



Update **April 1, 2005**

A New Era in Hospital Data Collection: With the first quarter of 2005 in the history books, a significant expansion of Wisconsin hospital data collection now begins.

Our new Wlpop system will collect more types of hospital data, and more detail about each type of data. At the same time, the system provides more information (and more management options) for data submitters regarding invalid records than the previous system.

The process of transitioning to the new system began in July 2004 with the distribution of the new system specifications and data dictionary. WHA Information Center staff conducted a series of five orientation sessions at various locations around the state in October and November 2004. Throughout the process the members of the Data Submitter User Group provided guidance as we clarified and finalized the Data Submission Manual.

Facilities began submitting test data in January 2005. Approximately 130 facilities have now either submitted test data or share programming resources with a facility that has submitted test data. Some facilities, particularly those that manually enter records, may have already submitted "live" data for 1Q05. Those facilities can correct invalid records and close their quarters as they have in the past. Facilities still may submit test batches, but **test batches should be deleted before submission of a facility's live data begins.**

With the end of the first quarter, **the clock is now ticking toward the deadline** for submitting 1Q05 inpatient, ambulatory and ED visit data through Wlpop. The deadline is **Monday, May 16**. An extension until **Wednesday, June 15** is available for facilities that request an extension in writing by **Friday, May 6**.

Remember that with the addition of new outpatient data, staggered deadlines begin. The submission, edit correction, validation and affirmation phases will occur at the same point in each data cycle, but new the deadlines that apply to new outpatient data lag three months behind the deadlines that apply to inpatient, ambulatory and ED visit data. For example, August 16 is the deadline for submission of 2Q05 inpatient, ambulatory and ED visit data and the deadline for submission of new outpatient data for 1Q05. Of course, there's no penalty for early submission!

Closing Out 4Q04 Data: All 4Q04 data will continue to be processed on the old system. As the validation process plays out this month, facilities may have to access records on the old system. However, once all facilities have affirmed their 4Q04 data, the old system will no longer be accessible.

Important Dates and Deadlines

- May 2:** **Deadline for 4Q04 affirmation statements.**
- May 6:** **Deadline to request a 30-day extension for submission of 1Q05 inpatient, ambulatory and emergency department data.**
- May 16:** **Standard deadline for submission of 1Q05 inpatient, ambulatory and emergency department data.**