What is an Outpatient Department? (Hospital/ASC)

Recently there has been a misunderstanding by hospitals when they acquire or merge with an ambulatory surgery center (ASC) that is outside of the “brick and mortar” walls of the hospital, with the hospital believing it can report the ASC data together with the hospital’s outpatient data.

NOT TRUE.

The hospitals are calling the acquired/merged ASC “an Outpatient Department of the hospital”.

Although a hospital may submit the ASC data to THCIC on behalf of the ASC, the data must remain separate from the hospital outpatient data.

THCIC collects data from licensed ASCs and Hospitals only.

A freestanding ASC, regardless of ownership, must hold an ASC state license. It may not be licensed under a hospital as it is not located within the hospital’s walls.

Services provided by other types of health facilities (clinics, freestanding Emergency Medical Care, mobile radiology) located outside of the “brick and mortar” walls of an ASC or hospital may not be reported to THCIC.

Services provided by a clinic owned or operated by a hospital, but located outside of the hospital walls, may not be reported to THCIC. The hospital may only report data on the services that occurred within the hospital walls.

THCIC collects data based on state license type and the physical location of the facility where services are provided.

An outpatient surgery department located within the physical hospital location is usually covered under the hospital license. The hospital would report this data to THCIC as hospital data.
An outpatient surgery department located outside the physical hospital location is separately licensed as an Ambulatory Surgery Center and must report its data separately from the hospital data.

**ICD-10 Implementation (Hospital/ASC)**

- The current schedule for implementing ICD-10 is October 1, 2015.
- ICD-10 codes will only be valid for discharge and service dates on or after October 1, 2015.
- The System13 Production and "Production Test" systems will allow ICD-10 codes beginning on the implementation date, October 1, 2015.
- ICD-9 codes will not be valid for discharge and service dates after September 30, 2015.

**Claim Errors (Hospital/ASC)**

Claims reported to Texas Health Care Information Collection (THCIC) are required to be **100% accurate**. THCIC has recently discovered an increase in claim errors that are not being corrected by the provider. This becomes a compliance issue for the provider when claim errors are not corrected by the scheduled timeline.

When a hospital or ambulatory surgery center (provider) reports its data to System13, Inc. (the THCIC data warehouse), System13 provides detailed information to the assigned provider primary contact regarding errors within each claim. All claim errors should and must be corrected by the provider by the scheduled timeline.

The system also permits providers to generate and print information regarding data errors after corrections have been made through a report called the “Frequency of Error Report” (FER). The FER provides information on the claim accuracy rate.

Chapter 108, Health and Safety Code, requires THCIC to establish procedures for “accurate and consistent” data and specifically states §108.009(k) data will also include patient Race and Ethnicity. THCIC may begin enforcement of claim accuracy in the very near future. Section 108.007 authorizes the DSHS to inspect documents and records of the facility’s data sources that are used to compile the data and to compel the facility to submit accurate data.

System13, Inc. audits each claim when it is received to ensure that all required information has been reported in all required data fields. Required data fields are listed in the rules 25 TAC §§421.9 and 421.67 and the Inpatient Technical Specifications Manual and the Outpatient Technical Specifications Manual posted on the THCIC website ([www.dshs.state.tx.us/thcic](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/thcic)). Failure to report the required information in a data field results in the claim being marked as an ERROR.

Common errors are:
1. missing required REVENUE code or a required HCPCS code from the list of the THCIC required codes
2. missing PROCEDURE code
3. missing/invalid patient RACE
4. missing/invalid patient ETHNICITY
5. missing/invalid code for PRESENT ON ADMISSION (POA)
6. missing PRINCIPAL DIAGNOSIS
7. missing REVENUE Code when Service Line Charges exists

A list of all claim audits may be found in the 5010 Inpatient and Outpatient Appendices document posted at

**Rural Provider Reporting, Loss of Exemption (Hospital/ASC)**

Rural hospitals and rural ambulatory surgery centers (ASCs) that were approved for exemption by THCIC for the 2014 data reporting periods are required to begin reporting the THCIC data starting with the 1st Quarter of 2015 (1q2015) services, which began on January 1, 2015.

**Hospitals** are required to report all Inpatient Discharge data, select Outpatient data, and all Emergency Department data. Select outpatient data require the reporting of invasive surgical and radiological/imaging procedures only (see required revenue codes or procedure codes associated with required service and procedure codes).

**ASCs** will be required to report invasive surgical and radiological/imaging **required revenue codes** (if using the 837 Institutional format) or **procedure codes associated with required service and procedure codes** (if using 837 Professional format) for the Outpatient data.

The THCIC recommends attending our training sessions to learn more about the data reporting requirements and processes. Information on training is located at: http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/thcic/Training.shtm.

The 1q2015 data, January 1 – March 31 2015 services, were due to be reported by June 1, 2015.

**Emergency Department Data Collection (Hospital)**

All hospitals are required to report Emergency Department (ED) events beginning with January 1, 2015 services.

All ED data with service dates between January 1, 2015 and March 31, 2015 were required to be reported to System13 no later than June 1, 2015. **This includes all billable, charity, and self-pay ED services.**

The ED data shall follow the same reporting guidelines and specifications as the Outpatient data reports with the exception of two additional data variables: 1) Point of Origin (Source of Admission), and 2) Patient Status.
Attending Physician is also required to be reported on ED claims.

ED data may be reported with the hospital’s surgical/radiological Outpatient data.

