



# Texas Health Care Information Council

206 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street • Suite 19.140 • Austin Texas 78701 • Phone 512-482-3312 • Fax 512-453-2757 • [www.thcic.state.tx.us](http://www.thcic.state.tx.us)

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## **THCIC to Maintain Web-Based Registry of Providers Honoring Advanced Directives**

For consumers seeking providers honoring advance directives

Senate Bill 1320 - Relating to certain advance directives for medical treatment and medical treatment decisions. Signed by Governor Perry on June 20, 2003, the bill is effective immediately.

Chapter 166, Health and Safety Code, was amended by SB 1320, mandating THCIC to maintain a web-based registry of providers and groups interested in assisting the transfer of patients on whose behalf life-sustaining treatment is being sought and patients on whose behalf the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment is being sought.

Providers may sign up for the registry at [www.thcic.state.tx.us](http://www.thcic.state.tx.us). This is a passive directory and will be updated only upon input by providers.

## **837 Testing Delayed**

Texas Health Information Network (THIN) has delayed testing of the 837-claim format until mid-August. THCIC will issue a notification as to the date that testing will begin as soon as that date is confirmed. Hospitals that have scheduled to test before mid-August will be contacted to reschedule.

Reminder: Hospitals must schedule 837 testing dates through THCIC. The form to schedule testing is located at the end of the newsletter.

## **837 Pilot**

THCIC is seeking hospitals to participate in the pilot for the submission, correction, and certification of the THCIC 837-format. Hospitals wishing to participate should contact Dee Shaw by e-mail at [dee.shaw@thcic.state.tx.us](mailto:dee.shaw@thcic.state.tx.us) providing the facility name, address, city, licensed bed size, a contact person, phone number, fax number, and E-mail address.

## **Fourth Quarter 2002 Data DRG Assignment Miscue**

Some hospitals received an unusual number of claims for fourth quarter 2002 that is now being certified that was not groupable by the 3M APR-DRG software. This was caused by the Grouper expecting to find a birth weight for newborns. The problem was with the 3M software and not with the hospital data. The 3M software has now been corrected and the encounters have been rerun through the 3M software and the encounter files now contain the appropriate HCFA DRG and APR DRG values. The problem was not with the hospital data and hospitals can continue to use their existing certification data files and reports to certify their fourth quarter 2002 data. If a

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hospital would like to receive new certification data files, they may email the Commonwealth Helpdesk at [thcichelp@comclin.net](mailto:thcichelp@comclin.net) and request new fourth quarter 2002 certification files. Due to schedule constraints, all requests must be made no later than July 31st.

The deadline of September 1, 2003 remains for certification of the fourth quarter 2002 data.

### **Elimination of Paper and Diskette Distribution**

Due to budgetary reductions, THCIC will no longer be able to furnish audit reports (Frequency of Error reports [(FER)], error data, or certification data on paper or diskette. Hospitals will need to download their audit reports/error data and certification files from their mailbox at Commonwealth. The effective date for this change is November 1, 2003.

For those hospitals that may not be able to make the transition by November 1, THCIC has authorized Commonwealth to continue to provide the reports / data on paper or diskette until the hospital has been able to make the transition. There will be a charge of \$ 30.00 plus shipping per distribution. The charge will be payable directly to Commonwealth. Hospitals must contact Commonwealth at 888-308-4953 to arrange to receive data on diskette prior to November 1<sup>st</sup> in order to prevent disruption in receipt of reports, error data and certification files.

Hospitals that are receiving certification data on CD: THCIC will continue to provide certification files on CD to those hospitals that have data volumes that preclude dial-up data transfer. THCIC is working to provide Internet FTP transfer capability that will allow large volume hospitals to download data directly. At that time, THCIC will no longer offer distribution of certification data on CD. THCIC will provide 90 days notification once the Internet FTP option is available.

### **Hospitals Required to Report to THCIC**

HB2292, signed into law by Governor Perry in June, abolishes THCIC as a state agency and moves its "power and duties" to the new Department of State Health Services effective September 1, 2003. Many questions about the future of the program have yet to be answered; however, we know that THCIC's hospital discharge data program will continue and that we will do everything possible to make the transition almost invisible to those of you who are reporting data to the State.

Hospitals will still be required to report data "as usual" to THCIC.

Although the details are still being worked out for the transitional "change in ownership", THCIC does not anticipate any delay in production. THCIC will keep hospitals updated as more information becomes available.

