



Update
January 20, 2006

Observation Services Move to top of Outpatient Hierarchy: As mentioned in the training sessions in October and November 2005, the outpatient place of service hierarchy will be amended to put observation (revenue codes 760 and 762 -- Wlpop place of service 3) ahead of outpatient surgery (Wlpop place of service 1). This change which was universally supported by data submitters who provided feedback, is intended to help facilities avoid edits that previously occurred when observation services were submitted along with an outpatient surgery or emergency department visit (Wlpop place of service 2) record.

Please note that this change means that, beginning with 1Q06 services, observation data must be submitted on the same timeline as inpatient, outpatient surgery and emergency department data.

Earlier today all data submitters received an e-mail about a temporary service outage for the Wlpop system while the new logic is installed and tested. We appreciate your patience.

The hierarchy change for outpatient places of service is effective with dates of service on or after January 1, 2006. The standard deadline for the first data submissions using the new place of service hierarchy is **Monday, May 15**.

Data Submitter User Group: About 30 data submitters joined us for a conference call on January 19 to discuss the place of service hierarchy, scheduled changes in Medicaid's billing requirements for outpatient therapies, potential improvements to the Wlpop error reports and other important matters affecting data submitters. A summary of the meeting discussions will soon be available on the WHA Information Center Web site under the "DSUG" tab.

3Q05 Physician Review Process: All physicians who asked to review records have now received them. Please be aware that your facility may soon receive communications from physicians related to possible errors, typically involving transposed or erroneous digits in the physician identifier.

Important Dates and Deadlines

Feb. 14: Standard deadline to submit 3Q05 Other Hospital Outpatient data and 4Q05 Inpatient, Outpatient Surgery and Emergency Department Visit data.