The ED data collected will consist of procedures covered by specific Revenue Codes, which include:

1. 0450 General Emergency Room;
2. 0451 Emergency Room Emergency Medical Screening and Medical Treatment EMTALA;
3. 0452 Emergency Room Services beyond EMTALA;
4. 0456 Urgent Emergency Room-- Care;
5. 0459 Other Emergency Room


**Provider Contact Information (Hospital/ASC)**

All hospitals and ASCs are required to provide THCIC with a liaison at their facility and must keep the liaison information **up-to-date** at all times.

The main THCIC liaison is referred to as the THCIC Provider Primary Contact or THCIC Data Administrator and services as the Point of Contact (POC) between THCIC (and System13) and the facility.

When an assigned THCIC Provider Primary Contact no longer works for the facility, the facility is responsible for reassigning a POC and notifying THCIC of the change. By keeping the Provider Primary Contact information up-to-date, this ensures THCIC communications and System13 notifications are received by the facility in a timely manner.

In addition to the THCIC Provider Primary Contact, the Alternate Contact and Certifier of Record information must also be kept up-to-date.

A list of current facility contacts may be viewed at: http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/thcic/hospitals/FacilitiesList.xls

If the THCIC provider contact information needs to be updated, please complete, sign, and return the THCIC contact form posted at: http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/thcic/hospitals/FacilityInformationRequest.pdf
Upcoming Due Dates (Hospital/ASC)

August 3, 2015
1q2015 data correction period ends

September 1, 2015
4q2014 data certification due
1q2015 begin certification data review
2q2015 reporting of data due

November 2, 2015
2q2015 data correction period ends

December 1, 2015
1q2015 data certification due
2q2015 begin certification data review
3q2015 reporting of data due

A schedule of all due dates may be found at
http://www.dhs.state.tx.us/THCIC/datereportingschedule.shtm.

Training Webinars (Hospital/ASC)

THCIC provides Webinar trainings, at no cost, on the data reporting processes required of all Texas hospital and ambulatory surgery centers. Postings for Webinar dates may be viewed at:
http://www.dhs.state.tx.us/thcic/hospitals/Training.shtm

Signing up for training is limitless and refresher training is encouraged.

THCIC encourages all staff involved with the THCIC state data reporting to sign up for training.

To attend the Webinar training(s), please send inquiries to: thcichelp@dshs.state.tx.us

For help or general questions on Submission, Correction, and Certification please contact:
Tiffany Overton, (512) 776-2352 or thcichelp@dshs.state.tx.us

How to Reach Us

System13 (in Virginia)

Helpdesk
Monday-Friday, 8:00a – 5:00p (Central Time)
Phone: 888-308-4953 or (434) 977-0000
Email: thcichelp@system13.com
THCIC (in Austin)
Web site – www.dshs.state.tx.us/thcic
Main phone: (512) 776-7261

Public Use Data File (PUDF) orders: (512) 776-7261

THCIC Staff
Main phone: (512) 776-7261

Bruce Burns, Program Management
Chris Aker, Legislative Liaison
Hongyun Dong, M.S., Data Analyst
George Icossipentarhos, Information Systems
Tunu Loponi, Ph.D., Data Analyst
Susan Lou, M.S., Lead Data Analyst
Wang-Shu Lu, Ph.D., Data Analyst
Tiffany Overton, Provider Training
Dee Roes, Provider Compliance

Past Newsletters


Links to Forms and Documents

Provider Contact Update Form -
http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/thcic/hospitals/FacilityInformationRequest.pdf

No Quarterly Data to Report Form -
http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/thcic/hospitals/NoDataToReport(2).pdf

Current Provider Contact List –
http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/thcic/hospitals/FacilitiesList.xls

Appendices Document –
http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/thcic/hospitals/5010InpatientandOutpatientAppendicesVer3.pdf

Contains:
Country Codes
Default Values
Race and Ethnicity documents
Revenue Code Groupings used for Encounter File and PUDF
Audit IDs and Audit Messages
Payer Source Coding Guide
Key Data Elements for matching INPATIENT claims
Key Data Elements for matching OUTPATIENT claims
Data Reporting Schedule –
http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/THCIC/datreportingschedule.shtm

Inpatient Reporting Requirements -
http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/thcic/hospitals/HospitalReportingRequirements.shtm

Includes:
WebClaim, WebCorrect, and WebCert Presentations
Inpatient Technical Specifications Manual for Electronic Data Reporting

Outpatient and Emergency Department Reporting Requirements -
http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/thcic/OutpatientFacilities/OutpatientReportingRequirements.shtm

Includes:
WebClaim, WebCorrect, and WebCert Presentations
Outpatient Technical Specifications Manual for Electronic Data Reporting
History of the Texas Health Care Information Collection Program

On September 1, 2003 the legacy state agencies; Texas Health Care Information Council (THCIC), the Texas Department of Health (TDH), the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (TCADA), and the Mental Health branch of the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation were merged to form the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) in response to the passage of HB 2292 (78th Texas Legislature). All functions of THCIC continue in the Center for Health Statistics within DSHS.

THCIC was created by Chapter 108 of the Health and Safety Code by the 74th Texas Legislature in 1995.

http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/HS/htm/HS.108.htm

Rules

Rules that apply to the Texas Health Care Information Collection are found in Chapter 421 of Title 25, Part 1 of the Texas Administrative Code.


Quality of Care Reports

Indicators of Inpatient Care in Texas Hospitals, 2012

Quality of Children’s Care in Texas Hospitals, 2012

MONAHRQ
http://monahrq.dshs.texas.gov/

Visit Us Online

www.dshs.state.tx.us/thcic