Texas Health Care Information Collection - THCIC
Health Facilities Numbered Letter, Volume 25 Number 2
April 11, 2022

Please share with all staff working with the THCIC data collection efforts.

SSN Unknown Value

Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 421, requires all reporting facilities to report each patient's Social Security Number (SSN) to THCIC.

THCIC allows for the use of "999999999" for SSNs only in certain circumstances:
- newborns whose SSN is unknown
- foreigners who do not have social security numbers
- patients who cannot provide social security numbers.

Facilities are expected to report valid SSNs at all other times.

THCIC discovered an increase in the use of the social security number unknown value "999999999" instead of the required SSN.

Enforcement of patients social security numbers may be implimented by THCIC in the near future.

Self-Pay Data Requirements

Facilities are required to report data to THCIC regardless of how payment for services were made to the facility.

This includes all **Self-Pay** data.

PUDF Order Form Updates

THCIC has updated the Public Use Data File (PUDF) order forms for cost clarity and are effective immediately. The version date on the updated forms is 20220328.

THCIC System Changes

HCPCS Code Ambulance Modifiers
Ambulance HCPCS Modifier Codes have been added to the list of procedure code modifiers. They will be present in the System13 modifiers drop-down list when an Ambulance HCPCS Code is selected. They will not be present when a non-Ambulance HCPCS Code is selected. When an Ambulance Modifier is specified for a non-Ambulance Code, audit ID 680, 681, 682, or 683 will be triggered.

Reason for Visit
"Reason for Visit" for Outpatient **Professional** Claims has been completely revamped. That field will no longer be displayed. It will no longer be reported on the FER/HCR reports. It will no longer be audited or collected via File Submission.

This is valid for claims with a statement period thru date on or after January 1, 2022. However, "**Reason for Visit**" for **Outpatient Institutional claims is still required** and will now receive an error message if not submitted.

Technical changes for developers: (Share with your IT or software vendor) (Error codes 733 and 785)

5.1 For Audit ID =733, Status="Out/I", Audit Message="Invalid Reason for Visit Code", change the Audit Description from "Reason for Visit Code is a required field, if visit is unscheduled, and must contain a valid ICD code." to "Reason for Visit Code must contain a valid ICD code."

5.2 Create Audit 785 with Status="Out/I ", Audit Message="Missing Reason for Visit Code", Audit Description="Reason for Visit Code is a required field.", and Audit Severity="Error". Audit 785 triggers in the following situation:

- The claim is Outpatient-Institutional (ED or non-ED)

- The Reason for Visit Code is blank/missing

- Statement To (Through) Date is on or after January 1, 2022

See updated Appendices document at:
https://www.dshs.texas.gov/thcic/hospitals/5010_InpatientandOutpatientAppendices.pdf

5.3 Remove the "Reason for Visit" field from Outpatient Professional web entry for claims with a Statement To (Through) Date on or after January 1, 2022.

5.4 Remove the "Reason for Visit" from Outpatient Professional Frequency of Errors reports when the report only includes claims from quarters in which Reason for Visit was not collected.

5.5 Stop collecting "Reason for Visit" from the HI*ZZ segment in Outpatient Professional 837 files for claims with a Statement To (Through) Date on or after January 1, 2022.

HCPCS Discontinued Codes
Based on claim statement period thru date, discontinued HCPCS codes cannot be manually entered and are not available in the System13 HCPCS code drop-down list. Discontinued HCPCS cannot be included in submitted files. Audit ID 672 is triggered when a discontinued HCPCS code is submitted.

Questions may be emailed to THCIC at thcichelp@dshs.texas.gov

Upcoming Due Dates

Activity	Q3 2021	Q4 2021
Cutoff for initial submission	~~12/1/2021~~	~~3/1/2022~~
Cutoff for corrections (Free)	~~2/1/2022~~	5/2/2022
Facilities retrieve certification files	~~3/1/2022~~	6/1/2022
Cutoff for corrections at the time of certification (Associated Fees)	~~4/1/2022~~	7/1/2022
Certification/comments due	4/15/2022	7/15/2022

A schedule of **all** due dates may be found at:
http://www.dshs.texas.gov/THCIC/datareportingschedule.shtm

Videos for Troubleshooting
System13 has created several You Tube videos covering several topics on THCIC data reporting and data errors.