### **THIN Helpdesk**

The Texas Health Information Network (THIN) has requested that hospitals experiencing THCIC data submission problems contact the THIN Helpdesk at 972.766.5480.

## Charges for Making Changes During Certification

The charges for correcting hospital data *during certification* changes effective September 1, 2003. Attached is the pricing guide and options available to hospitals. While we intend the guide to be self-explanatory, please do not hesitate to contact us at 512-482-3312 if you have questions.

Commonwealth will continue the current practice of quoting a cost for the work via a “work order”. Commonwealth must receive approval from THCIC on the work order in order to begin work. As before, this charge will be billed by and is payable directly to Commonwealth.

### Pricing Structure for Corrections at Certification Effective September 1, 2003

Component	Description	Charge
Recreate certification files	A base charge will be billed for each “recreation of certification files and reports” <sup>1</sup> .	\$ 332.00
Assistance with corrections (optional)	If the hospital chooses not to submit corrections through THIN using standard transactions, the hospital may request assistance from Commonwealth in making corrections. The request may be in writing or verbal. The hospital will receive a written detailed price quote (work order). The hospital must approve the work order before work can commence.	Formula: \$ 85.00 * Hrs <sup>2</sup>
Distribution media	The charge for the distribution of the certification files depends on the media. Charges for distribution are as follows: In Electronic Mailbox On Diskette On CD  NOTE: Hospitals may change the media to be used by contacting THCIC.	Free \$ 12.50 \$ 12.50
Shipping	For hospitals that receive their data on CD or diskette, the shipping charge of the carrier is passed directly to the hospital.	Pass-thru from shipping carrier
Rush order (Optional)	Certification files will be recreated and distributed based on the THCIC schedule. If hospitals want to obtain the certification files sooner than scheduled, they may request a “rush” be placed on processing and the data will be processed and mailed such that the hospital receives the new files within one to three days of acceptance of the rush order.	\$ 250.00

<sup>1</sup> “Recreation of certification files and reports” is defined as: all activities required for receiving corrections submitted through THIN in standard UB transaction format, processing through the Edits subsystem, recreating certification files and reports, and distributing the files into the hospital’s mailbox.

<sup>2</sup> Hrs – Number of person hours required to perform the tasks comprising this request.

## **Update of the Hospital Procedures and Technical Specifications Manual Delayed**

The finalization of the THCIC Hospital Procedures and Technical Specifications Manual has been delayed, due to issues discovered during internal testing of data. The THCIC staff is continuing to work with THIN and CCS regarding the testing of the data collection system.

THCIC staff discovered that the THIN translator could not accept the 5-digit race and ethnicity codes as previously published, therefore the Council will maintain the current coding structure for Race and Ethnicity:

1 = American Indian/Eskimo/ Aleut	1 = Hispanic or Latino Origin
2 = Asian or, Pacific Islander	2 = Not of Hispanic or Latino Origin
3 = Black	
4 = White	
5 = Other Race	

THCIC staff has received information from several hospitals and associations that the statement “THCIC – Not used” is confusing to programmers. It will be removed from the next update.

Another change that will appear in the update manual is the Receiver ID code. It will remain “YTHCIC” until hospitals start reporting first quarter 2004 discharges at which time the Receiver ID code will then change to “YTH837”.

Another change discovered that affects data submitters for more than one hospital is that if the facility renders the service to the patient and that is different from the Billing Provider and the Pay-to Provider, the submitter should not mix the data for different facilities in a data submission file (“Envelope” or “Function Group”). This will cause problems in identifying the data for the individual facilities rendering the services to the patients.

THCIC staff is continuing to update and test the audits for the data submission and these will be appear in the next update. Several new audits have been identified, specifically relating to the qualifier codes and missing data elements.

Other changes are presented on the Version Updates section of the manual.

### **Reminders and Deadlines**

The complete hospital discharge data schedule may be downloaded from <http://www.thcic.state.tx.us/hospitals/schedule/schedule.htm>

- 7/15/03 – Last day to make corrections to the 4q02 certification file
- 8/01/03 – Last day to submit corrections (without a fee) for 1q03 data
- 9/1/03 – 4q02 certification letter/comments due
- 9/1/03 – Last day to submit 2q03 claims
- 9/1/03 – Hospitals to receive 1q03 certification file

