contact Sandra Martin at 512-482-3312 for a reservation. The training is free!!



Release of the Hospital Level Report

On April 10, 2002, THCIC mailed letters to each hospital that will be named in the Hospital Level Report (due for release by THCIC in July 2002). The letters were mailed to the hospital administrator/CEO and THCIC primary contact and outlines instructions for accessing the restricted web site THCIC has set up for the hospitals to review and comment on the information contained in this report. **Comments must be submitted by June 20, 2002 via the restricted web site.**

Hospitals not included in this report, that submitted data to THCIC, were sent letters on April 26, 2002. The letters were sent to the hospital administrator only and outlines instructions for accessing the restricted web site for review only.

Questions concerning the report should be directed to Dee Shaw at 512-482-3318.

THCIC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Vacancies

THCIC has three TACs that currently have vacancies; the **Health Information System (HIS)** TAC (one vacancy), the **Provider Quality (PQ)** TAC (2 practicing physician vacancies), and the **Health Maintenance Organization (HMO)** TAC (one vacancy). Interested persons may submit a TAC application located at <http://www.thcic.state.tx.us/TACvacancies.htm> or contact Dee Shaw at 512-482-3318 for more information.

Upcoming Meetings or Training

- Hospital Training – 5/14/02 in Austin
- CE & QM TAC joint meeting – 5/22/02
- Executive Committee meeting – 5/24/02
- THCIC Council meeting – 6/21/02

Agendas for all Technical Advisory Committee, Committee, and Council meetings are posted on the THCIC web site and the Texas Register seven days prior to the meeting date.

Reminders and Deadlines

- 4/15/02 – Last day to submit corrections to the 3q01 certification file
- 5/1/02 – Final encounters for 3q01 certification file available to the hospitals
- 5/1/02 – Last day to submit corrections to the 4q01 submission file
- 6/1/02 – 3q01 Certification letters due
- 6/1/02 – Submission of 1q02 data to THIN by hospitals
- 6/1/02 – Hospitals to retrieve/receive the 4q01 certification file

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May 15, 2002

Hospital Numbered Letter Volume 5 Number 6

Review of HCUP-II Inpatient Quality Indicators Suspended

Due in part to review of the HCUP-II Inpatient Quality Indicators (IQIs) on a hospital-by-hospital level here in Texas, the Agency for Health Research and Quality (AHRQ) has decided to modify some key underlying assumptions. This demonstrates clearly that the review process leading-up to public release of new measures has great value, and that the system works. Therefore, **hospitals should cease their review of the IQI tables that were posted to THCIC's restricted access web site.**

Some modifications to the IQIs will include:

1. changes in how transfers are handled (modified version to exclude only transfers to acute care hospitals, not transfers to long term care or rehabilitation) This means that the mortality indicators for certain procedures where large proportions of patients in some hospitals are transferred to rehabilitation or long term care will now include these patients in the computations.
2. changes in the definition of pediatric heart surgery
3. addressing some issues in the risk adjustment process

THCIC anticipates receiving the revised beta-test version of the IQI software by June 1st. Following the creation of tables following the newly modified criteria, hospitals will be notified that they can access the reports on a restricted web site, as they did during April. This will initiate a new 60-day comment period for hospitals. More details will be conveyed to the hospitals as they become available.

Jim Loyd, Executive Director
Texas Health Care Information Council



Texas Health Care Information Council

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June 3, 2002

Hospital Numbered Letter Volume 5 Number 7

New CertView Software

A new version of the certification software (CertView 2002b) will be released concurrently with distribution of your 4th Quarter 2001 certification files. You can recognize the new software program by its sky blue background.

The new CertView will be placed on the THCIC Web Site for downloading. If you have any questions or need assistance with the download, please contact the HelpDesk at 888-308-4953. Hospitals that do not have access to the Internet may request a copy of the software by calling Terry Salazar at 512-482-3322.

