



Texas Health Care Information Council

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Hospital Numbered Letter Volume 4 Number 16

New CertView Software

A new release of CERTVIEW will be available on December 27, 2001. This release is an optional download. You need to download this release if you can answer **yes** to one or more of the following questions:

1. This is your first certification.
2. You noticed that a few descriptions for ICD9 codes or HCFA DRG codes are not printing on your reports.
3. Hospital/Certifier information printed on last quarter's certification letter was incorrect.

If answered **yes** to one of the above, then you need to download this version of CERTVIEW. If you answered **no**, then downloading this version is optional.

This version, 2001d,

- a) corrects a problem where the descriptions for 3 HCFA DRG codes and a small number of ICD9 codes did not import correctly into CERTVIEW, and
- b) contains current hospital information.

The screen color will not change. The only way to identify that you have this version is by looking at the version number.

If you have any questions or need assistance with the download, please contact the Help Desk at 888-308-4953.

2nd Quarter 2001 Certification File

The 2nd quarter 2001 certification file will be released to hospitals on December 27, 2001. If you do not receive your file, contact the HelpDesk at 888-308-4953. Certification letters are due to THCIC by March 4, 2002.

New Area Code for CCS

Beginning January 16th the 804 area code for dialing Commonwealth mailboxes (downloading of encounter and error data) will be disabled. The new area code will be 434. You will need to change your HyperTerminal settings to reflect this change. Here's how to do it:

Start your HyperTerminal connection.

You should see a connect window with the phone number. If the area code is already 434 then you're good to go and can stop here. If not, click the Modify button. In the Area code field change 804 to 434 and click OK. You should now be set and the change will be saved for subsequent sessions.

We have had reports from some hospitals not being able to connect using the 434 area code. Most likely this is a problem on the hospital side of the connection. Some phone systems use an area code database which will allow only the area codes listed therein to be dialed. If you can't connect using 434

please contact your communications department and ask them to enable the 434 area code.

Hospital Rules to be Posted on the Texas Register

Amendments to the Hospital Discharge Data rules and the new rules regarding Council reports are to be published in the December 28th edition of the *Texas Register* (<http://lamb.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/index.html>) and available on THCIC's web site. Comments on the proposed rules will be accepted through the close of business on January 28, 2002.

The major points to the Hospital Discharge Data amendments are the new definitions for "Attending Physician" and "Operating or other physician". The definitions provide guidance or clarification to the hospitals regarding which physician or other health practitioner should be listed in the respective fields on the UB92 electronic format.

A second point is that only late or missing claims from one quarter prior will be accepted into the data processing system. Claims from hospitals that have a "Statement covers period through date"

from two or more quarters prior to the current reporting quarter, will not be allowed into the system.

The Council is also proposing rules regarding public information reports created solely by the Council or generated in cooperation with another agency or organization. The proposed rules also include the guidelines and timelines on when the methodology, technical documentation, the masked provider reports for review will be released, and the time allowed for commenting.

2000 PUDF Available for Purchase

The 2000 Public Use Data File (PUDF) is now available for purchase. It includes over 2.5 million records on hospital discharges in 2000 collected from over 400 hospitals, which include patient geographic data, age group, sex, race and ethnicity, diagnoses and procedures, and sources of payment. Detailed charges data were released beginning with the third quarter 2000. For information on purchasing the PUDF, information is available on the THCIC web site at <http://www.thcic.state.tx.us> or by calling 512-482-3312.

Upcoming Meetings or Training

- Quality Methods TAC and Consumer Education TAC (joint) meeting – 1/22/02

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.

Reminders and Deadlines

- 12/24/01 – 12/26/01 and 1/1/02 – THCIC offices closed
- 12/25/01 – Happy Holidays from THCIC
- 12/27/01 – Hospital to receive (retrieve) 2nd quarter 2001 certification file
- 1/4/02 – 1st quarter 2001 certification letters due to THCIC
- 1/18/02 – Last day to submit changes to the 2nd quarter 2001 certification file
- 2/6/02 - Last day to submit changes to the 3rd quarter 2001 data

Questions?

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