

WHA INFORMATION CENTER, LLC
Summary of 11/19/03 Data Submitter User Group Conference Call

Participants: Dale Gullickson (RWHC), Bob Scieszinski (Door County Memorial), Shareen Martin (St Mary's-Madison), Ellen Bassette (Beaver Dam Community Hospital), Vicki Gorsuch (Beaver Dam Community Hospital), Iris Krisch (Meriter Hospital), Kathy Wynes (Mercy-Janesville), Donna DiMola (St Mary's/Dean Ventures), Beth Malchetske (Appleton Medical Center/Theda Clark), Laura Newcomb (Mercy Health System), Gillian Schroeder (UW Hospital), Shirley O'Neil (Affinity Health System), Cathleen Sanders (Watertown Memorial), Cheryl Hoeth (Watertown Memorial), Jerry Williams (Sacred Heart Hospital), Rhonda Bloom (Sacred Heart), Christine Schuenemann (Wisconsin Health Center), LuAnn Matyas (Columbia Hospital/Sacred Heart Rehab), Sally Luehring (St Vincent), Theresa Wegner (St Vincent), Joyce Potter (Gundersen Lutheran), Michael Stempski (Aurora), Karen Miller (Hospital Sisters Health System), Kim Markum (Monroe Clinic), Sue Demo (Affinity), Sandy Bruckert (Sauk Prairie), Carrie Pottier (Door County), Joyce Stuckman (Holy Family), Kathy Lodel (Holy Family), Joe Kachelski (WHAIC), Julie Callies(WHAIC), Debbie Rickelman (WHAIC), Shannon Schumann (WHAIC).

I. Introductions

Joe Kachelski introduced staff of the WHA Information Center: Shannon Schumann-Data Analyst, Debbie Rickelman- Manager, and Julie Callies-Director.

II. Update on transition of data collection activities

WHA Information Center expects to be open for business starting January 2 for data submissions. WHA Information Center requests that submissions for 4th quarter data be as timely as possible.

WHA Information Center will be using an interim system until the end of 2004. This system will collect the same data elements and layout that BHI's system used. The only difference will be in the way the data is submitted. Fourth quarter data will be submitted to the Information Center utilizing a web-based data submission tool, not the bulletin board system that BHI used. (The file naming convention may change too; however, any changes will be communicated as we move closer to the implementation deadline). The types of files that are submitted will not change (i.e., ASCII text format, with both a carriage return and line feed at the end of each record, with file extensions of *.inp, *.edv, and *amb determining data type).

This system will be able to give immediate feedback on edits. An error summary can be run to categorize the errors.

In 2005, WHA Information Center will be implementing the permanent data collection system. This may require some slight changes to the data layout and data elements. WHA Information Center expects to give at least six months lead-time if changes need to be made.

One of WHA Information Center's goals is to reduce the amount of errors being sent back to the data submitters. For example, adjustments in how the total charges field is validated may reduce the amount of errors facilities are receiving. WHA Information Center only wants errors to return to the data submitters that require attention.

A website is under construction at this time. This website will provide updates, frequently asked questions, and other resource information. WHA Information Center will keep facilities posted when this becomes available.

Any submitter who would like to submit data in order for WHA Information Center to system test, please contact WHAInfoCenter@wha.org.

III. Training Sessions

There are three training sessions for the data submitters scheduled in December. Registration forms were sent out 11/20/03. These sessions will focus on how to submit quarterly data. User ID's and passwords will be distributed. We ask that only one representative come from the Madison area due to limited seating. The session is free of charge. Lunch will be provided.

IV. Questions

Will the Information Technology (IT) staff need to go to the December training sessions?

No. WHA Information Center request that data submitters attend this session. There will be no changes to record layout or data elements. WHA Information Center staff will provide the IP address for the web-based data submission. We will be sending specifications that concern IT professionals out the first week in December, (i.e. certificates, encryption, security, system requirements).

What difference will there be in the data submission process to WHA Information Center versus BHI?

The only difference will be that data will be submitted thru a web-based data submission tool and not a bulletin board.

How will the edits differ from BHI?

Edits are part of the submission process. The “clean” records will be accepted immediately; edited records will not (edits are displayed on screen). Corrections are completed on the same original record that was initially sent. The training session will cover this.

Since the person submitting the data may not be the person responsible for correcting errors, how will information about the errors get to the right person?

Error Summaries are part of the interim system. The content and format will be further investigated. The training session will cover this item.

Will the deadlines and/or penalties change because of the transition?

No. The deadlines and penalties for late submitters will remain the same.

Quarter	Last Day of Quarter	Data Submission Deadline	Extension Request Deadline
1	March 31	May 15	May 5
2	June 30	August 15	August 5
3	September 30	November 15	November 5
4	December 31	February 15	February 5

What effect will these have with HIPAA on accounting of disclosures?

This is a function of State Law under 153. WHA Information Center has a legal obligation under ss.153, so we will not be requesting signatures from each facility.

What clarification do you have on ICD/CPT issue? (Issue: As of October 16, 2003, facilities are required to use CPT codes on UB-92 for outpatient/ambulatory procedure services)

The interim system has the ability to accept either ICD or CPT codes. **However, you cannot submit both.** Submitting both would be considered duplicate reporting. In order to make this transition as smooth as possible, WHA Information Center will accept either or ICD or CPT codes. There is a crosswalk we will utilize to translate the codes. In the future, WHA Information Center will be looking at accepting CPT codes only to reflect standard billing regulations.

Will there be a separate group for Data Users versus the Data Submitters User Group?

WHA Information Center is looking to create a group specifically for the data users. Some time in December, we will start surveying users for what, why, how, when they use the data.

What is your responsibility as far as the reports we would get from BHI?

Part of WHA Information Center's responsibility is the dissemination of data. WHA Information Center is obligated to produce standard types of data reports and an obligation to respond to custom data reports. Data sets and Reports will be available for purchase. The public use data sets will be in same format as before.

Will WHA Information Center be charging for reports?

Yes, there will be a charge for reports. At this time, rates have not been determined.

Where do I go to get a report from several quarters ago? Do I go to BHI or WHA Information Center?

BHI will accept and fill orders thru February 2004. As of March 1, 2004, WHA Information Center will take it over. WHA Information Center will have historical data in order to fulfill requests on past data.

Will WHA Information Center be handling the physician office visit data?

No, BHI will be handling the physician office visit data.