The following is a list of changes included in this version of the software:

- 1) Three new monthly total cells and labels were added to the CertSummary report for “Late Claims Processing” to accommodate data sets with late claims.
- 2) A prompt for quarter and year was added to the “Create Comments File” button.
- 3) The provider table has been updated.
- 4) Diagnosis and procedure code tables were updated.

Review of HCUP-II Inpatient Quality Indicators

The hospital review of tables will be made available this month on the THCIC restricted web site. Hospitals should use the ID and passwords that were issued in April to log onto the site. In a THCIC Executive Committee meeting on May 24, 2002, a 90 day review/comment period was granted to hospitals for the initial release of the HCUP II reports. The 90 day period begins when the restricted site becomes available. Hospitals should check the THCIC web site periodically at www.thcic.state.tx.us; however, THCIC will announce the exact date of availability as soon as the date is determined.

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July 1, 2002

Hospital Numbered Letter Volume 5 Number 8

90 day Review of HCUP-II Inpatient Quality Indicators Rescinded

In the June 3, 2002 newsletter, Vol 5 Num 7, THCIC announced a decision by the THCIC Executive Committee to allow a 90 day hospital review/comment period for the initial release of the HCUP II report. This decision for a 30 day extension on the review period was overturned at the June 21, 2002 THCIC Council meeting. Therefore, hospitals will have a 60 day review and comment period once THCIC releases the report to hospitals sometime in early July.

New Codes Effective For January 2002 Data

Additional code values are being accepted for two data elements; admission type and revenue code. The code value 5, Trauma Center, has been added to the list of valid Type of Admission codes.

The revenue code series 210X was added to the list of valid revenue codes. These codes represent alternative therapies. The code values are as follows:

- 2100 – General Classification
- 2101 – Acupuncture
- 2102 – Accupressure
- 2103 – Massage
- 2104 – Reflexology
- 2105 – Biofeedback
- 2106 – Hypnosis
- 2109 – Other Alternative Therapy Services

These code values are reflected in the April 26, 2002 update of the Hospital Discharge Data Collection, Hospital Procedures and Technical Specifications Manual.
(http://www.thcic.state.tx.us/Reporting_Requirements.htm#WhattoReport)

THCIC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Vacancies

Are you or do you know someone who is interested in taking part in the decision process for State reporting requirements for hospitals and HMOs? THCIC has two TACs that have vacancies: the **Health Information System (HIS)** TAC (one vacancy) and the **Provider Quality**

(PQ) TAC (2 practicing physician vacancies). Although TAC members are not reimbursed for expenses, members are permitted to attend meetings via teleconference at THCIC's expense. Information on all THCIC TACS may be found at http://www.thcic.state.tx.us/Technical_Advisory_Committees.htm. Interested persons should download the TAC application located at <http://www.thcic.state.tx.us/TACvacancies.htm> or contact Dee Shaw at 512-482-3318 for more information.

Save Now On The 2nd Quarter 2001 PUDF

THCIC will release the statewide 2nd quarter 2001 (2q01) Public Use Data File (PUDF) at the end of June 2002. In addition to the file being available in a "fixed" format, the 2nd quarter 2001 PUDF will also be available in a "tab delimited" format.

THCIC is offering a discounted price of \$400 for participating hospitals and \$800 for all other purchasers (plus shipping) if payment is received by August 1, 2002. Purchasers must submit an order form, a signed User's Agreement, and payment by August 1, 2002 to receive the discounted rate for the statewide PUDF.

THCIC also has the statewide 2q01 PUDF available by **regions** in order to make the cost more affordable to hospitals, businesses, and the individual consumer. To view the list of regions, go to <http://www.thcic.state.tx.us/RegionalFiles.htm>. The cost for each 2q01 regional PUDF is \$200 for participating hospitals and \$400 for all other purchasers (plus shipping).

