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### THCIC to begin collecting outpatient data

Senate Bill 1731, passed in the last legislative session, provided funding for THCIC to begin collecting outpatient surgical and radiological procedures from hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, and free-standing imaging centers. The program expects to begin collecting this additional data from hospitals in about a year and to expand the data collection to ambulatory surgical centers and free-standing imaging centers. The program expects the outpatient data collection process to be similar to the inpatient data collection process.

THCIC will be mailing out a letter to all Texas hospital and ambulatory surgical center CEO's in the next few weeks requesting a primary contact for the outpatient collection effort. Those primary contacts will be informed of the outpatient collection processes and sent all notifications on any stakeholder meetings.

### Timetable for release of the PDI report on children's hospitals

THCIC expects to make the report on children's hospitals available to the hospitals on the secure website for final review by October 5. The report is currently scheduled for public release by October 19. Hospitals will be notified of the release date prior to the public release.

### Indicators of Inpatient Care in Texas Hospitals to be released

The report, including data for 2002 through 2005, will be released on the THCIC website on Monday, October 1. Hospitals completed their review of the report on July 12.

### Collection of Present on Admission (POA) Indicators

THCIC expects to begin collecting Diagnosis Present on Admission indicators from Texas hospitals beginning in 2008. Rules for the submission of this additional data have been proposed by the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and are published in the September 7, 2007 *Texas Register* (32 TexReg 6030)

<http://www.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/pdf/backview/0907/0907prop.pdf>. The proposed rules require all hospitals to submit the POA indicators for all diagnosis codes for all patients.

Comments on the proposed rules can be submitted until close of business October 8, 2007. After the program's response to the comments, HHSC will approve the rules for final publication. This is expected to occur in early December. The rules will be enforced 90 days after final publication in the *Texas Register*. The Present on Admission indicators are expected to be reported beginning in 2008. The quality of the data collected will be reviewed before the indicators are included in the Public Use Data File or used for public reporting.

After HHSC approval for final publication, the specifications for submission of the Diagnosis Present on Admission indicators will be added to the Technical Specifications Manual.

**New report available to hospitals in CertView**

When you download your data you will receive a notice to download an updated CertView software program. This new software will contain the new report.

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9/11/07, New Certview software is **REQUIRED** from [www.thcichelp.com](http://www.thcichelp.com).

1. Download your quarterly data, save it to your desktop!
2. Uninstall any current version of the CertView software.
3. Download/install Certview v3.0 from [www.thcichelp.com](http://www.thcichelp.com).

1st quarter 2007 Certification data will not load into prior versions of the CertView software. This new version includes an automatic unzip utility that looks for the quarterly zip file to be on your desktop.

Beginning with data for first quarter 2007 discharges, now available to hospitals for certification, a new report showing errors in the encounters is included in CertView. This provides both hospitals and THCIC with new information on data quality. It also identifies to hospitals data quality to be improved, as well as topics for additional hospital training.

**Hospitals submitting more than 9 diagnosis codes**

Data submitted by hospitals for discharges through 2003 was limited to 9 diagnosis codes and 6 procedure codes. The THCIC 837 format, used beginning with discharges in 2004, allows for the submission of up to 25 diagnosis codes and 25 procedure codes for each patient. Our analysis shows that hospitals are well on their way to submitting more than 9 diagnosis codes for their discharges. The following chart shows the progress toward submitting more diagnosis codes:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Quarter</b>	<b>Percentage of hospitals submitting more than 9 DX codes</b>
2004	1	14.35
	2	14.95
	3	15.60
	4	44.59
2005	1	46.35
	2	49.90
	3	52.82
	4	54.29
2006	1	54.28
	2	55.28
	3	57.77 (latest quarter released)

Some hospitals may not yet be able to take advantage of this opportunity because of limitations in their internal systems or the systems of their data submission vendors. Additional diagnosis

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codes will potentially affect the Severity of Illness and Risk of Mortality scores THCIC assigns to each patient record. This in turn can affect the rates THCIC publishes on hospital performance.

Fee increase at CCS

Effective September 1, 2007 Commonwealth Clinical Systems has increased their fees per the contract with THCIC for the following:

Regenerating certification files, \$352

Hourly programming charge or additional corrections/changes at certification, \$90

Hospital Discharge Data Submission, Correction and Certification Training Session

Texas Health Care Information Collection (THCIC) is offering on-line training. The requirements to receive this training on-line are a phone line and a computer with high speed Internet access. We are encouraging those who have access to a high speed Internet enabled computer to take advantage of the training on-line.

If you are interested in receiving the training on-line, please e-mail your sign up information to [tiffany.overton@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:tiffany.overton@dshs.state.tx.us)

If your establishment cannot participate in on-line training, please contact Tiffany Overton by e-mail or call (512) 458-7111 ext 2352.

The on-line training schedule is as follows:

- ❖ Friday, October 12, 2007
- ❖ Friday, November 16, 2007
- ❖ Friday, December 14, 2007

The times will be as follows:

- 9:00 AM Upload and Download of Data Secured Server
- 10:00 AM Data Correction and Data Correction Software
- 11:00 AM Data Certification and CertView Software
- 12:00 PM KeyClaim Software

Please provide the following information when signing up for training:

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

Release of the 3Q06 PUDF

The 3Q06 Public Use Data File will be mailed out to all pre-purchasers by October 5<sup>th</sup>.

Important Phone Numbers

Commonwealth Clinical Systems (CCS)

THCIC Helpdesk – 888-308-4953 or [THCICHelp@comclin.net](mailto:THCICHelp@comclin.net)

CCS web site – [www.thcichelp.com](http://www.thcichelp.com)

HyperTerminal Phone Number – 434-297-0367 (For Data Submission, Corrections and Uploading Certification Comments)

Secured Web Page – <http://www.thcichelp.com/SecureWeb.htm>

THCIC web site – [www.dshs.state.tx.us/thcic](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/thcic)

DSHS-Center for Health Statistics – 512-458-7261

**THCIC Staff** – 512-458-7111

Bruce Burns extension 6431

Sylvia Cook extension 6438

Wang-Shu Lu extension 6453

Dee Roes extension 3374

Tiffany Overton extension 2352

**THCIC fax** – 512-458-7740

Rules and policy issues, 837 format issues

Hospital reports, data use

Hospital reports and analysis

Hospital compliance, data sales, research requests

Hospital training (submission, correction, and certification)