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Hospital Numbered Letter Volume 9 Number1
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Revised *Indicators of Inpatient Care in Texas Hospitals, 2003* to be Released

The annual *Indicators of Inpatient Care in Texas Hospitals*, a report on the performance by Texas hospitals on measures of quality in 2003 was released in September. After the release it was found that patients transferred to rehabilitation hospitals and some long-term care facilities were inadvertently excluded from the calculation. The mortality indicators, the only indicators affected by the omission, were re-calculated and hospitals completed their review of the revised indicators in December. The revised report will be released on the THCIC website on Monday, January 9.

Hospital Discharge Data Submission, Correction, and Certification Training Session

The next training session for submission, correction, and certification of THCIC data is scheduled for *Friday, March 10, 2006, from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm*.

The session will be held in Austin at the Department of State Health Services, 1100 W. 49th Street, Room K-100. If you plan to attend please contact Tiffany Overton at Tiffany.Overton@dshs.state.tx.us, 512-458-7111 x 2352, and provide the following information about yourself and your facility.

THCIC ID   _____
Hospital/Organization _____
City _____
Registrant Name _____
Title _____
Phone Number _____
E-mail Address _____

You can attend one or all of them the training sessions. The PowerPoint presentations will be on the THCIC website http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/thcic/hospitals/HospitalReportingRequirements.shtm. Please print these presentations and bring them with you to the session. The tentative schedule follows:

  9:00 Payer Source Data
  9:15 Upload and Download of Data Using the Secured Server
 10:15 Data Submission and KeyClaim Software
 11:00 Data Correction, DCS Software
 12:00 Lunch
  1:00 Data Certification, CertView Software
  2:15 Software Demonstrations

SB 872, 79th Texas Legislature

Senate Bill 872, 79th Texas Legislature (SB 872) affects "niche hospitals," physicians and DSHS, primarily. If you have questions, concerns or issues with this bill please contact your State Senator or State Representative.

A synopsis of the bill:

1. New language was added to Chapter 162.052 Occupations Code that requires a physician to notify the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) (*Division of Regulatory Services*) of any ownership interest held by the physician in a niche hospital.
2. New language was added to Chapter 96, Health and Safety Code. Occupations Code that a physician must notify patients in writing that there is an option of using an alternative health care facility, when the physician refers the patient to a "niche hospital" when the physician or a family member of the physician has an ownership interest in the "niche hospital". Otherwise it is considered unprofessional conduct.
3. DSHS must conduct a study to evaluate;
   a. the number of "niche hospitals" currently in operation
   b. the number of "niche hospitals" under construction or in planning phase of construction;
   c. the location of each "niche hospital";
   d. the financial impact of "niche hospitals" on general hospitals;
   e. the referral patterns of physicians with an ownership interest in "niche hospitals"; and
   f. the range of services "niche hospitals" provide;
4. New definitions were added to Chapter 96, Health and Safety Code and established "The Advisory Panel on Health Care Associated Infections"
5. **THCIC is required to produce a report using public use data that provides information for review and analysis by HHSC relating to:**
   a. **services provided by "niche hospitals"; and**
   b. **services that are provided by a physician with an ownership interest in the "niche hospital."**

SB 872 defines "Niche hospital"

(2)   "Niche hospital" means a hospital that:
   (A)   classifies at least two-thirds of the hospital 's Medicare patients or, if data is available, all patients:
      (i)   in not more than two major diagnosis related groups; or
      (ii)   in surgical diagnosis-related groups;
   (B)   specializes in one or more of the following areas:
      (i)   cardiac;
      (ii)   orthopedics;
      (iii)   surgery; or
      (iv)   women 's health; and
   (C)   is not:
      (i)   a public hospital;
      (ii)   a hospital for which the majority of inpatient claims are for major diagnosis-related groups relating to rehabilitation, psychiatry, alcohol and drug treatment, or children or newborns; or

(iii)   a hospital with fewer than 10 claims per bed per year.

