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Health Facilities Numbered Letter, Volume 11 Number 1

March 7, 2008

Rules for outpatient data collection to be discussed March 12

Senate Bill 1731, passed in the last legislative session, provided funding for THCIC to begin collecting **outpatient surgical and radiological procedures from hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers, and free-standing imaging centers**. The program expects the outpatient data collection process to be similar to the inpatient data collection process. The data collection system will be developed this year with testing expected to begin by the end of the year. More information on this process is available on the THCIC website: www.dshs.state.tx.us/thcic/.

Draft rules will be reviewed at a meeting of stakeholders on Wednesday, March 12, at 2:00 at the Department of State Health Services. The rules are expected to be proposed by the Health and Human Services Commissioner and published in the *Texas Register* in April. The rules, as drafted, are on the THCIC website at www.dshs.state.tx.us/thcic/OutpatientFacilities/OutpatientReportingRequirements.shtm.

If you are interested in attending the meeting on March 12, please send a request for additional information to THCIChelp@dshs.state.tx.us.

EIN vs. NPI and Rejected Data Submissions

Recently there has been an increase in "rejected" hospital data submitted to THCIC/CCS. The majority is being rejected due to **either the EIN** (Employer Identification Number) **or NPI** (National Provider Identification) **not matching** what is on file with THCIC.

Hospitals are required to provide THCIC with either an EIN or NPI for submission purposes. We use this value in the NM109 element for validation along with the THCIC ID number and the Submission Address. If all three values do not match what THCIC has on file (which was provided to THCIC by the hospital), the hospital data submission file is rejected.

History:

Until recently, all hospitals provided THCIC with their EIN. In the past nine months hospitals have begun to change that value with THCIC to reflect their NPI. Hospitals are not passing along the same changes to their software vendors or data submission vendors and the information therefore is not being changed in the data file. This causes the hospital's data file to reject. *Please note that THCIC does not have a preference as to which number, EIN or NPI, is used, as long as the number that is provided to THCIC matches what is provided in the NM109 element field.

Who changes the value in the NM109 element?

It differs with each hospital. It could be the hospital's IT department, software vendor, submission vendor or someone else. The hospital needs to research this first and make the proper accommodations prior to changing the value with THCIC.

Hospitals are making this EIN/NPI change, knowingly or not, when a "THCIC Hospital Information Contact Information Request" form is sent to THCIC. This request form asks for the EIN or NPI that the hospital will be using in the 837 file format. *Be sure you know what is used in your data file before changing this number. And if you are changing the number, be sure you are notifying your vendors.

Suggested Steps:

- Plan ahead when changing an EIN or NPI.
- THCIC is first notified. Updates to that system are made.
- CCS is then sent the update and both systems are updated with the “new” value.
- Updates can take approximately 5 working days. Data will continue to reject until all systems are synched with the same data.

Remember: A rejected file can reflect a late data submission, which can lead to a penalty.

Hospital Discharge Data Submission, Correction and Certification Training Session

Texas Health Care Information Collection (THCIC) is offering on-line training. The requirements to receive this training on-line are a phone line and a computer with high speed Internet access. We are encouraging those who have access to a high speed Internet enabled computer to take advantage of the training on-line.

If you are interested in receiving the training on-line, please e-mail your sign up information to tiffany.overton@dshs.state.tx.us

If your establishment cannot participate in on-line training, please contact Tiffany Overton by e-mail or call (512) 458-7111 ext 2352.

The on-line training schedule is as follows:

- ❖ Friday, April 11, 2008
- ❖ Friday, May 9, 2008
- ❖ Friday, June 6, 2008
- ❖ Friday, July 11, 2008

The times will be as follows:

9:00 AM	Upload and Download of Data Secured Server
10:00 AM	Data Correction and Data Correction Software
11:00 AM	Data Certification and CertView Software
12:00 PM	KeyClaim Software

Please provide the following information when signing up for training:

THCIC ID _____
 Hospital/Organization _____
 City _____
 Registrant Name _____
 Title _____
 Phone Number _____
 E-mail Address _____

Important Phone Numbers

THCIC web site – www.dshs.state.tx.us/thcic

DSHS-Center for Health Statistics – 512-458-7261

CCS web site – www.thcichelp.com

THCIC Staff – 512-458-7111

Bruce Burns extension 6431

Sylvia Cook extension 6438

Wang-Shu Lu extension 6453

Michelle Robles extension 3287

Dee Roes extension 3374

Tiffany Overton extension 2352

THCIC fax – 512-458-7740

Rules and policy issues, 837 format issues

Hospital/ASC reports, data use

Hospital/ASC reports and analysis

Project Manager

Hospital/ASC compliance, data sales, research requests

Hospital/ASC training (submission, correction, and certification)