



# Texas Health Care Information Council

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## 1999 Data Available *Information*

THCIC proudly released the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 1999 Public Use Data File (PUDF) on July 9, 2001 achieving the first full year of Texas hospitalization data now available to the public. Orders have been mailed out to pre-purchasers. To order the THCIC PUDF, logon to the THCIC web site at [www.thcic.state.tx.us](http://www.thcic.state.tx.us) and scroll to the bottom of the homepage. Download forms and procedure instructions.

- The 1999 Texas Hospital Referral Region reports will be released by the Council in mid-August. Individual hospital performance is not reported in this first set of reports. The reports will be posted on the THCIC web site.
- By mid-November 2001, THCIC anticipates releasing all four quarters of the 2000 PUDF. **THCIC strongly advises that analyses be conducted on the full year of data (to avoid seasonal variations), so plan on purchasing all 4 quarters of data.** Reporting hospitals benefit from a significant reduction in the price of the data.

## Loss of Exemption *Information/Operation/Administration*

Recently, several hospitals that were previously exempt from reporting inpatient discharge data have been sent notices for *loss of exemption*. This was due to the recent outcome of the 2000 US Census Bureau report. Loss of exemption notices

was faxed to eleven (11) hospitals between July 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.

According to Chapter 108 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, a “rural” provider is not required to provide inpatient discharge data to THCIC. The criteria to meet “rural provider” status is:

- A provider located in a county that has a population estimated by the US Census Bureau to be not more than 35,000; or
- A provider located in a county that has a population estimated by the US Census Bureau to be more than 35,000, but that does not have more than 100 licensed beds and is not located in an **area that is delineated as an urbanized area (this is defined by the US Census Bureau as an area populated of more than 2,500)**; and
- A provider is not a state-owned hospital or a hospital that is managed or directly or indirectly owned by an individual, association, partnership, corporation or other legal entity that owns or manages one or more other hospitals.

## New Release of CertView *Information/Operation*

There will be a new release (August 1, 2001) of the Certview software (Build 2001b) to use for certifying your 4th quarter 2000 data. You will be able to download the file from the THCIC website on August 1st. You can identify this release in that the screen color will be red.

This release is a "maintenance" release in that the reference files are being updated. The files that are being updated are the files

that contain the ICD9 reference data and your provider data.

## Use Certview to Create Your Comments

### *Information/Operation*

Commonwealth continues to receive comments files that cannot be identified by the computer system. This is usually caused when a word processing software is used to change or create the comments. There is "header" information at the top of your comments that must stay exactly as it is. Often this information is accidentally changed resulting in unidentifiable comments. Please use the Certview software to create your comments. This way we can ensure that the comments are identifiable.

## Data Corrections Software

### *Information*

The zip file that you download from your mailbox contains error claims and reports resulting from the audits that were run on your data. This file is imported into the Data Corrections Software in order for you to locate and correct errors. The Data Correction Software utilizes a Microsoft Access database called Claims.mdb for storage. Although it may look like a shortcut, please do not try to manipulate the Claims.mdb file directly using MS-Access. The edit processing system at Commonwealth expects the Data Corrections Software to place certain data elements in specific locations. Manipulation of the data can corrupt the file, which will cause some or all of your corrections to reject and not be accepted into the system.

## COMPASS 21 Physician Identifiers Not Accepted

### *Information/Operation*

The Medicaid office at the Texas Department of Health has issued new identifiers to all Texas physicians for billing purposes. This identifier is sometimes being referred to as a "license" number for Medicaid billing purposes. This identifier is for Medicaid billing only. THCIC has no plans to accept this identifier. THCIC accepts the physician's license number that was assigned by the relevant State licensing board or the physician's UPIN (assigned by Medicare).

## Change in Data Collection

### *Information*

Effective with processing of in-patient services delivered in 2001, THCIC will no longer audit or collect the four data elements that contain the identifiers and names for the "Other-1" and "Other-2" practitioners.

These four data elements will be collected for all services delivered during calendar year 2000. That means the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2000 certification file that you will receive in a few weeks is the last quarter for which you have to submit and certify these four data elements. Beginning with 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2001, THCIC will cease editing those data elements and will not return them in the certification files.

You do not need to change your systems. THCIC will ignore any data that is placed in those four fields.

## Houston-Galveston Area Hospitals

### *Information*

If your hospital is located in an area that was affected by flooding and your ability to fulfill reporting requirements will be

impacted, please notify THCIC by fax (512-453-2757) or e-mail ([dee.shaw@thcic.state.tx.us](mailto:dee.shaw@thcic.state.tx.us)) regarding the nature of your problem. Please include the THCIC ID # of the requesting hospital(s).

### Error and Certification Files *Information/Operations*

All CD-ROMs and diskettes mailed to hospitals from Commonwealth Clinical Systems (CCS) are labeled with the hospital's name. The CD-ROM/diskettes usually contain hospital specific error files or certification files that are encrypted with a password. If your facility receives a CD-

ROM or diskette belonging to another facility, please contact the THCIC HelpDesk at 888-308-4953 for instruction immediately.

### CCS Address Change *Information*

Commonwealth Clinical Systems (THCIC branch) has a new mailing address.

Commonwealth Clinical Systems  
Attn: THCIC  
1648 State Farm Blvd.  
Charlottesville, VA 22911

### Upcoming Meetings or Training

- **HIS TAC meeting:** August 9, 2001 @ 10:00 a.m.
- **QM TAC meeting:** August 20, 2001 @ 9:30 a.m.

*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

- 7/10/01 – Last day to submit changes to 3q00 certification file
- 8/1/01 – 3q00 Certification letters and comments due
- 8/1/01 – Hospitals to received 4q00 certification file
- 9/1/01 – Last day to submit 2q01 claims
- 9/7/01 – Last day to submit changes to 4q00 certification file
- 10/1/01 – 4q00 Certification letters and comments due

**Questions?**

Phone: (888) 308-4953 Fax (804) 979-1047  
Email: [THCIChelp@comclin.net](mailto:THCIChelp@comclin.net)