



# Texas Health Care Information Council

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## Data Concerns?

THCIC encourages hospitals to contact the agency when problems or concerns relating to the discharge data program arise. Issues will be addressed by agency staff on a case-by-case basis. THCIC works with hospital vendors to resolve problems and encourages hospitals to keep their vendors apprised of issues that impact the work performed by the vendor on behalf of the hospital. Our preference is to work directly with the hospitals, thus keeping them “in the loop”. It is ultimately the responsibility of the individual hospitals to comply with THCIC’s guidelines.

## Cut-off Dates

A “hospital schedule of important dates” is available on the THCIC web site. These dates indicate when hospitals must submit, correct, and certify data, and were established before THCIC’s latest rule change in August 2001. Following the rule change in August 2001, some of the dates on the current schedule on the THCIC web site are not within the new rule guidelines. In order to get “on track” with the new rules, THCIC had to compress the schedule. Working with hospital vendors and other hospital sources, the current schedule was reviewed and generally approved in July 2001, knowing that the timeline alterations would only be temporary. (The choice at the time was to either “scrunch” timelines or certify two (2) quarters of data at the same time.)

With this said, please know that THCIC will work with any hospital that misses a **shortened** deadline (that is, outside the scope of the new rules). However, hospitals expecting to miss the scheduled deadlines must notify THCIC in writing before the deadline passes, so that THCIC can make arrangements with our vendors to accept the data.

Hospital Discharge Data Rules may be found at:

[http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pub/plsql/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac\\_view=4&ti=25&pt=16&ch=1301](http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pub/plsql/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=4&ti=25&pt=16&ch=1301)

The current hospital reporting schedule may be found at:

<http://www.thcic.state.tx.us/hospitals/schedule/schedule.htm>

## Late Claim Certification File

Beginning with the third quarter 2001 certification data, hospitals will be receiving the late claims from the prior quarter (second quarter 2001), data that were not submitted in time to create an encounter. These can be identified by sorting the data using your Certview software. Click on the Statement Covers Period Thru Date field (Stmt Period Thru) and right click over the

field and select to sort by ascending order. This will put the older claims at the beginning of the Certview record list.

If you import the THNNNNNN\_01C.cft.txt into your statistical software or a data manager program (SAS, SPSS, MSAccess, MSEXcel, Lotus, QuattroPro etc...), you will need to go to the 22<sup>nd</sup> column (Statement Covers Period Thru Date field – {Stmnt Period Thru}) and sort the date in the same manner to observe the prior quarter's data. Our observations of the data show that there are usually very few late claims.

### PUDFs Available for Purchase

The 1999 and 2000 Public Use Data Files (PUDFs) are available for purchase. The files include hospital discharges from over 400 hospitals, including patient geographic data, age group, sex, race and ethnicity, diagnoses and procedures, and sources of payment. Detailed charges data are included beginning with the third quarter 2000. For information on purchasing the PUDF, information is available on the THCIC web site at <http://www.thcic.state.tx.us> or by calling 512-482-3312.

*The release of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2001 PUDF is expected by the end of March 2002 and the availability of the 2000 PUDF by regions will be available by the end of February 2002.*

### Hospital Reports

The first comparative reports on the performance of Texas hospitals in year 2000 will be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting (tentatively set for March 8<sup>th</sup>). Once approved by the Executive Committee, THCIC will notify all hospitals included in the where to view the reports. Hospitals will then have 60 days to submit comments before the reports are made available to the public.

### Upcoming Meetings or Training

- Hospital Discharge Data Committee meeting – 3/1/02 (tentative)
- Executive Committee meeting – 3/8/02 (tentative)
- THCIC Council meeting – 3/22/02 (tentative)

*Agendas for all Technical Advisory Committee, Committee, and Council meetings are posted on the THCIC web site and the Texas Register seven days prior to the meeting date.*

### Reminders and Deadlines

- 2/6/02 - Last day to submit changes to the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2001 data
- 3/1/02 – Last day to submit the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2001 data
- 3/4/02 – 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2001 certification letters due to THCIC
- 3/8/02 – Hospitals to receive the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2001 certification file

**Questions?**

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