The PUDF order form is available at <http://www.thcic.state.tx.us/DataRequestForm.htm> or by calling Sandra Martin at 512-482-3312.

Reminders and Deadlines

The complete hospital discharge data schedule may be downloaded from <http://www.thcic.state.tx.us/hospitals/schedule/schedule.htm>

- 7/15/02 – Last day to submit changes to 4q01 certification file
- 8/1/02 – Last day to submit changes/corrections (without a fee) to 1q02
- 9/1/02 – 4q01 certification letters due to THCIC, comments to CCS
- 9/1/02 – Last day to submit claims for 2q02

Questions?

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July 3, 2002

Hospital Numbered Letter Volume 5 Number 9

* Review of the 2000 Inpatient Quality Indicator Report *

Beginning **July 9, 2002**, hospitals included in THCICs Inpatient Quality Indicator (IQI) report will again be given the opportunity to review their scores and submit comments, for inclusion with the report that will be released this fall. All hospital primary contacts and administrators received the passwords and IDs for access to the restricted site in a letter sent out on April 10, 2002. Hospitals may access the report by logging in at www.thcic.state.tx.us. The IQI software can be accessed at: <http://www.ahrq.gov/data/hcup/inpatqi.htm>.

There will be a 60 day review and comment period. While logged in using the hospitals unique password and THCIC ID number, comments may be created specific to each hospital. Comments may be changed or replaced by submitting a second set of comments for the same hospital, which will overwrite any preceding comments. Comments not created by **September 7, 2002** will not be included with the release of the report.

Not all hospitals will be included in each indicator table. If your hospital is not included in one or more of the tables, it means that the data for your hospital did not contain any procedures for the indicator in question.

Questions concerning the report should be directed to Zhongmin Li at zhongmin.li@thcic.state.tx.us. Password and ID problems should be directed to Dee Shaw at dee.shaw@thcic.state.tx.us.



Texas Health Care Information Council

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August 28, 2002

Hospital Numbered Letter Volume 5 Number 10

Charges for Making Changes During Certification

The charges for correcting hospital data *during certification* changed effective September 1, 2002. Attached is the pricing guide THCIC has negotiated with Commonwealth and options available to hospitals. While we intend the guide to be self-explanatory, please do not hesitate to contact us at 512-482-3312 if you have questions.

Commonwealth will continue the current practice of quoting a cost for the work via a “work order”. Commonwealth must receive approval from THCIC on the work order in order to begin work. As before, this charge will be billed by and is payable directly to Commonwealth.

Pricing Structure for Corrections at Certification Effective September 1, 2002

Effective September 1, 2002, the following charge structure for accomplishing corrections at certification for hospitals will be in effect.

The charge structure is represented in a linear fashion. The following matrix identifies each component in the structure and the associated charge or formula used to develop the charge.

Component	Description	Charge
Recreate certification files	A base charge will be billed for each “recreation of certification files and reports” ¹ .	\$ 288.75
Assistance with corrections (optional)	If the hospital chooses not to submit corrections through THIN using standard transactions, the hospital may request assistance from Commonwealth in making corrections. The request may be in writing or verbal. The hospital will receive a written detailed price quote (work order). The hospital must approve the work order before work can commence.	Formula: \$ 79.01 * Hrs ²

¹ “Recreation of certification files and reports” is defined as: all activities required for receiving corrections submitted through THIN in standard UB transaction format, processing through the Edits subsystem, recreating certification files and reports, and distributing the files into the hospital’s mailbox.

² Hrs – Number of person hours required to perform the tasks comprising this request.

