



Update
March 18, 2005

Look at the Calendar, not out the Window: Although it looks a lot more like Christmas than Easter outside, April 1 is just around the corner. That means our old data collection system will be sent to the WHA Information Center Museum, and the new Wlpop system will make its debut. **Are you ready for Wlpop?**

A large number of facilities sent their first Wlpop test files to us this week. We thank all those data submitters who have been diligent in completing their programming and taking the Wlpop system for a test drive.

As the test files come in, we are able to assess the degree to which our edits are functioning as intended. We are also able to identify billing and coding issues and provide guidance.

Please be aware, however, that files that do not conform to the specified layout and format may be rejected before the edits are initiated. A good way to avoid file layout and format problems is to consult the [Wlpop Data Submission Manual](#) accessible through our Web site. The Manual includes a comprehensive description of the new four-table file structure, definitions of each data element and a list of the edits that will be applied to data submissions.

The data submission deadline for 1Q05 inpatient, ambulatory and emergency department data is now less than 60 days away. Early identification of programming issues through the testing process can help ensure that facilities are in position to meet the deadline. This means that there's very little downside to submitting a test file as early as possible. It's better to become aware of programming problems earlier rather than later.

We will be following up with facilities that have not yet submitted test files in the near future to offer assistance and address any issues that may be preventing the completion of reprogramming.

Important Dates and Deadlines

Mar. 24: **Deadline to correct invalid 4Q04 records (for facilities that received an extension for 4Q04 data submission).**

May 16: **Standard deadline for submission of 1Q05 inpatient, ambulatory and emergency department data.**