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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 surgery centers, and free-standing imaging centers. The program expects to begin collecting this additional data from hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers in about a year. The program expects the outpatient data collection process to be similar to the inpatient data collection process. More information on this process is available on the THCIC website: www.dshs.state.tx.us/thcic/.

THCIC has requested a primary contact for the outpatient data collection effort from ambulatory surgery center CEOs. Those facilities that have not yet responded will be contacted again. THCIC will use the current primary contact listed for hospitals for the outpatient data collection effort.

Rules expected to be proposed on outpatient data

Rules are expected to be proposed by the Health and Human Services Commissioner and published in the *Texas Register* in February or early March. The rules as drafted are on the THCIC website at www.dshs.state.tx.us/thcic/OutpatientFacilities/OutpatientReportingRequirements.shtm.

The rules will be discussed at a January 15 meeting organized by the Texas Ambulatory Surgery Center Society. Additional meetings may be held if necessary.

Important Phone Numbers

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/ASC reports, data use
Wang-Shu Lu	extension 6453	Hospital/ASC reports and analysis
Dee Roes	extension 3374	Hospital/ASC compliance, data sales, research requests
Tiffany Overton	extension 2352	Hospital/ASC training (submission, correction, and certification)

THCIC fax – 512-458-7740