House Bill 7, 79th Texas Legislature

House Bill 7, 79th Texas Legislature (HB 7) moved the Texas Workers Compensation Commission activities to the Texas Department of Insurance, Office of Injured Employee Counsel. **The bill did grant the authority to the Office of Injured Employee Counsel access to all data that THCIC collects** (Sec. 404.111. ACCESS TO INFORMATION). If you have questions, concerns or issues with this bill please contact your State Senator or State Representative.

2004 PUDF Release

Texas Health Care Information Collection (THCIC) announces the release of the 2004 Public Use Data File (PUDF) on December 22, 2005.

The data files for 2004 include 260 data fields in a base data file and 13 data fields in a detailed charges file. Data files for earlier years include only 105 data fields. Information on these additional data fields is included in the User Manual, available at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/THCIC/Hospitals/UserManual.pdf>. The files for 2004 include the following:

First quarter, 446 hospitals:
    Base data   715,238 records
    Charges   11,224,522 records
Second quarter, 455 hospitals:
    Base data   696,199 records
    Charges   10,941,539 records
Third quarter, 455 hospitals:
    Base data   703,413 records
    Charges   10,942,371records
Fourth quarter, 453 hospitals:
    Base data   703,610 records
    Charges   10,979,239 records

The PUDF contains data on hospital inpatient discharges and includes:

- Patient demographic data - including age group, sex, race and ethnicity
- Geographic data - including the patient's zip code
- Diagnoses and procedures
- Primary and secondary sources of payment - including detailed charges

The Texas PUDF is one of the largest sources of hospital discharge data in the U.S. It can be used for:

- Studying and improving health care services - including monitoring patient quality and outcomes
- Strategic planning - including comparative analyses and market assessment
- Marketing and business development - including program and product line planning

2005 PUDF

Pre-purchase the 2005 PUDF. Release dates are as follows:
1q05 – March 2006
2q05 – June 2006
3q05 – Sept 2006
4q05 – Dec 2006

Order form and Data User Agreement may be downloaded at:
http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/thcic/Hospitals/HospitalData.shtm.

Notification – Source of Payment Data Field

During a quality review of 1st quarter 2005 data, staff found that some payer name fields
contained names of individuals, which may lead to **patient identification**. If the source for
payment is an individual (e.g. patient or a relative to the patient), "**SELF PAY**" should be
entered in the payer name field and "**SELF**" should be entered in the payer ID field. A person's
name should not be used in either the primary or secondary payer name fields.

Important Phone Numbers
Commonwealth Clinical Systems (CCS)
        THCIC Helpdesk – 888-308-4953 or THCICHelp@comclin.net
        CCS web site – www.thcichelp.com (Please note that this is a new Web site for the
                                THCIC help desk.)
        HyperTerminal Phone Number – (434) 297-0367 (For Data Submission, Corrections and
                                Uploading Certification Comments)
        FTP address – ftp.comclin.com
        THCIC web site – www.dshs.state.tx.us/thcic
DSHS-Center for Health Statistics – 512-458-7261
THCIC Staff – 512-458-7111

Bruce Burns	extension 6431	Rules and policy issues, 837 format issues
Sylvia Cook	extension 6438	Hospital reports, data use
Dee Roes	extension 3374	Hospital compliance, data sales
Tiffany Overton	extension 2352	Hospital training (submission, correction, and certification)
Ron Weiss	extension 6453	
THCIC fax – 512-458-7740		

Reminders and Deadlines
The hospital discharge data schedule may be downloaded from
http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/THCIC/hospitals/schedule.shtm.

- ❖ 1/15/06 – **2q05** certification corrections must be submitted by this date
- ❖ 3/1/06 – **2q05** certification letter must be received by THCIC by this date
- ❖ 3/1/06 – Hospitals to retrieve the **3q05** certification file from mailbox at CCS
- ❖ 3/1/06 – **4q05** initial data submission, no later than date
- ❖ 3/10/06 – Hospital training in Austin