Distribution media	<p>The charge for the distribution of the certification files depends on the media. Charges for distribution are as follows:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">In Electronic Mailbox – no charge, On Diskette - \$ 6.30 On CD - \$ 31.50</p> <p>NOTE: The media to be used is maintained by THCIC and can be changed by contacting THCIC.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Free \$ 6.30 \$ 31.50</p>
Shipping	For hospitals that receive their data on CD or diskette, the shipping charge of the carrier is passed directly to the hospital.	Pass-thru from shipping carrier
Rush order (Optional)	Certification files will be recreated and distributed based on the THCIC schedule. If hospitals want to obtain the certification files sooner than scheduled, they may request a “rush” be placed on processing and the data will be processed and mailed such that the hospital receives the new files within one to three days of acceptance of the rush order.	\$ 220.50



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October 18, 2002

Hospital Numbered Letter Volume 5 Number 11

IQI Report Released

The Texas Health Care Information Council (THCIC) released its first hospital specific reports on inpatient quality this month. THCIC's *Indicators of Inpatient Care in Texas Hospitals, 2000* can be viewed and downloaded from the agency's website at <http://www.thcic.state.tx.us>.

Based upon recent federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) recommendations on the best measures of inpatient quality using administrative data, THCIC's report includes risk-adjusted hospital results for 25 diagnoses and inpatient procedures. Results are shown graphically, in tables, and in a downloadable Excel file. Links to explanatory text, hospitals' comments on their performance, and AHRQ documentation are provided. Hospitals' results least likely to be influenced by random chance are identified, along with simple statements about the meaning to consumers.

The reports provide Texans with quick and easy quality checks on the hospitals in their communities. Hospitals can see how their rates compare to the other hospitals in their area, and to similar hospitals throughout the state.

Hospital results are organized alphabetically by metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), U.S. Census Bureau groupings of cities, and the suburbs around them. THCIC's website includes a map showing the counties within Texas MSAs. Some rural hospitals are not included in this report because state law does not require them to report data to the THCIC.

Based on data from more than 400 Texas hospitals representing 95% of hospital admissions in the state, the reports contain state averages and compare hospitals in four key areas: volume, mortality for inpatient conditions, mortality for inpatient procedures, and utilization.

While the number of cases (or volume) is provided for all of the conditions and procedures covered in this report, the volume section highlights more intensive, high technology, or highly complex procedures, for instance Coronary Artery Bypass Graft. Evidence suggests that hospitals performing more of these procedures may have better outcomes on these types of procedures.

THCIC Hospital Training

The next hospital training session is scheduled for December 10, 2002 in Austin. It will cover the submission, correction, and certification of data. Training will be from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Texas Department of Health Board Room (Moreton Bldg.) located at 1100 W 49th St in Room M739. Please contact Terry Salazar at 512-482-3322 for a reservation. The training is free!

Save Now On The 3rd Quarter 2001 PUDF

THCIC has released the statewide 3rd quarter 2001 (3q01) Public Use Data File (PUDF).

THCIC is offering a discounted price of \$400 for participating hospitals and \$800 for all other purchasers (plus shipping) if payment is received by November 1, 2002. Purchasers must submit an order form, a signed User's Agreement, and payment by November 1, 2002 to receive the discounted rate for the statewide PUDF.

THCIC also has the statewide 3q01 PUDF available by **regions** in order to make the cost more affordable to hospitals, businesses, and the individual consumer. To view the list of regions, go to <http://www.thcic.state.tx.us/RegionalFiles.htm>. The cost for each 3q01 regional PUDF is \$200 for participating hospitals and \$400 for all other purchasers (plus shipping).

The PUDF order form is available at <http://www.thcic.state.tx.us/DataRequestForm.htm> or by calling Sandra Martin at 512-482-3312.