Allowed File Upload formats

Did You Know?

- **Provider Primary Contacts** must always keep their Logins active. Failure to log in at least every 60 days to reset your password may cause a temporary deactivation of your account for security purposes.

- A new **FER** (Frequency of Error Report) should always be generated after data corrections have been made to ensure no errors were overlooked.

- A **Summary Report** should always be generated and reviewed each time data are submitted, and again after data corrections and before the certification phase begins.

- Your quarterly **certification "comments"** are **PUBLICLY** released as written. Use caution. You should **never** provide physician or patient identifying information in a certification comment.

- All Data Manager and Data Certifier login passwords MUST be reset every 60 days in our system and must never be shared.

- **Emailing** of **Personal Identifying Information (PII)** or **Sensitive Personal Information (SPI)**, even if the email is encrypted, may not be adequately protected by all systems the data may pass through.

   Always contact the recipient first to inquire if emailing this type of information is acceptable.

- The **"Accept as is"** function in the data correction functionality **does not** correct an error. It only clears the notification of all the errors in

the claim itself. The errors still count against the total accuracy rate in the **FER** unless it is corrected through the Correction Tab, or by submitting a corrected claim batch file through the system.

THCIC Training

THCIC provides free Webinar trainings on the data reporting processes that are required of all Texas hospitals, ASCs, and FEMCs.

Postings for Webinar dates may be viewed at:
http://www.dshs.texas.gov/thcic/Training.shtm

Signing up for training is limitless and refresher training is encouraged.

THCIC highly recommends and encourages all facility staff involved with the THCIC state data reporting to sign up for training.

To attend the Webinar training(s), please send inquiries to:
thcichelp@dshs.texas.gov.

For help or general questions on Submission, Correction, and Certification please contact THCIC at: thcichelp@dshs.texas.gov

How to Reach Us

System13, Inc. (in Virginia)
Web site: https://thcic.system13.com

System13 Helpdesk
Monday-Friday, 8:00a – 5:00p (Central Time)
Phone: (888) 308-4953 or (434) 977-0000
Email: thcichelp@system13.com

THCIC (in Austin)
Web site: www.dshs.texas.gov/thcic

Main phone: (512) 776-7261
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Past Newsletters
https://dshs.texas.gov/thcic/Texas-Health-Care-Information-Collection-Numbered-Letters/

Links to Forms and Documents
Patient Notification of Data Collection Form –
http://www.dshs.texas.gov/thcic/Patient-Notification-of-Data-Collection.pdf

Provider Contact Update Form -
https://www.dshs.texas.gov/thcic/hospitals/FacilityInformationRequest.pdf

No Quarterly Data to Report Form -
https://dshs.texas.gov/thcic/hospitals/NoDataToReport.pdf

Current Provider Contact List –
https://dshs.texas.gov/thcic/hospitals/FacilityList.xls

Appendices Document –
https://www.dshs.texas.gov/thcic/hospitals/5010_InpatientandOutpatientAppendices.pdf

Contains:
- Country Codes
- Default Values
- Race and Ethnicity documents
- Revenue Code Groupings used for Encounter File and PUDF
- Audit IDs and Audit Messages
- Payer Source Coding Guide
- Key Data Elements for matching INPATIENT claims
- Key Data Elements for matching OUTPATIENT claims

Data Reporting Schedule –
https://www.dshs.texas.gov/THCIC/datareportingschedule.shtm

Inpatient Reporting Requirements -
https://www.dshs.texas.gov/thcic/hospitals/TechReqSpec5010_Inpatient_THCIC837.pdf

Outpatient and Emergency Department Reporting Requirements -
https://www.dshs.texas.gov/thcic/OutpatientFacilities/TechReqSpec5010_Outpatient_THCIC837.pdf

HCPCS Codes -
https://dshs.texas.gov/thcic/OutpatientFacilities/HCPCS-Code-worksheet-for-2021.xls