



Update
August 6, 2004

1Q04 Data Sets Available Soon: Standard 1Q04 data sets are scheduled to be produced the week of August 16. WHA Information Center will initiate the purchase process for customers that purchased 4Q03 data sets. We will assume that purchasers will want the same data sets they purchased last time. Purchasers can make any necessary changes on the form (one page only, we promise!) they will receive from us.

2Q04 Data Submission Deadline Approaching: Sixty-two facilities have submitted a total of 135,000 records for 2Q04. All facilities that have not requested an extension must submit their 2Q04 data by **Monday, August 16**. The deadline for requesting a 30-day extension is now past.

A reminder about the validation and affirmation process: After a facility closes its quarter, WHA runs various validation queries on the current quarter's data submission to (a) perform any record-level edits that were not performed at the time of submission and (b) call attention to data that needs verification because, while it is not necessarily incorrect, it is unusual in some way. An extremely high charge or an extremely long length of stay would be examples of the latter category. Facilities then review the queries and make necessary corrections.

While facilities are researching validation queries, WHA Information Center performs examines the facility's quarterly data submission as a whole to test its plausibility and consistency with historical trends. For example, significant deviations from a facility's expected payer mix, patient demographics, volume of services, etc., would be detected through this process. Again, facilities are asked to review queries resulting from this process and make necessary corrections.

Once the validation process is complete, WHA Information Center produces a profile report summarizing the facility's submission as a whole. The profile is sent along with an affirmation statement. If the profile accurately reflects the facility's submission, the facility returns the signed affirmation statement to WHA Information Center.

Beginning with 2Q04 data, WHA Information Center will include DRG volumes and charges in all profiles.

Important Dates and Deadlines

Aug. 16: Standard deadline for submission of 2Q04 data.

Sep. 13: Extended deadline for submission of 2Q04 data.