Helpful Numbers

Questions/Problems	Contact Person	Phone Number
Compliance Issues	Dee Shaw	(512) 482-3318
Council Media Plans	Priscilla Boston	(512) 482-3316
Data submission	Ann Shelton	(972) 766-6311
Data corrections/certification	Help Desk	(888) 308-4953
Hospitalization Reports	Sylvia Cook	(512) 482-3323
Statistical Methods	Zhongmin Li	(512) 482-3324
Policies/Rules	Bruce Burns	(512) 482-3320
Training/Changing Liaisons	Terry Salazar	(512) 482-3322

Reminders and Deadlines

The complete hospital discharge data schedule may be downloaded from <http://www.thcic.state.tx.us/hospitals/schedule/schedule.htm>

- 10/30/02 – Quality Methods/Consumer Education TAC joint meeting
- 11/1/02 – Executive Committee meeting in Austin
- 11/1/02 - Last day to submit corrections to 2q02 data (without a fee)
- 12/1/02 – Last day to submit 3q02 claims
- 12/1/02 – Last day to submit the 1q02 certification letter
- 12/1/02 – Hospital will receive/download the 2q02 certification file
- 12/6/02 – Council meeting in Austin
- 12/10/02 – Hospital Training in Austin
- 1/15/03 – Last day to submit corrections to 2q02 certification file



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November 29, 2002

Hospital Numbered Letter Volume 5 Number 12

THCIC Hospital Training

The next hospital training session is scheduled for December 10, 2002 in Austin. It will cover the submission, correction, and certification of data. Training will be from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Texas Department of Health Board Room (Moreton Bldg.) located at 1100 W 49th St in Room M739. Please contact Terry Salazar at 512-482-3322 for a reservation. The training is free!

4th Quarter 2001 PUDF

THCIC will release the statewide 4th quarter 2001 (4q01) Public Use Data File (PUDF) on December 2, 2002.

The 4th Quarter 2001 PUDF may be purchased by participating hospitals for \$500 (plus shipping) and \$1000 (plus shipping) for all other purchasers. Purchasers must submit an order form, a signed User's Agreement, and payment for the statewide PUDF.

THCIC also has the statewide 4q01 PUDF available by **regions** in order to make the cost more affordable to hospitals, businesses, and the individual consumer. To view the list of regions, go to <http://www.thcic.state.tx.us/RegionalFiles.htm>. The cost for each 4q01 regional PUDF is \$200 for participating hospitals and \$400 for all other purchasers (plus shipping).

The PUDF order form is available at <http://www.thcic.state.tx.us/DataRequestForm.htm> or by calling Sandra Martin at 512-482-3312.

Order the 2002 PUDF at a Discount

THCIC will offer discounts for purchasers who wish to buy all four quarters of the 2002 PUDF data. Purchasers must complete the order form, a signed User's Agreement, and payment for the complete 2002 data by February 15, 2003. THCIC will then mail out each quarter of data to the purchaser as it becomes available. Discounts will not be offered after February 15th or for purchases of individual quarters. The PUDF discounted price for all four quarters of 2002 for participating hospitals is \$1600 (plus shipping) and for all other purchasers is \$3200 (plus shipping).

Helpful Numbers

Questions/Problems	Contact Person	Phone Number
Compliance Issues	Dee Shaw	(512) 482-3318

Council Media Plans	Priscilla Boston	(512) 482-3316
Data submission	Ann Shelton	(972) 766-6311
Data corrections/certification	Help Desk	(888) 308-4953
Hospitalization Reports	Sylvia Cook	(512) 482-3323
Statistical Methods	Zhongmin Li	(512) 482-3324
Policies/Rules	Bruce Burns	(512) 482-3320
Training/Changing Liaisons	Terry Salazar	(512) 482-3322

Reminders and Deadlines

The complete hospital discharge data schedule may be downloaded from
<http://www.thcic.state.tx.us/hospitals/schedule/schedule.htm>

- 12/1/02 – Last day to submit 3q02 claims
- 12/1/02 – Last day to submit the 1q02 certification letter/comments
- 12/1/02 – Hospital will receive/download the 2q02 certification file
- 12/6/02 – Council meeting in Austin
- 12/10/02 – Hospital Training in Austin
- 1/15/03 – Last day to submit corrections to 2q02 certification file
- 2/1/03 – Last day to submit 3q02 claims corrections (without a fee)