



Texas Health Care Information Council

206 East 9th Street • Suite 19.140 • Austin Texas 78701 • Phone 512-482-3312 • Fax 512-453-2757 • www.thcic.state.tx.us

January 26, 2001

Hospital Numbered Letter Volume 4 Number 2

Physician Audits Go Into Effect With Certification of 1st Quarter 2000 Data

Beginning with certification of 1st quarter 2000 claims, physician license numbers will be validated for accuracy. The validation will include comparing the physician data on the record to the THCIC Practitioner file maintained by Commonwealth.

The physician identifiers will be validated as well against the first three letters of the physician's last name and the first letter of the physician's first name. Those claims that fail the audits will be reported back to the hospital via a new report, the Unidentified Physician ID Summary Report.

THCIC delayed implementing the audits for one year in order to give hospitals ample opportunity to align or develop systems and processes to report physician data accurately. "Accurately" is defined here as matching with the information provided by the State Board of Medical Examiners (state license number) or the Health Care Financing Administration (UPIN).

THCIC is aware that a "lag" time exists between when a physician is licensed or given a UPIN and when THCIC receives the information. Therefore, there may be instances when the physician is not listed in the Practitioner file. The occurrences of these instances are strongly related to the number of physicians that are practicing at the hospital and have recently received a new license number or made a change in the information that is held by the State Board of Medical Examiners.

As with most "first time" things, we expect that some hospitals will have reports that contain more errors than expected and that this first effort to correct the data may not proceed as fast as desired due to the learning curve for the hospital staff.

Attached is a Fact Sheet for the new report.

Questions?

Phone: (888) 308-4953 Fax (804) 979-1047

Email: THCIChelp@comclin.net

FACT SHEET
For new THCIC Certification Report

Unidentified Physician ID Summary Report

Report Title: Unidentified Physician ID Summary Report
 Report File Name: THNNNNNN_doc_rpt.txt
 Report Format: ASCII Text
 Effective Date: Beginning with Certification of Claim Data Submitted for 1st quarter 2000

Beginning with certification of 1st quarter 2000 claims, physician license numbers will be validated for accuracy. Those claims that fail the audits will be reported back to the hospital via the Unidentified Physician ID Summary Report.

The audits that will cause claims to appear on the report are as follows:

| | Audit Message | r e |
|---|--|--------|
| The physician qualifying code must contain "SL" or "UP" | Physician Number Qualifying Code must be SL or UP. | 922 |
| The identifier for the attending physician cannot be blank or contain zeros. | Attending physician number is required. | 914 |
| The attending physician identifier must contain either (1) a temporary license number ("TXT---", "OTH---", "RES---", "TEM---"), or (2) must contain a license number in the Practitioner Reference File (Texas license number or UPIN) and the first three letters of the physician's last name must match the first three letters of the physician's last name in the Practitioner Reference File. | Physician identifier not found in reference files for Attending Physician. | 915 |
| The operating physician identifier contains a non-blank but does not contain either (1) a temporary license number ("TXT---", "OTH---", "RES---", "TEM---"), or (2) (2) a license number in the Practitioner Reference File (Texas license number or UPIN) and the first three letters of the physician's last name must match the first three letters of the physician's last name in the Practitioner Reference File. | Physician identifier not found in reference files for Operating Physician. | 916 |
| The other physician #1 identifier contains a non-blank but does not contain either (1) a temporary license number ("TXT---", "OTH---", "RES---", "TEM---"), or (2) (2) a license number in the Practitioner Reference File (Texas license number or UPIN) and the first three letters of the physician's last name must match the first three letters of the physician's last name in the Practitioner Reference File. | Physician identifier not found in reference files for Other Physician #1. | 918 |
| The other physician #2 identifier contains a non-blank but does not contain either (1) a temporary license number ("TXT---", "OTH---", "RES---", "TEM---"), or (2) (2) a license number in the Practitioner Reference File (Texas license number or UPIN) and the first three letters of the physician's last name must match the first three letters of the physician's last name in the Practitioner Reference File. | Physician identifier not found in reference files for Other Physician #2. | 919 |

Report Field Definitions:

Patient Control Number - The hospital assigned number for a particular patient encounter.

Qual Code – The two-character code that identifies which type of license is being used to identify physician information (Values: 'UP' for UPIN or 'SL' for state license).

Physician ID – The license number (state or UPIN) of the practitioner(s) that provided care for the patient.

Physician Name – The name of the practitioner(s) that provided care for the patient.

Position – Contains a descriptor for which practitioner field(s) is in error. This does not identify whether the identifier or the name is in error. Possible values are: Attending, Operating, Doctor #1, and Doctor #2.

Sample Report

Texas Health Care Information Council
Unidentified Physician ID Summary Report
Date: 12-Jan-2001

THCIC# 999999 A Texas Hospital

| PATIENT CONTROL # | QUAL CODE | PHYSICIAN ID | PHYSICIAN NAME | | | POSITION |
|-------------------|-----------|--------------|----------------|-----|---|-----------|
| 34325000704479472 | SL | XXX15 | WENT | JOE | A | OPERATING |
| 34325000704481655 | UP | AA398 | MARSHALL | JOE | O | ATTENDING |
| | | AA398 | MARSHALL | JOE | O | OPERATING |
| | | AA398 | MARSHALL | JOE | O | DOCTOR #1 |
| 34325000704483091 | SL | GGG7 | LENNY | C | M | ATTENDING |
| | | GGG7 | LENNY | C | M | OPERATING |

Suggestions for Correcting Error Data

Errors reported in the Unidentified Physician ID Summary Report can be researched and corrected as follows:

- (1) Validate the physician's license number and first three letters of the physician's last name and the first letter of the physician's first name against the hospital's own files.
- (2) Validate the physician's license number and the first three letters of the physician's last name using either
 - a. the Bureau of Medical Examiners' website (www.bme.state.tx.us) for state license numbers, or
 - b. a UPIN website (www.cpg.mcw.edu/htbin/tx or www.accuchecker.com/UPIN/) for UPINs.

Then, based on the findings, the following options can be taken:

| Research Finding | Action | Cost |
|--|--|--------------------------|
| Either the license number and / or the physician name are not accurate in the hospital's files (relative to the websites). | Correct claim(s) and return corrected claims to Commonwealth. | No <u>Yes</u> |
| If the hospital would like assistance with correcting their claims. | Email THCICHELP for a work estimate to correct all physician problems and re-generate THCIC Certification Data** | Yes |
| The license number and the physician last name match those on the websites. | Consider adding a comment at certification similar to: <i>All physician license numbers and names have been validated with the physician and the website(s) as accurate but some remain unidentified in the THCIC Practitioner Reference Files.</i> | No |

** Steps to follow if you request assistance from Commonwealth:

1. Using the above websites, determine the correct name and/or license number.
2. Make a list of Physician Corrections using a spreadsheet (Microsoft Excel with text formatted fields [to keep leading zeros from disappearing]). The list should contain the following items
 - a. medical record number (MRN)
 - b. patient control number (PCN)
 - c. current license number
 - d. replacement license number or blank (if you want to remove the license number)
 - e. replacement physician name (if needed)
3. Email the THCIC Helpdesk (or call) with the list attached and request physician corrections and re-generation of 1st QTR 2000 Certification Data Set. (There will be a charge to the hospital for this service). You will receive a work estimate that will detail the next steps and associated charges.