



# Texas Health Care Information Council

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October 18, 2002

Hospital Numbered Letter Volume 5 Number 11

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## **IQI Report Released**

The Texas Health Care Information Council (THCIC) released its first hospital specific reports on inpatient quality this month. THCIC's *Indicators of Inpatient Care in Texas Hospitals, 2000* can be viewed and downloaded from the agency's website at <http://www.thcic.state.tx.us>.

Based upon recent federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) recommendations on the best measures of inpatient quality using administrative data, THCIC's report includes risk-adjusted hospital results for 25 diagnoses and inpatient procedures. Results are shown graphically, in tables, and in a downloadable Excel file. Links to explanatory text, hospitals' comments on their performance, and AHRQ documentation are provided. Hospitals' results least likely to be influenced by random chance are identified, along with simple statements about the meaning to consumers.

The reports provide Texans with quick and easy quality checks on the hospitals in their communities. Hospitals can see how their rates compare to the other hospitals in their area, and to similar hospitals throughout the state.

Hospital results are organized alphabetically by metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), U.S. Census Bureau groupings of cities, and the suburbs around them. THCIC's website includes a map showing the counties within Texas MSAs. Some rural hospitals are not included in this report because state law does not require them to report data to the THCIC.

Based on data from more than 400 Texas hospitals representing 95% of hospital admissions in the state, the reports contain state averages and compare hospitals in four key areas: volume, mortality for inpatient conditions, mortality for inpatient procedures, and utilization.

While the number of cases (or volume) is provided for all of the conditions and procedures covered in this report, the volume section highlights more intensive, high technology, or highly complex procedures, for instance Coronary Artery Bypass Graft. Evidence suggests that hospitals performing more of these procedures may have better outcomes on these types of procedures.

## **THCIC Hospital Training**

The next hospital training session is scheduled for December 10, 2002 in Austin. It will cover the submission, correction, and certification of data. Training will be from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Texas Department of Health Board Room (Moreton Bldg.) located at 1100 W 49<sup>th</sup> St in Room M739. Please contact Terry Salazar at 512-482-3322 for a reservation. The training is free!

### Save Now On The 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2001 PUDF

THCIC has released the statewide 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2001 (3q01) Public Use Data File (PUDF).

THCIC is offering a discounted price of \$400 for participating hospitals and \$800 for all other purchasers (plus shipping) if payment is received by November 1, 2002. Purchasers must submit an order form, a signed User's Agreement, and payment by November 1, 2002 to receive the discounted rate for the statewide PUDF.

THCIC also has the statewide 3q01 PUDF available by **regions** in order to make the cost more affordable to hospitals, businesses, and the individual consumer. To view the list of regions, go to <http://www.thcic.state.tx.us/RegionalFiles.htm>. The cost for each 3q01 regional PUDF is \$200 for participating hospitals and \$400 for all other purchasers (plus shipping).

The PUDF order form is available at <http://www.thcic.state.tx.us/DataRequestForm.htm> or by calling Sandra Martin at 512-482-3312.

### Helpful Numbers

Questions/Problems	Contact Person	Phone Number
Compliance Issues	Dee Shaw	(512) 482-3318
Council Media Plans	Priscilla Boston	(512) 482-3316
Data submission	Ann Shelton	(972) 766-6311
Data corrections/certification	Help Desk	(888) 308-4953
Hospitalization Reports	Sylvia Cook	(512) 482-3323
Statistical Methods	Zhongmin Li	(512) 482-3324
Policies/Rules	Bruce Burns	(512) 482-3320
Training/Changing Liaisons	Terry Salazar	(512) 482-3322

### Reminders and Deadlines

The complete hospital discharge data schedule may be downloaded from <http://www.thcic.state.tx.us/hospitals/schedule/schedule.htm>

- 10/30/02 – Quality Methods/Consumer Education TAC joint meeting
- 11/1/02 – Executive Committee meeting in Austin
- 11/1/02 - Last day to submit corrections to 2q02 data (without a fee)
- 12/1/02 – Last day to submit 3q02 claims
- 12/1/02 – Last day to submit the 1q02 certification letter
- 12/1/02 – Hospital will receive/download the 2q02 certification file
- 12/6/02 – Council meeting in Austin
- 12/10/02 – Hospital Training in Austin
- 1/15/03 – Last day to submit corrections to 2q02 certification file