Texas Health Care Information Council

THCIC Transition

As you might be aware, THCIC's funding was reduced substantially during the last Legislative session. Considerable innovation and flexibility are required to make sure that neither the hospital discharge data nor the HMO/HEDIS data collection programs are placed in jeopardy during the period leading to the creation of the **Department of State Health Services** sometime in the spring of 2004.

THCIC is working with the Health & Human Services Commission and the Texas Department of Health to implement a transition plan wherein each of these programs is continued, and without disruptions that might impact any of the stakeholders. THCIC's business manager (Laura Farmer) and program experts (Dee Shaw, Bruce Burns, and Sylvia Cook) became TDH employees on November 1st and are now a part of the **Center for Health Statistics (CHS)** department under Mike Gilliam. Jim Loyd will remain as the Council's Executive Director through December 31st.

The Council has not given-up its policy-making authority, powers, duties, and functions. However, it is expected that the changes that occur during November-December, 2003, will enable TDH to provide the THCIC programs with better operational support than before. Staff from HHSC, THCIC, and TDH are working hard to make sure that the on-going transition takes place with minimal disruption and that the viability of the programs is maintained. Data integrity and quality operations will continue.

**Our staff will be moving to new offices within TDH (under CHS) effective the week of December 15th. Please refer to the THCIC web site (www.thcic.state.tx.us) for updates on staff phone and fax numbers and a new mailing address.

Toll Free Number at TDH

The **Center for Health Statistics (CHS)** now has a toll free number. The number can only be dialed from Texas and is 1-866-239-7279.

Hospital Data Submitters Needed for 837 Pilot

THCIC is seeking hospitals to participate in the pilot for the submission, correction, and certification of the THCIC 837 format. Pilot hospitals will be asked to run a "mini" file through the complete submission – correction – certification process during the first months of 2004, with the goal of completing the pilot by the end of March. Hospitals wishing to participate should contact Dee Shaw by e-mail at dee.shaw@thcic.state.tx.us. Please provide the facility name, address, city, licensed bed size, a contact person, phone number, fax number, e-mail address, and how you generally submit your data (e.g., directly through your Information Systems department, using an in house system with a vendor, or through a submitting agent (vendor or clearinghouse or a parent hospital network)).

Audit Messages 856 and 864

On October 1, 2003 THCIC had its contractors change the internal format for data being passed to Commonwealth Clinical Systems (CCS). During this transition phase two programming errors occurred, one at THIN and one at CCS. The following audit messages were sent back to hospitals "Error 856: Patient Status is required" and "Error 864: SSN is required - None present".

THIN initiated a program that caused claims with Patient Status codes of 62, 63 and 64 to have the codes blanked. The altered data was passed on to CCS. Once CCS processed the data, claims that had these patient status codes (blanked by THIN) were marked as Error 856.

1. For hospitals that had more than 50 claims with the 856 Error message, the error data file is being regenerated and the hospitals will receive a replacement error data file.

2. For those hospitals that had 49 or fewer claims with the 856 Error message and <u>are using the Data Correction Software</u> provided by the THCIC, mark these claims "Accept as is" and include them in the upload file back to CCS. When the corrected claim comes from THIN, it will overlay the errant claim and if other errors exist, they will be returned to the primary contact person. The Pull Report or Hardcopy report identifies the patient control numbers for the claims that are required to be marked "Accept as is".

3. For those hospitals that had 49 or fewer claims with the 856 Error message and <u>are **not** using the Data Correction Software</u>, the hospital's corrected error file and reports will be rerun, the original claim will be overlaid, and any additional errors will be returned in the error claim file and reports.

Regarding "Error 864: SSN is required - None present", CCS implemented a change in the audit logic that caused the patients with a Social Security Number (SSN) of "Blank" or "999999999" to be marked with Error 864.

1. For those hospitals that had more than 50 claims with the 864 Error message, the error data file is being regenerated and the hospitals will receive another error data file.

2. For those hospitals that had 49 or fewer claims with the 864 Error message and <u>are using the Data Correction Software</u> provided by the THCIC, mark these claims "Accept as is" and include them in the upload file back to CCS. When the corrected claim comes from THIN, it will overlay the errant claim and if other errors exist, they will be returned to the primary contact person. The Pull Report or Hardcopy report identifies the patient control numbers for the claims that are required to be marked "Accept as is".

3. For those hospitals that had 49 or fewer claims with the 864 Error message and are **not** <u>using the Data Correction Software</u>, the hospital's corrected error file and reports will be rerun, the original claim will be overlaid, and any additional errors will be returned in the error claim file and reports.

The production schedule has been adjusted to provide additional time for these correction. Below is the modified schedule for addressing these two issues.

Key Activity	Q1-03	Q2-03	Q3-03	Q4-03	Q1-04	Q2-04
Cutoff for initial submission	6/1/03	9/1/03	12/1/03	3/1/04	6/1/04	9/1/04
Cutoff for corrections	8/1/03	11/1/03	2/1/04	4/1/04	8/15/04	11/1/04
Hospitals retrieve certification files	9/1/03	12/15/03	3/1/04	5/1/04	9/15/04	12/1/04
Cutoff for corrections at time of certification	10/15/03	1/25/04	4/15/04	6/1/04	11/1/04	1/15/05
Final encounter available to hospitals	11/1/03	2/10/04	5/1/04	6/15/04	11/15/04	2/1/05
Certification letters and comments due	12/1/03	3/1/04	6/1/04	9/1/04	12/15/04	3/1/05

Important Phone Numbers

Texas Health Information Network (THIN)
   THIN Helpdesk – 972-766-5480
   Sherri Kelly – 972-766-8706
   Ann Shelton – 972-766-6311

Commonwealth Clinical Systems (CCS)
   THCIC Helpdesk – 888-308-4953 or THCICHelp@comclin.net

Reminders and Deadlines

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

- 12/1/03 – Last day to submit 3q03 data without penalty
- 12/1/03 – 1q03 Certification Letter due
- 12/15/03 – Hospitals to received 2q03 certification file
- 12/15/03 – 12/19/03 – THCIC staff moves to CHS.

Happy Thanksgiving from the staff at THCIC