

**ADVISORY NO. 380**  
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**TOPIC:       ANSI 837 CODING NOW IN EFFECT FOR MEDICAL DATA**

On February 4, Texas Workers' Compensation announced that it would be changing the electronic data format for submitting medical bill information to TWCC to be effective on February 26, 2005. **Accordingly, all medical coding on TWCC-62s (EOBs) and all medical billing data must be submitted to TWCC in the ANSI 837 format.** This transition has been *very* rushed so there is a lot of confusion.

On Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, the TWCC-62 was first posted on the TWCC website. The website also contains the new ANSI codes at "About the Commission," under EDI Guides. There are now over 200 codes! This is a comprehensive change in the way that EOBs are now coded and in the data to be transmitted. Training will be required to learn the new coding. There will be few, if any, direct one-to-one correlations between the ECS codes and the new ANSI codes since there will be ten times as many codes under this new system. TWCC does intend to publish a cross reference between the old ECS coding and the 837 coding. That document should be available within a week.

Three weeks ago, TWCC announced its intention to use a transitional vendor to receive the old ECS format information during a carrier's transition from ECS to ANSI 837. Based upon comments from the stakeholders, they have now abandoned this process. They will require carriers (and carrier medical bill vendors) to retain the electronic data until the vendor is approved for transmission of data.

As many carriers are painfully aware, TWCC has issued some very large penalties during past audits for late filed medical data. TWCC had not formally considered the fact that carriers must timely file data, they can no longer file in the format in current use, and no carrier is currently approved to file ANSI 837 data. We have been informally advised that TWCC intends to assess no administrative violations for the data due after 2/25/2005 until the carrier is approved to file. However, on the next business day after the carrier is approved, the carrier must file all accumulated data from 2/26/2005 until the date of the approval.

The change to ANSI 837 coding is motivated by the requirement that carriers capture all pharmacy and dental charges. Previously, there has been no requirement to report this information. It is now required. More specific information about additional coding and secondary explanation codes is available on the TWCC website.

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