Texas Health Care Information Council

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TO: Chief Executive Officers of Texas Hospitals

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THCIC Hospital Numbered Letter - Volume 3 Number 2

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1 Hospital Data Committee to Recommend 3 Month Delay of Data Release

At the February 17, 2000 meeting of the Hospital Discharge Data (HDD) Committee of the Council, staff recommended to 1) delay public release of first quarter data, and 2) suppress some of the payor source and revenue-related data in the first public release of hospitalization data (the first 6 quarters of hospital discharge data [1st Q '99 through 2nd Q '00]). The HDD Committee supported staff on these

recommendations and will bring the recommendations to the full Council for a decision at its next meeting in Lubbock on March 18th. The completion of the pilot project and the start of data certification by all hospitals will each be delayed.

2 THCIC Postpones March Certification Training

In light of HDD recommendations, THCIC is postponing the training sessions on "Claims Submission/Corrections and Certification" previously scheduled in cities around the state for March 6th-13th. A revised schedule will be forthcoming. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused you.

3 Update on Pilot Findings

The certification pilot has been an extremely successful stage in THCIC's hospital discharge data project. While not as smooth and trouble free as one would like, it successfully uncovered some issues worthy of concern. Three issues surfaced during the pilot for which new edits have been put in place or for which revisions have been made in the certification process. Because these issues have been addressed, hospitals not in the pilot will have a process in place to resolve these problems if they are run across.

The issues found in the pilot are as follows:
1. Discrepancy with payor source data. The discrepancy occurs when the hospital has a different number of "22" (non-standard source of payment) records than "30" (standard source of payment code) records. There should be an equal number of "22" and "30" records… a "22" record for every "30" record.
2. Construction of revenue data records. Revenue codes in the "50" (accommodations), "60" (inpatient ancillary services) and "61" (outpatient services) records should be in sequential order. Some hospitals found they had not been submitted in order. Some hospitals also found that duplicate records had been submitted.
3. Mapping of data elements from hospital internal systems to UB92. Several hospitals found that the values in some data elements had been incorrectly submitted. All the codes submitted are valid, but are not correct. No edit can be built into the system to check for these kinds of errors. Data elements in which problems have been discovered include race, ethnicity, and admission type. Hospitals are encouraged to begin reviewing their systems for these problems.

Nevertheless, THCIC feels the data quality is very good overall, especially given the fact that the data being certified is over a year old.

4 THCIC Extends Pilot for Data Certification

In response to these problems, THCIC has decided to extend the pilot an additional 30 days. Originally scheduled to be complete February 25, the pilot hospitals will be given the opportunity to complete the certification process and certify the data, and to provide physicians the opportunity to review the data and make comments. THCIC publicly thanks the pilot hospitals again for their willingness to serve as guinea pigs in this important and exciting project.

5 Plans for Migration to UB92 to Version 6.0

HCFA has surprised all of us with the release of Transmittal 1788 (check our web site) that requires use of UB92 Version 6.0 for certain claim submissions beginning in July of 2000. THCIC staff have just learned

that HCFA may be releasing yet another bulletin in March requiring universal use of the version 6.0 for all claims submissions to be effective the end of this year.

THCIC has not completed analysis of the impact of this federal requirement on THCIC's hospital project. THCIC staff expects to present options and a recommendation to the HIS Technical Advisory Committee in March.

6 TMA/THA March 3rd Event for Hospital CEOs

THCIC has been working with the Texas Medical Association and the Texas Hospital Association to make sure their members realize that the first release of hospital data is drawing near. We hope that this will help ensure that hospitals have devoted adequate resources to this part of the project and that physicians realize that the data will not include identification of physicians.

7 Is This Going to the Person Who Needs the Information?

THCIC sends the Hospital Numbered Letter to the person listed as the hospital contact. It is assumed that the information in the newsletter is disseminated by the THCIC's contact to the appropriate people within the hospital.