



# Texas Health Care Information Council

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## **PUDF Comment Problems**

### *Operational*

THCIC has completed compilation of the comments from hospitals for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 1999 that will be published with the initial Public Use Data File (PUDF). After reviewing the comments, THCIC found that several hospitals had included “confidential” statements that could lead to the identity of patients. Those hospitals were notified and the comments have been replaced. THCIC would like to reemphasize the importance of confidentiality when making comments for the PUDF.

Approximately 50% of all reporting hospitals certified 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 1999 with comments. However, not all comments were submitted as directed to Commonwealth. All hospitals with missing comments were contacted and a request was made for the comments to be sent directly to THCIC in order for it to accompany the data in the PUDF. If any comments were not received, THCIC will insert the statement “Comments not received by THCIC” in the comment file for each hospital that did not respond.

Most of the hospitals missing comments thought faxing the comments was an option. Directions for submitting comments to Commonwealth are as follows: 1) upload the comments using the CertView Software or 2) download comments onto a diskette in ACSII text format. The headers THCIC ID, QUARTER #, and YEAR ##### must proceed the comments. This header is created by the CertView Software.

## **Migration to UB-92 version 6.0**

### *Operational*

Effective with services after Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2000 (yes, next month) all claims submitted to HCFA must be submitted in version 6.0. The current THCIC rules allow claims to be submitted in version 6.0 or version 5.0 after Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>. Thus hospitals may continue to submit in version 5.0 after Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>.

Planned rule changes will require hospitals to submit in the UB version that is acceptable to HCFA at the time of submission or in the UB version that was in effect at the time the service was rendered. This means that submissions of data for all of 2000 can be submitted and resubmitted in version 5.0. But all data for services in 2001 must be in version 6.0.

THCIC recommends that hospitals migrate to version 6.0 for submissions of data to THCIC and not wait for rule changes. THCIC rule changes require only a 90 day notification period prior to implementation. Hospitals may face a difficult challenge in making a migration on a short notice. 6.0 data is due June 1, 2001 for reporting 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2001.

#### Inside:

- Certification Comments
- Version 5.0 to 6.0
- Upcoming deadlines
- Suppression of Data
- PUDF sales

## **Hospital Timelines**

### *Operational*

December 1<sup>st</sup> will be one of the hospitals' busiest day of the year.

The calendar of events is as follows:

### **3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 1999 certification letters and comments are due on Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>.**

Certification letters are to be faxed to THCIC in Austin. Comments are to be sent electronically to Commonwealth via the mailbox or as an email attachment.

### **Cutoff for initial claims submission for 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2000 is Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**4<sup>th</sup> quarter 1999 certification files will be available Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>.** Files will be placed in hospitals' electronic mailboxes or mailed on CD/diskette.

## **Data Elements Not Available in First PUDF**

### *Communications*

Several data elements will not be available in the first release of the Public Use Data File (PUDF). These elements will be released as processes are put in place to assure the quality of the data. Data elements that will be made available in future releases are as follows:

- Physician identifiers will be released beginning with first quarter 2000 data.
- Hospital charge data will be released beginning with third quarter 2000 data.
- Secondary source of payment data will be released beginning with third quarter 2000 data.
- County of residence will be calculated from the patient's address

and will be available beginning with first quarter 2000 data.

- Admission source will be suppressed only if admission type is 'newborn', "4". Data users can use ICD-9-CM codes to correctly identify the clinical status of newborns.

The following data elements are suppressed to protect patient confidentiality:

- The last two digits of the ZIP code are suppressed if there are fewer than thirty patients in the ZIP code.
- The entire ZIP code and gender code are suppressed if the ICD-9-CM code indicates alcohol or drug use or an HIV diagnosis.
- Age is represented by 21 age group codes for the general patient population and 5 age group codes for the HIV and alcohol and drug use patient populations.

## **Public Use Data File Release**

### *Communications*

As noted in the last Numbered Letter, the Council's Public Use Data File (PUDF), including data from approximately 400 hospitals, will be released before Christmas. Purchasing instructions and other information about the data is available as links from page one of the THCIC web site. If you do not have access to the web, staff will fax it to you upon request. Please contact Sandra Martin at 512-482-3312 for assistance.

### **Upcoming Meetings or Training**

**Data Submission, Correction, and Certification training:** January 2001

**THCIC Board:** December 1, 2000. 1100 West 49<sup>th</sup> Street, Austin. Room M-739, 10:00 am

**HDD Committee:** December 1, 2000. 1100 West 49<sup>th</sup> Street, Austin. Room M-736, 8:00 am

*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.*

### **Upcoming Deadlines**

3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 1999 certification letters due – December 1, 2000

**3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2000** submission due – December 1, 2000

4<sup>th</sup> quarter 1999 certification files distributed – December 1, 2000

#### **Questions?**

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