



Texas Health Care Information Council

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February 3, 2003

Hospital Numbered Letter Volume 6 Number 2

1999 - 2001 Inpatient Quality Indicator Report

THCIC is preparing to release a multiyear comparison on 25 Inpatient Quality Indicators (IQI) using the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)'s IQI software, version 2.1. Performance in the years 1999, 2000 (a repeat release), and 2001 are covered in this report. Hospitals included in the report can review how they will appear in the report beginning February 7, and can submit comments for inclusion in a section of the report during a 60-day review period ending April 7. To improve and facilitate the hospital review process, THCIC is now providing data in an Excel format. This allows hospitals to sort and analyze the data along lines of institutional interest. To better inform reviewers, THCIC also provides a column indicating whether each hospital's annual performance is significantly lower or higher than the state average rate for that year.

Be On The Lookout! On January 31st THCIC mailed out letters to the primary contact for each reporting hospital containing directions on accessing the 1999-2001 IQI report. All reporting hospitals will have access to the IQI report site beginning February 7th.

If your hospital has not received its letter by February 7th, please contact Dee Shaw at 512-482-3318 or, preferably, by e-mail at dee.shaw@thcic.state.tx.us. Access information will only be provided to the primary contact on file with THCIC or the hospital administrator.

Agency Publication

THCIC has published a book on the *Indicators of Inpatient Care in Texas Hospitals, 2000 (October 2002)*. This professionally bound 210-page report contains bar charts on 25 measures of hospital performance and provides consumers with reliable and comparable data on hospitals throughout the state. Order your copy today for \$35 (including tax and shipping) at <http://www.thcic.state.tx.us/DataRequestForm.htm> or call Sandra Martin at 512-482-3312.

Order the 2002 PUDF at a Discount

THCIC will offer discounts for purchasers who wish to buy all four quarters of the 2002 Public Use Data File (PUDF) data. Purchasers must submit the order form, a signed User's Agreement, and payment for the complete 2002 data by March 1, 2003. THCIC will then mail out each quarter of data to the purchaser as it becomes available. Discounts for the 2002 PUDF will not be offered after March 1st or for purchases of individual quarters. The PUDF discounted price for all four quarters of 2002 for participating hospitals is \$1600 (plus shipping) and for all other purchasers is \$3200 (plus shipping). Order your copy at:

<http://www.thcic.state.tx.us/DataRequestForm.htm>.

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>

- 2/21/03 – Health Information Systems TAC meeting
- 2/28/03 – THCIC Council meeting
- 2/28/03 – THCIC Appointments Committee meeting
- 2/28/03 – THCIC Hospital Discharge Data Committee meeting
- 2/28/03 – THCIC Health Plan Data Committee meeting
- 3/1/03 – 2q02 certification letters and comments due
- 3/1/03 – Hospitals receive 3q02 certification file
- 3/1/03 – 4q02 claims due