A Happy HIPAA New Year

Well, it's 2003, and that means we're another year closer to the implementation of HIPAA. With the official start date for one rule postponed a year, a second "final" rule likely to change again, and a third rule still unpublished, it is anyone's guess when HIPAA will be complete. Nevertheless, we offer some HIPAA highlights from 2002:

Unless you're extremely efficient, your institution has probably taken advantage of the one-year grace period to implement the Transactions and Code Sets (TCS) rule. Due to take effect last October, a general lack of institutional readiness and a very vocal constituency led to a new launch date of October 16, 2003, for those who applied for the extension.

In May, the TCS standard for an Employer Identification Number was published. Starting July 30, 2004, providers and payers must use their IRS-issued National Employer Identifier (Federal Tax Number) in connection with certain electronic transactions.

The department of Health and Human Services issued the "final" Privacy Rule in 2002. And, although it is due to take effect this April, don't be surprised if there are more changes, as the government struggles to balance patient privacy with the needs of national security.

One of the biggest changes from the proposed privacy rule was the removal of the need for providers to obtain consent prior to disclosing protected health information. Instead, providers now must ask patients to sign for receipt of a "Notice of Privacy Practices." Authorization, although simplified, will still be required for non-TPH (treatment, payment and healthcare operations) uses. Sharing protected health information between covered and non-covered entities also has been simplified. The final rule also modified business associate agreement requirements in order to account for pre-existing contracts. Additional changes loosened the rules for de-identified data in research, while, at the same time, tightened the rules for marketing.

Now, in late January, we still are waiting for the release of the final Security Rule. Due December 27, 2002, issuance of the rule was delayed "for several weeks," ostensibly to clarify some of the language in the document. Those close to HIPAA expect the delay to be somewhat longer.

For some of the best coverage of HIPAA, try www.hipaadvisory.com. Or, get it from the horse's mouth at www.cms.hhs.gov/hipaa.

Orchard's LIS Voted Top of the Class!

Understanding the difficulty of purchasing laboratory equipment, *Advance for Administrators of the Laboratory* conducted a survey with their readers asking them to rate vendors in eight different categories. As *Advance AL* stated, "It's often helpful to hear feedback from colleagues who have successfully completed an acquisition and/or built a good relationship with vendors."

Then in the November 2002 issue, *Advance AL* revealed which vendors were selected by their readers as being "the top of their class." One of the categories was Information Systems. We must have had a few of you vote, because we are pleased to inform you that Orchard Software was one of four companies that tied for Top of the Class Company. Specifically, Orchard was selected for our "user-friendly software." Our thanks to all those who voted.

In case you missed the article, other winners were Beckman Coulter for Analyzers, Beckman Coulter for Automation, Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics for Blood Banking, Fisher Healthcare for Distribution, Dade Behring and Remel tied for Microbiology, Roche Diagnostics for POC Testing, and BD for Safety. Read more about it in the November 2002 issue of *Advance AL*.

National Coverage Determinations (NCDs)

Some of the Local Medical Review Policies (LMRPs) have been superseded by National Coverage Determinations (NCDs). There may still be some LMRPs covering other areas, but for all tests addressed in the NCDs, they take precedence. If you log in to our website (www.orchardsoft.com/customer_area/login/login.asp), you may download a .PDF file (NCD read me) that includes the list of CPT codes addressed in the NCDs.

There are about 30,000 entries of CPT/ICD-9 pairs in the full file. We have created two versions of the file for download that will let you import the NCDs into Harvest LIS. One version is the full file. The second version is a much smaller file that excludes the CBCs, which are justified by nearly every diagnosis code. If you are not checking CBCs in your system,

then you may prefer to download the smaller file.

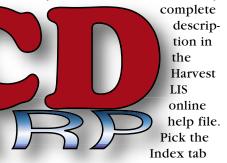Important note: We have made every effort to ensure that the information in this file is correct; however, we cannot guarantee that no mistakes were made. If any errors are identified, we will correct them and send out a notice to the members of our Harvest LIS online user group.

We can also email the files to you, if you would prefer. Send a request to Thom Franklin at thomf@orchardsoft.com, and he will send a reply with the requested files attached.

