Texas Health Care Information Council

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Amendments to the Hospital Discharge Data Rules Posted

Amendments to the rules were posted in the *Texas Register* on March 21, 2003 and can be obtained at the following website http://texinfo.library.unt.edu/texasregister/pdf/2003/0321is.pdf. The amendments are located on pages 28 *TexReg* 2451 through 2466. The comment period ends April 21, 2003.

The amendments modify the language of the Hospital Discharge Data rules to encompass the change in format to ANSI X12N Form 837 Institutional Claim Guide as required by HIPAA. The format is modified slightly to include the following data elements, which are not included with the 837 Institutional Claim:

Data Element	Loop	Data Segment Location
Race	2010BA or 2010CA	DMG05-3
Ethnicity	2300	NTE02
Additional E-codes	2300	HI04-HI12

The Race code and the additional E-code data segments are considered as "Not Used" data segment fields in the ANSI X12N Form 837 Institutional Claim Guide, but are used in the ANSI X12N Form 837 Health Care Service Data Reporting Guide.

The Council's Health Information Systems Technical Advisory Committee and the Board's Hospital Discharge Data Committee have reviewed and recommended that these data elements be collected in the above named locations.

Technical Specifications Manual, Version 9

On March 28, 2003, THCIC released Version 9 of the Hospital Procedures and Technical Specification manual. The changes to the documents are noted in the front of the manual. Most of the changes are regarding matching the usage requirements in Section 6.12 to the table Section 6.11. This manual may be downloaded from the THCIC web site at: http://www.thcic.state.tx.us/hospitals/Tech_Requirements_Specifications.zip.

3M Releases Version 20 of the APR-DRG Grouper

3M has updated their All Patient Refined – Diagnosis Related Grouper (APR-DRG) and the Council will be looking to modify its systems to accommodate version 20 APR-DRG with the first quarter discharges for Council selected years (hospitals will be notified prior to each

implementation). 3M has made some substantial changes to this application program, including definitional changes and changing the number of base APR-DRGs.

Twenty-four (24) new base APR-DRGs and 65 base APD-DRGs are removed and the 144 base APR-DRGs have major modifications to their definitions. Some of the changes reclassify some the APR-DRGs. Newborn MDC 15 criteria is redefined and MDC 21 (Injuries), MDC 24 (HIV) and MDC 25 (multiple trauma) have assignment definitions redefined. All of these changes may modify the look and categorization of your hospitals data.

Version 15 and version 20 are not comparable, therefore in order to make comparisons or analyze historical data and trends a hospital will need to use the ICD9 code mapping software to run the older data through the Version 20 APR-DRG.

Version 20 of the APR-DRG will require interface changes to utilize all of the updates. Additional fields are used to accommodate weights and trims.

Additional information will be presented as the Council receives the updates from 3M.

FTP Capabilities are Now Available at THIN

If you have large data files to upload to the THIN you may want to investigate this option? In other word if you spend a lot of computer and phone time uploading your data to THIN, this may alleviate that situation for you.

FTP (File Transfer Protocol) is a client-server protocol that allows a user on one computer to transfer files to and from another computer over the Internet. FTP is an industry standard protocol that allows for the transmission of data between systems of varying types using an Internet connection.

THIN has announced the implementation of Internet FTP file submission as an option for submitting claims and THCIC data.   If you are interested in this please contact THIN at (972) 766-5480 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (CT) or E-mail **-** thin@bcbstx.com.

Following are the requirements for utilizing this transmission option.

Requirements:
* FTP client package is necessary.
* **PGP** encryption is **MANDATORY**. THIN will not accept unencrypted files and the only method currently supported is PGP. PGP provides 128 bit encryption, which is the strongest available on the market today.
* You must provide your public key to THIN.
* THIN will provide you with their public key to be used for decrypting the response files.
* You will continue to use your existing THIN Submitter/Logon ID and password.

THCIC 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
Policies/Rules	Bruce Burns	(512) 482-3320
Training/Changing Liaisons	Terry Salazar	(512) 482-3322

Please note that the THCIC fax number is (512) 453-2757.

Reminders and Deadlines

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

- 4/15/03 ....Last day to submit changes during certification of Qtr 3 '02 data
- 5/1/03 ....Last day to submit corrections (without a fee) for 4q02 claims
- 6/1/03 ....3q02 certification letter due
- 6/1/03 ....Last day to submit 1q03 claims
- 6/1/03 ....Hospital to receive the 4q02 certification file