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Texas Hospital Association to Release Texas PricePoint

The Texas Hospital Association (THA) has developed **Texas PricePoint** (<http://www.txpricepoint.org/>), an online tool that includes charge data for all inpatient services and links to quality data, as well as general and contact information on all Texas hospitals. A link to **Texas PricePoint** will be added to THA's web site on the afternoon of **March 27**. A news release will include supporting statements from Texas Gov. Rick Perry and Sen. Robert Duncan (R-Lubbock), both of whom have called for greater transparency in health care. In addition, legislators and other key stakeholders will receive letters inviting them to learn more about this new consumer resource.

Indicators of Inpatient Care in Texas Hospitals, 2005

THCIC will release the *2005 Indicators of Inpatient Care* report in June 2007. Hospitals will be given the opportunity to review and comment on the report prior to its release. THCIC will mail out letters to the THCIC hospital primary contact on March 30th, providing each reporting hospital with information allowing access to a restricted website for viewing the data in the report. Only hospitals that reported 2005 data to THCIC will receive access. This site will be available for review beginning April 9, 2007 and ending June 8, 2007. Questions regarding the report may be directed to Wang-Shu Lu at 512-458-7111 ext 6453.

Hospital Discharge Data submission, Correction and Certification Training Session

Texas Health Care Information Collection (THCIC) is in the process of moving the hospital training online. We're requesting volunteers to help test this new training method. The requirements to receive this training on-line are a phone line and a Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) enabled computer.

This new training method will replace some of the training sessions that we have in Austin at the Department of State Health Services. Training sessions for hospitals that do not have DSL Internet access will still be available here at the office in Austin.

We are encouraging those who have access to a DSL enabled computer to take advantage of the training on-line. If you are interested in receiving the training on-line, please contact Tiffany Overton at tiffany.overton@dshs.state.tx.us or call (512) 458-7111 ext 2352.

This new on-line training is scheduled for April 13, 2007. The times will be as follows:

- 9:00 AM Upload and Download of Data Secured Server
- 10:00 AM Data Correction, DCS Software
- 11:00 AM Data Certification, CertView Software
- 12:00 PM KeyClaim Software

The following information is needed when signing up for training:

THCIC ID _____
 Hospital/Organization _____
 City _____
 Registrant Name _____
 Title _____
 Phone Number _____
 E-mail Address _____

Present On Admission (POA)

Congress passed Senate Bill (S. 1932) known as the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 and it required CMS to adopt rules regarding the collection of Present on Admission (POA). CMS has adopted the final rule relating to the collection of Present on Admission (POA) indicators published in the *Federal Register* on August 18, 2006 and available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/QuarterlyProviderUpdates/Downloads/CMS1488F.pdf>. CMS is required to select at least two conditions by October 1, 2007 that are (a) *high cost or high volume or both*, (b) *result in the assignment of a case to a DRG that has a higher payment when present as a secondary diagnosis*, and (c) *could reasonably have been prevented through the application of evidence-based guidelines*. Health care facilities will be required to submit the POA indicators beginning with discharges that occur on or after October 1, 2007.

The National Uniform Billing Committee passed and published in the UB-04 Manual the following POA indicator codes:

<u>Codes</u>	<u>Definitions</u>
Y	Yes
N	No
U	No information in the Record
W	Clinically Undetermined
(Unreported/Not Used)	Exempt from POA reporting

CMS has not yet published the specifications -on where the POA data element will be located. CMS -is working with the American National Standards Institutes, Accredited Standards

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Committee X12N, (ANSI ASC X12N) Standards Data Organization and the POA codes should be placed in the K3 segment as a fixed length segment. Details will be specified by the standards organizations soon. It is expected that the codes will continue to be reported in the K3 segment until the next Congressional Amendment to HIPAA changes the version of the ANSI 837 Institutional Guide . The 5010 version and later versions require the POA to be located in Loop 2300 HIxx-9 data elements (xx = 01 to 12 and repeated for the following 13th through 24th secondary diagnosis codes).

THCIC is in the process of proposing amendments to the rules, 25 TAC §§421.8 and 421.9, to allow for the collection and release of these data elements . THCIC anticipates that POA indicators for discharges occurring on or after January 1, 2008 will be reported. The Hospital Data Collection Workgroup will meet via conference call on April 5 to advise DSHS on the indicators to be collected and how they will be collected. Please contact THCIC for information on how to participate in the call.

Important Phone Numbers

Commonwealth Clinical Systems (CCS)

THCIC Helpdesk – 888-308-4953 or THCICHelp@comclin.net

CCS web site – www.thcichelp.com

HyperTerminal Phone Number – 434-297-0367 (For Data Submission, Corrections and Uploading Certification Comments)

Secured Web Page – <https://sys1.comclin.com/thcic/>

THCIC web site – www.dshs.state.tx.us/thcic

DSHS-Center for Health Statistics – 512-458-7261

THCIC Staff – 512-458-7111

Bruce Burns	extension 6431	Rules and policy issues, 837 format issues
Sylvia Cook	extension 6438	Hospital reports, data use
Wang-Shu Lu	extension 6453	Hospital reports and analysis
Dee Roes	extension 3374	Hospital compliance, data sales, research requests
Tiffany Overton	extension 2352	Hospital training (submission, correction, and certification)

THCIC fax – 512-458-7740

Reminders and Deadlines

The hospital discharge data **schedule** may be downloaded from <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/THCIC/hospitals/schedule.shtm>.

- ❖ 3/30/2007 – Mail out IQI information to hospitals
- ❖ 4/13/2007 – Hospital Training