



Texas Health Care Information Council

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Hospital Numbered Letter Volume 6 Number 6

THCIC Hit by State Budget Cut September 1, 1995 – August 31, 2003

HB2292 (available on-line at www.capitol.state.tx.us), passed by the Legislature during May and now signed into law by Governor Perry, abolishes the Texas Health Care Information Council as a state agency and moves its “power and duties” to the new Department of State Health Services. The official transition timeline will be known after December 1, 2003, at which time the Executive Commissioner of Health & Human Services is required to submit an action plan to the Governor and Legislature, including timelines.

What does this mean to Texas hospitals? It means hospitals are still required by State law (Chapter 108, Health and Safety Code) to report inpatient discharges to the State just as they have been doing since 1998. Many questions about the future of the program have yet to be answered; however, we know that THCIC’s hospital discharge data program will continue and that we will do everything possible to make the transition almost invisible to those of you who are reporting data to the State.

Although the details are still being worked out for the transitional “change in ownership”, THCIC does not anticipate any delay in production. THCIC will keep hospitals updated as more information becomes available.

Amendments to HDD Rules Approved by Board

THCIC’s Board voted for adoption of the amendments to the Hospital Discharge Data Rules on June 6, 2003. Most of the proposed amendments that were published in the *Texas Register* on March 21, 2003 were adopted. The Council anticipates the adopted version to be published in the June 27, 2003 edition of the *Texas Register*.

The adopted version of the amendments had some changes from the proposed version for §1301.19 (c)(1 & 2) and §1301.19(e)(1-11).

In Section 1301.19 (c) (1 & 2), the proposed 5 digit codes for Race and Ethnicity were withdrawn; therefore, the current code set will continue to be used. The *Hospital Procedure and Technical Specifications Manual* is being updated to reflect this change and is anticipated to be available on the THCIC web site by June 30th.

RACE Codes

**Loop - 2010BA or Loop 2010CA,
Data Segment - DMG05**

- 1 = American Indian/Eskimo/Aleut
- 2 = Asian or Pacific Islander
- 3 = Black
- 4 = White
- 5 = Other race

ETHNICITY Codes

**Loop – 2300
Data Segment – NTE02**

- 1 = Hispanic or Latino origin
- 2 = Not of Hispanic or Latino origin

In Section 1301.19(e)(1-11), the ANSI Loop and Data segment location language was removed as a result of comments to the proposed text.

The proposed text can be viewed on page 32 of the PDF document (*28 TexReg 2451*) on the *Texas Register* Website page <http://texinfo.library.unt.edu/texasregister/pdf/2003/0321is.pdf> or at <http://texinfo.library.unt.edu/texasregister/html/2003/mar-21/PROPOSED/25.HEALTH%20SERVICES.html#90>

If you have questions concerning the Hospital Discharge Data amendments or the rules, contact Dr. Bruce Burns at the Council (512.482.3320 or by e-mail at Bruce.Burns@THCIC.STATE.TX.US).

2nd Quarter PUDF Release

The Public Use Data File for second quarter 2002 will be available this week and will be sent to those users who have requested it. The file can be purchased for \$500 by participating hospitals and for \$1000 by all other users. The file includes records for over 683,000 inpatients discharged by 430 hospitals during April, May, and June of 2002.

THIN Helpdesk

The Texas Health Information Network (THIN) has requested that hospitals experiencing THCIC data submission problems contact the THIN Helpdesk at 972.766.5480.

CCS Helpdesk

Commonwealth Clinical Systems (CCS) would like to remind hospitals that have had a change in THCIC ID number (usually due to a change in the hospital's Tax ID number) that they must contact the CCS Helpdesk for a new password to gain access to the data under the new THCIC ID. Hospitals may contact the CCS Helpdesk at 888.308.4953.

4th quarter 2002 Certification File

All Texas hospitals that submitted 4th quarter 2002 discharge data should have received their 4q02 Certification Files by June 6, 2003. The Certification File, once uploaded into the CertView software, allows a hospital to review their data, print a certification letter, and create certification comments. The deadline for making any corrections to the 4q02 certification file is July 15, 2003. Corrections received after July 15th will be rejected.

The 4q02 certification letter must be received by THCIC by September 1, 2003. Fax submissions are acceptable. 4q02 certification comments, due the same day, must be created using the CertView software and saving it in ASCII format. The ASCII file may then be copied to a diskette for mailing to Commonwealth Clinical Systems (CCS) in Charlottesville, VA or uploaded by modem to CCS. Additional instructions may be found at <http://www.comclin.net/thcic/commentinstr.doc> or by contacting the CCS Helpdesk at 888.308.4953.

Incorrect Information on the Certification Letter

The certification letters hospitals must submit to THCIC are generated through the CertView software. CertView is updated quarterly with the hospital certifier information for each certification period. The newest version should be downloaded for each certification quarter to insure that the certification letter is as accurate as possible.

The CertView software may be downloaded at <http://www.comclin.net/diana/>.

Hospital Checks and Balances

On occasion, THCIC has received calls from hospital staffers saying that the Certification file they received “only contained part of the claims they submitted”. Unfortunately, by the time the hospitals receive their Certification files, any corrections made to that file generates a fee to the hospital.

There are ways for hospitals to confirm their claim submission totals prior to receiving the Certification file. First is the initial data submission to THIN. All hospitals receive a **rEDI Link Blue Acceptance Response Report** once the data is transmitted. This report will notify the submitter if the data was accepted or rejected and the total number of claims submitted and accepted. If a hospital doesn't receive the Response Report, the submitter should contact the THIN Helpdesk at 972.766.5480.

Once the data has been submitted and accepted at THIN, it is transmitted to CCS for processing. Within a week of submission, but usually after just a couple of days, the hospital primary contact will receive notification of a **Frequency of Error (FER)** report in their electronic mailbox (or receive the information on diskette). The FER report will confirm the total number of claims submitted, broken down by month, in addition to alerting the hospital of claims in error. Keep in mind that claims in error may not be able to be processed to be included in the certification file (another reason for missing certification claims). If a hospital doesn't receive the FER report, its liaison should contact the CCS Helpdesk at 888.308.4953.

So, remember ... two reports are needed for hospitals to confirm that the number of claims submitted to THCIC was the number of claims received by THCIC.

Reminders and Deadlines

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

- 6/18/03 - Hospital Training in Austin, contact Terry at 512-482-3322
- 7/15/03 – Last day to make corrections to the 4q02 certification file
- 8/01/03 – Last day to submit corrections (without a fee) for 1q03 data