



Update

October 29, 2003

As you know, a recent change in state law transferred responsibility for the collection and reporting of hospital and ambulatory surgery center data from the Bureau of Health Information (BHI) to the Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA). This document provides a brief update on the status of the transition and explains the changes that will take place in the coming months as WHA assumes these new responsibilities.

- **WHA Information Center to collect data:** WHA has created a subsidiary, WHA Information Center, LLC, to carry out its statutory responsibilities.
- **Submission of data remains mandatory:** The recent statutory changes did not affect the mandate for hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers to submit data, nor did it change the penalties for noncompliance.
- **“Business as usual” for the third quarter of 2003:** BHI will collect, process and report data from the third quarter of 2003 (July 1 – September 30, 2003). This data is due to be submitted to BHI by November 15, 2003. Standing orders for data from the third quarter will be fulfilled by BHI in early 2004.
- **WHA Information Center to collect data from the fourth quarter of 2003:** We expect to begin collecting data from the fourth quarter of 2003 (October 1 – December 31, 2003) in January 2004. The data must be submitted to the WHA Information Center by February 15, 2004. More information about the data submission process will be communicated in the next several weeks.
- **WHA Information Center will assume data reporting and production responsibilities on or about March 1, 2004:** The first routine quarterly reports (from the fourth quarter of 2003) will be released by May 15, 2004.
- **Transition planning is underway:** We’re working closely with BHI staff members to manage the details of the transition. Our mutual goal is to minimize disruption for data submitters, purchasers and users.
- **You can help: *Now more than ever it is critical that data be submitted on a timely basis.*** BHI intends to wind down its operations as soon as possible after the first of the year. BHI’s ability to close the books on the third quarter of 2003 depends on the cooperation of submitters in meeting submission deadlines and promptly responding to inquiries as the data is processed. Please respect BHI’s deadlines.

I will continue to keep you informed as the transition process unfolds. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph A. Kachelski".

Joseph A. Kachelski
Vice President
WHA Information Center