TEXAS Department of State Health Services

Hospital Numbered Letter Volume 9 Number 6
September 29, 2006

Indicators of Inpatient Care in Texas Hospitals, 2004 to be Released

THCIC will release the annual report on Texas hospitals on October 3, 2006. The report is based on methodology developed by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). The indicators include three distinct types of measures:

Volume indicators look at the number of inpatient procedures performed at a hospital. The procedures measured are those for which a link between the number of procedures performed and the outcome has been demonstrated.
Mortality indicators present risk-adjusted mortality rates for select medical procedures and conditions.
Utilization indicators provide risk-adjusted rates for the use of certain procedures about which questions have been raised about appropriate use.

The hospital performance report and searchable database based on 2004 will be available on the DSHS/THCIC website on October 3.

Release of Third Quarter 2005 Public Use Data File (PUDF)

THCIC will ship the Third Quarter 2005 PUDF early next week to those who have purchased the data. Those wishing to purchase the PUDF may download the order form and "Data Use Agreement" at http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/thcic/Hospitals/HospitalData.shtm.

Certification Letters
Hospitals must print out the quarterly certification letter using the CertView Software after importing the encounter/certification file into this program. Beginning with the 1q06 certification process, THCIC will no longer accept the "generic" certification letter or "white-out" copies.

Instructions for "Certification" are on the THCIC web site at
http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/THCIC/Hospitals/CertManual.doc.

If the "pre-printed" certification letter has incorrect contact information, the hospital should update THCIC with the correct information prior to submitting the certification letter. Hospitals should use the form located at
http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/THCIC/hospitals/HospitalInformationRequest.doc for submitting updates.

Certview Software Update

An update to CertView, Version 2.3, corrects a problem that was found in the C01 Certification Summary Report. The error caused the report to show all state values not equal to 'FC' or blank as valid in-state codes. With the correction, the valid codes 'FC' and 'XX' are now correctly interpreted. Valid codes for Canadian provinces are correctly interpreted as out-of-country codes. The report now displays the total number of blanks and all other invalid codes in the field.

The information below will be posted on the THCICHelp downloads website http://www.thcichelp.com/Support.htm#Downloads when the update is released September __. The update can be downloaded and installed in one of two ways:

1. Full Installation:
   A complete installation that requires you to uninstall any earlier version of CertView.
   Do not delete the folder C:\Program Files\Certview\).

2. Executable Only:
   For users who already have CertView version 2.2 installed. This does not require you to uninstall and reinstall CertView.
   Download the file to the CertView directory. The pathname will be:
   C:\Program Files\CertView\CertView.exe.

Increase in Commonwealth's Charges for Services

Commonwealth's charges for services increased by 3%, effective September 1. The new rates are:

    Hourly programming charge--$87.55
    Rate for corrections during certification--$87.55
    Rate for recreating certification files--$342

Hospital Discharge Data Training Session

The next training session for submission, correction, and certification of THCIC data is scheduled for *Friday, October 13, 2006, from 9:00 am – 2:00 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 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

Important Phone Numbers

Commonwealth Clinical Systems (CCS)
 THCIC Helpdesk – 888-308-4953 or THCICHelp@comclin.net
 CCS web site – www.thcichelp.com
 HyperTerminal Phone Number – 434-297-0367 (For Data Submission, Corrections and Uploading Certification Comments)
 Secured Web Page – https://sys1.comclin.com/thcic/
 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
Bryan Shepherd	extension 6453	Hospital reports
Dee Roes	extension 3374	Hospital compliance, data sales
Tiffany Overton	extension 2352	Hospital training (submission, correction, and certification)

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.

- ❖ 11/1/2006 – Cutoff for 2q06 corrections
- ❖ 12/1/2006 - 1q06 Certification Letters due
- ❖ 12/1/2006 – 3q06 data submission due
- ❖ 12/1/2006 – Hospitals to begin review of 2q06 certification files