



Texas Health Care  
Information Council  
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## Hospital Numbered Letter Volume 3, Number 5 May 5, 2000

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### 1. Opportunities to Comment on Proposed Hospital Rules *Policy*

The comment period began April 21<sup>st</sup> on the proposed changes to THCIC's rules governing collection of hospital discharge data. The public has until May 22<sup>nd</sup> to submit written comments.

A copy of the proposed rules was published in the April 21, 2000 edition of the Texas Register, available online @ <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/pdf/backview/0421/0421prop.pdf>. Alternatively, a copy can be found on THCIC's web site at <http://www.thcic.state.tx.us/rules.htm>

Proposed changes primarily consist of

- Defining the elements included in the Public Use Data File (a summarized list was provided in the last Hospital Numbered Letter V3 N4)
- Legislatively mandated additions that add definitions, minimum cell size protection of

physician identity, the creation of a Scientific Review Panel for data requests outside the PUDF, and the inclusion of a Certification Process for hospitals.

Written comments should be directed to Jim Loyd, Executive Director, Texas Health Care Information Council, 4900 N. Lamar, Suite 3407, Austin, TX 78751. **A public forum to receive oral comments has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in room 5501 at THCIC's headquarters in the Brown Heatley Building in Austin.** *It is strongly encouraged that oral comments also be provided in writing and that comments reference specific sections or paragraphs in the proposed rules.*

### 2. Low Turnout for Statewide Certification Training *Operational*

Council staff traveled to Lubbock, Dallas, Houston, and Corpus Christi the week of April 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> to provide training to hospitals on the

specifics of the certification process. Training was also provided in Austin on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Attendance has been disappointingly low, despite repeated efforts to inform hospitals of the importance of receiving this training. To date, 41% of eligible hospitals have ensured that employees have attended certification training. Two more trainings are planned on this topic, one in San Antonio on May 5<sup>th</sup>, and one in Tyler on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

Hospital liaisons unable to attend training should familiarize themselves with written materials distributed at the certification trainings. These materials can be found on THCIC's web site @ [www.thcic.state.tx.us](http://www.thcic.state.tx.us), click on **Reporting Guideline and Edits**, then click on **Hospital Data Certification Information**.

### **3. Basic Training on Data Submission and Corrections**

*Operational*

On May 31, 2000 THCIC will host a data submission and correction training session in Austin at 4900 North Lamar, Brown Heatley Building, room 1410. The training session will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 3 p.m.

This training has been designed for hospital staff new to this responsibility. Topics covered will include: data submission requirements specific to THCIC, data flow, data acceptance or rejection responses by THCIC contractors (THIN and CCS), and use of THCIC's data correction software. **It will NOT include training on the certification process.** Registration forms are attached to the last page of this newsletter.

### **4. THCIC plans for Version 6.0 of the UB92**

*Operational*

THCIC will be prepared to accept UB-92 data submitted in version 6.0 effective July 1<sup>st</sup>. This date coincides with HCFA's reporting requirements for hospitals with skilled nursing facilities.

THCIC will continue to accept UB 92 data formatted to version 5.0 until it is no longer financially feasible to allow this practice to continue. Hospitals are assured that this will

NOT be before which time HCFA ceases to accept version 5.0, and that they will be given a 90 day warning before which time THCIC ceases to accept data in the version 5.0 format.

### **5. Notice of Future Enforcement Actions**

*Policy and Operational*

When HCFA requires acute care hospitals to submit ALL claims using the UB92 version 6.0, the Council will begin to enforce rules requiring all data elements. In other words, missing data elements will no longer be allowed and financial penalties might be invoked. Hospitals that use vendors to submit data to THCIC should inform them immediately of the Council's intention.

### **6. Hospital "Contacts" become Hospital "Liaisons"**

*Operational*

The Council has acted on a request to remove phone and fax numbers from the list of hospital contacts available on its web site. The intent of putting this list on our web site was twofold: to provide all hospital employees with a mechanism to identify their hospital's assignee to this project, and to provide contacts with a network of peers throughout the state.

We have renamed the list "THCIC Hospital Liaisons" since that is a more appropriate description of the role these individuals play for THCIC. Sharing solutions with peers is still encouraged. To this end, the Council has added a new WebBoard feature on its web site (see related article below).

### **7. THCIC Help Desk Now Sends Receipts**

*Operational*

To ensure that THCIC Hospital Liaisons (formerly called Hospital Contacts) know that their email inquiries to THCIC's Help Desk have not been lost, the Council has asked its contractor to begin sending email receipts. The receipt also serves as verification to the sender of the email, and also places the email into an issue tracking system. In the event that an inquiry is submitted by a hospital vendor, the applicable hospital's primary and alternate liaisons will also be sent email receipts.

## 8. Resources to Aid Communications

### *Operations*

As we informed you in the last issue of the Hospital Numbered Letter (V3N4) the Council is moving aggressively in the direction of electronic communications. This means that THCIC Hospital Liaisons will need to have access to the world wide web in order to efficiently obtain tools and information to fulfill their role. Hospitals with insufficient resources to ensure internet access may be eligible for funding assistance for hardware and software expenses. The Center for Rural Health Initiatives is accepting applications until June 30<sup>th</sup> for the Rural Health Facility Capitol Improvement Loan Fund. To explore eligibility or to obtain an application, contact Dave Pearson at (512) 479-8891.

Alternatively, hospitals might be eligible for grants and/or loans from the Texas Telecommunications Infrastructure Board. Call 1.999/533-8432 or visit their web site @ [www.tifb.state.tx.us](http://www.tifb.state.tx.us)

Last but not least, the Council is pleased to announce that it has kicked off its new WebBoard by creating a Hospital Data Certification Forum on its web site @ [www.thcic.state.tx.us](http://www.thcic.state.tx.us). Click on **Reporting Guidelines and Edits**, then click on **Hospital Certification**. You will need to assign yourself a password the first time you get into the forum. We STRONGLY encourage you to use this mechanism to communicate problems and solutions that emerge as your hospital goes through THCIC's certification process for the first time.

### **Questions?**

Phone: (888) 308-4953 Fax (804) 979-1047 Email: [THCIChelp@comclin.net](mailto:THCIChelp@comclin.net)

Web site: [www.thcic.state.tx.us](http://www.thcic.state.tx.us)

## Data Submission and Correction Orientation Registration

**\*\* This orientation will be held on May 31, 2000 in Austin at the Brown-Heatly building located at 4900 North Lamar in room 1410.**

### **Who Should Attend:**

This seminar addresses the submission and correction portions of discharge data. It is intended for the individuals who are responsible for the submission and correction process. This is a repeat of the sessions given by THCIC in August 1998.

Time: 9:00am - 4:00 pm.

Cost: Free

Materials needed: **Submission and Correction Manual** located on the THCIC web site at: [www.thcic.state.tx.us](http://www.thcic.state.tx.us)  
(Manual will be available effective May 26, 2000 on the web site.)

## Registration

Complete registration and return by fax **only** (512/424-6491) to the attention of Dee Shaw by noon May 30th. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Shaw at 512-424-6492.

	<b>Registrant</b>
<b>Facility Name and THCIC #</b>	
<b>Name</b>	
<b>Title</b>	
<b>Mailing Address</b>	
<b>City, State, ZIP</b>	
<b>Phone number</b>	
<b>Fax number</b>	
<b>E-mail address</b>	