



Texas Health Care Information Council

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Indicators of Inpatient Care in Texas Hospitals, 1999-2001

On Thursday, May 29, 2003 the Texas Health Care Information Council will release to the public *Indicators of Inpatient Care in Texas Hospitals, 1999-2001*. The report again uses Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Inpatient Quality Indicator (IQI) methodology to provide a window into the quality of care provided in Texas hospitals.

The report will appear on THCIC's website much the same as it did for THCIC's release of 2000 data last fall, with 3 significant improvements. First and foremost, THCIC will provide the public with the ability to search for hospital performance data in the report, geographically (hospitals within metropolitan statistical areas [MSAs]) or by indicator. Second, three discrete years of risk-adjusted results will be included in the report, allowing consumers to begin to assess trends in each hospital's performance. Third, the charts for 2001 (only) will include confidence intervals plotted on top of each hospital's results. This allows readers to more clearly see the statistical significance of each hospital's performance in 2001. All of these improvements are the direct result of feedback THCIC received from the release last fall.

For this release, THCIC does not plan a press conference, rather the media will be alerted via a press release.

Transition to the THCIC 837 Claim Format

The Council's plan to transition to collecting data using the THCIC 837 claim format calls for THCIC to accept submissions in the UB92 version 6.0 format through the end of processing for the 4th quarter 2003 submissions. Then, beginning with the claims submitted for the 1st quarter 2004 submission, all claims will need to be in the THCIC 837 claim format. This would include any late claims with service dates in 2003.

The THCIC 837 Minimum Data Set includes some changes from the current data set. The changes include expanding the number of occurrences for diagnosis and procedure codes and adding new data elements. The additional data elements that will be required are the Patient's Country of Residence, E-codes, Occurrence Span Codes and Associated Dates, Occurrence Codes and Associated Dates, Value Codes and Associated Amounts, and Condition Codes.

There are some format presentation changes required by the THCIC 837 claim format and additional "overhead" qualifier data elements that are used to qualify (or identify the content of) other data elements.

The rules addressing the 837 transition changes will be finalized and approved at the June 6th Council meeting.

Hospital Procedures And Technical Specifications Manual Updated

The Hospital Procedures and Technical Specifications, version 9 includes the specifications for the THCIC 837 claim format.

Transition Period Processing

Hospitals may begin submitting claims in the THCIC 837 format as soon as testing is completed with THIN (summer of 2003). For those hospitals that begin submitting claims in the THCIC 837 format prior to the 2004 claim submission, those submissions will be “mapped” back into the UB92 format for processing by THIN and Commonwealth. There are three data elements that must be translated prior to being mapped back into the UB92 format. Those data elements and their mapping are as follows:

ANSI 837	UB92
Claim Type Indicator Code (See Appendix 9, Table 6)	UB92 Standard and Non-Standard Source of Payment Codes
ANSI 837 Race Codes (See Appendix 9 Table 3)	UB92 Race Codes
ANSI 837 Ethnicity Codes (See Appendix 9, Table 4)	UB92 Ethnicity Codes

THCIC 837 Claim Submission Approval

Texas Health Information Network (THIN) is scheduled to begin accepting test submissions June 23, 2003. The test will confirm that the submission is a readable THCIC 837 data file.

Submitters must have THCIC approval for a valid test in order to submit production data files.

As the test review process involves manual intervention that place limitations on the number of submissions that may be reviewed, **submitters (vendors and those hospitals that submit data to THIN) will need to schedule a date to test their THCIC 837 claim submissions.** This will allow both the submitter and THIN to avoid bottlenecks and time delays.

Submitters should complete the attached form (THCIC 837 Claim Submission Testing Request Form) and fax to Dee Shaw at (512) 453-2757. (The document may be obtained separately from Dee Shaw at Dee.Shaw@thcic.state.tx.us or (512) 482-3318).

All submitters must get their test submissions reviewed and approved prior to submitting production data.

Reminder: FTP Capabilities are Now Available at THIN

THIN has announced the implementation of Internet FTP file submission as an option for submitting claims and THCIC data. If you are interested in this please contact THIN at (972) 766-5480 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (CT) or E-mail - thin@bcbstx.com.

If your data file uploads to the THIN are consuming large amounts of time or the phone line keeps disconnecting, you may want to investigate this option.

The THIN FTP capability allows you to use the Internet to transmit your data to THIN. The FTP (File Transfer Protocol) is an industry recognized client-server protocol that allows a user on one computer to transfer files between systems of varying types.

Your data transmission will be protected by use of a private/public key encryption methodology. The requirements for utilizing this transmission option are as follows:

- You must obtain the PGP FTP client package. (**PGP** encryption is **MANDATORY**. THIN will not accept unencrypted files and the only method currently supported is PGP. PGP provides 128 bit encryption, which is the strongest available on the market today.
- You must provide your public key to THIN.
- THIN will provide you with their public key to be used for decrypting the response files.
- You will continue to use your existing THIN Submitter/Logon ID and password.

Hospital Training

The next THCIC hospital training session will be held on June 18, 2003 from 9:30am until 4:00pm. The training will be located in Austin at the Brown-Heatly Bldg, 4900 N Lamar, Room 1410. Interested hospital representatives should contact Terry Salazar at 512-482-3322 by June 13th for additional information and to register for this free training.

Reminders and Deadlines

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

- 6/1/033q02 certification letter due
- 6/1/03Last day to submit 1q03 claims
- 6/1/03Hospital to receive the 4q02 certification file
- 6/6/03.....Board & Committee meetings
- 6/18/03Hospital Training in Austin

