



**Texas Health Care  
Information Council**

Two Commodore Plaza  
206 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 19.140  
Austin, TX 78701  
512-482-3312  
512-453-2757 (fax)

**Hospital Numbered Letter  
Volume 3, Number 11  
August 17, 2000**

1. **New THIN Dial-in Phone Number for Data Submission**
2. **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2000 Data Submission Due Date Change**
3. **HIPAA is Really Happening**
4. **Certification Letter Update**
5. **Deadline Reminder**
6. **Notice of Renewed Enforcement Actions**
7. **Upcoming Training**
8. **Attending Physician Identification Issues---Midwives**
9. **Upcoming Committee Meeting**

**1. New THIN Dial-in Phone Number for Data Submission**

Operational

Effective September 1, 2000, submitters to THIN using rEDI Link (the first step in reporting data to THCIC) must use the new transmission number (312) 297-7920 to submit claims. If you are in the area codes of 214, 972, or 469 you may continue to use the same number you are currently using: (972) 889-5465. This new number is an out-of-state number, which should result in lower transmission charges for many hospitals.

**2. 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2000 Data Submission Deadline Changed**

Operational

THCIC has extended the due date for 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2000 Data Submission from September 1, 2000 to October 1, 2000. The deadline was extended to allow hospitals time to switch over to the new THIN data submission number, as well as to allow hospitals to focus on meeting deadlines for completing certification of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 1999 data.

**3. HIPAA is Really Happening!**

Operational/Policy

The first in a series of health care standards intended to simplify the processing and administration of health care claims was released on August 15<sup>th</sup> in the Federal Register. This proposed federal rule, published under the Administrative Simplification Subtitle of HIPAA, "Standards for Electronic Transactions," can be viewed on the Administrative Simplification web site at: <http://aspe.hhs.gov/admsimp/final/txfin00.htm>. The Office of the Federal Register will make minor editing changes before final publication, including insertion of actual effective and compliance dates.

The health care industry has been awaiting the publication of this standard and anticipates that it will result in better service for providers, insurers and patients, as well as saving the health care system billions of dollars in administrative costs over a period of time as it is implemented.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA [P.L. 101-194]) mandates the development and implementation of standards for administrative simplification through the use of EDI. The new standards establish uniform formats for submitting electronic claims and other administrative health transactions. Currently, different insurers require the use of varied electronic and paper forms to be used by providers in filing claims. The new regulation requires that all electronic filings follow a single standardized format. While providers can still use paper forms, the simplified and cost-effective process will undoubtedly encourage increased electronic filing throughout the industry. The new standards may also increase the amount of time and other resources providers can direct toward patient care as opposed to record-keeping and other paperwork tasks.

Additional regulations are currently pending and will be published during the coming months. They include regulations dealing with making electronic data more secure, protecting the privacy of patient medical records and establishing national identification numbers for employers and health care providers. The planning and development of these HIPAA standard regulations has been the result of a successful national collaborative effort between HHS and the health care industry to thoughtfully craft and refine the regulatory language and requirements to effectively meet the needs of all key stakeholders including patients, providers and insurers.

#### **4. Certification Letter Update**

Operational

THCIC is in the process of having our address, phone and fax number listed on the Certification Letter updated. However, currently the letter lists an incorrect fax number and address. THCIC's **correct** fax number is 512-453-2757 and the correct mailing address is Two Commodore Plaza, 206 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 19.140, Austin Texas 78701. Please make sure you are sending it to our current address! We apologize for this inconvenience.

#### **5. Deadline Reminder**

Operational

The deadline for making corrections to 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 1999 discharge data is **TOMORROW**, August 18, 2000.

#### **6. Notice of Renewed Enforcement Actions**

Policy

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) will be sending letters to hospitals that were delinquent or late in submitting 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 1999 data, 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 1999 data, and 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2000 data. Deadlines are listed below:

3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 1999 data – March 1, 2000

4<sup>th</sup> quarter 1999 data – June 1, 2000

1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2000 data – June 1, 2000

If your hospital did not submit by the deadlines, your hospital administrator should be warned to expect a letter from the OAG.

#### **7. Upcoming Training**

Operational

THCIC will be hosting a training on Submission, Correction and Certification of hospital data in October 2000. More information will follow once meeting rooms have been arranged.

#### **8. Attending Physician Identification Issues---Midwives**

Operational

Nurses who become midwives receive certificates indicating that they have completed training, however their original RN license number remains the same. Therefore, if a Nurse Midwife is in charge of the patient, the Nurse's state license number/UPIN and name can be placed in the attending physician fields. This is the Council's preference.

However, if it is the hospital's policy and/or a payer's requirement to use the supervising physician's name & number on hospitalizations involving nurse midwives, then the hospital may

place the supervising physician's license number/UPIN and name in the attending physician fields (80-05 & 80-09, respectively).

### **9. Upcoming Committee Meeting**

*Policy/Operational/Technical*

The Hospital Discharge Data (HDD) Committee and Health Information Systems (HIS) Technical

Advisory Committee will hold a joint meeting on September 8, 2000 at 9:00 a.m., room 102 at 333 Guadalupe (Texas Department of Insurance Hobby Building) in Austin. The agenda will be available on THCIC's web site or the Texas Register after August 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Questions?**

Phone: (888) 308-4953 Fax (804) 979-1047 Email: [THCIChelp@comclin.net](mailto:THCIChelp@comclin.net)

Web site: [www.thcic.state.tx.us](http://www.thcic.state.tx.us)