> If you log in to our website, you may download a .PDF file that includes the list of CPT codes addressed in the NCDs.

If you would like to review the procedures for importing Medical Necessity information, there is a very complete description in the Harvest LIS online help file. Pick the Index tab and scroll down to "Associating Diagnosis Codes to Order Choices."

We noticed while testing the import of these codes that order choices with multiple CPT codes are finicky about format. Don't leave any spaces because in versions of Harvest LIS prior to 5.0.2 (recently released), "80236,80237" with no spaces after the comma will not cause an import problem, but "80236, 80237" with one or more spaces after the comma will not import matches for the second code.

Techip Auto Delivery of Patient Reports

Are you finding yourself using the Deliver Finished Results function more than you want to for printing to multiple locations all the time? Why not set up rules and let Harvest LIS do the work for you? With the Rules – Result Delivery table, you can define rules for printing and faxing. The online help file can get you started. As you set up your rules, keep these tips in mind:

- Define all printers on all of the workstations. To use routing appropriately, it is important to have each printer named exactly the same way on all workstations. This is because the result delivery rules will apply when printing from the Result Delivery Log, which can be done from any workstation. In places where Harvest LIS displays lists of printers, only the name of the printer is shown.
- For shared printers, define the workstation and printer name on the printer workstation. For example, you have HP1200R shared by a workstation called WS2. You would define \\WS2\HP1200R under the

Printers in the workstation defined for auto printing.
- Set only *ONE* workstation on the Preferences Printing tab to automatically deliver results. Do not use the same workstation that you have set up as the Fax Server.
- For CC reports, the printer defined in the Personnel table for the CC'd provider will be used. If no printer is defined for that provider, the system default printer will be used.
- If you are not using Auto Print (background printing), but you do have rules defined, then when you select "Print All" or "Print Selected" in the Deliver Finished Results screen, no printer dialog will appear.

- To have Preliminary Reports automatically print, you must add an entry in the Orchard.ini file. Contact Technical Support for help setting it up.
- If the printing workstation is a departmental workstation, the severity criteria will not be evaluated. Only non-departmental printing workstations may evaluate the severity rule condition.

2003 AMA CDs

The importable 2003 HCFA ICD-9 code file is now available from the Download Center on the Orchard Software corporate website. You may log into the private client area to access the Download Center at http://www.orchardsoft.com/customer_area/login/login.asp.

If you do not already have a login to the private client area, you may create your login at http://www.orchardsoft.com/customer_area/login/newUser.asp.

Unlike previous versions of this file from HCFA, this file only contains the significant 3-digit ICD-9 codes; 3-digit codes that are not usable without the 4th and 5th digits were omitted from the file this year. The diagnosis code descriptions in this file correspond to the "short description" version obtainable from the AMA CD-ROM.

Once you have downloaded the diagnosis code file, your Harvest LIS system administrator should unzip the file and then import the codes into Harvest LIS to either update or replace your existing ICD-9 codes. Refer to the Harvest LIS online help for more information on importing codes.

If you wish to use a longer description, we advise you to obtain the ICD-9-CM code CD from the American Medical Association. You may purchase this CD from their online store (https://webstore.ama-assn.org/). Because of changes in the format of the information on the AMA CDs, you are currently unable to load the codes from the CD directly into Harvest LIS. If you have plans to purchase (or have purchased) the AMA CD, we can supply you with the files in a format that you will be able to import correctly into Harvest LIS.

Mail or fax a photocopy of the CD and/or receipt from its purchase to Orchard Software, Attention: Thom Franklin. Once we have verified your purchase, we will send you a diskette with importable versions of the files. You can then choose one of the three files to import, depending on whether or not you want the short, medium, or long descriptions.

Gearing up for 5.0.2

This photo of our Operations department was taken while many of our installers were in-house for training on the latest version of Harvest LIS. All of our installers and support personnel are now fully trained and ready to assist you during your upgrade.

Pictured from left to right:
(back row) Gordon Saager, John Fischer, Mark Jones, Thom Franklin, Matt Landolf, Ed Hougendobler; (middle row) Jason Wade, Brian Boettger, Wendy Forgey, Matt DeMougin, Robert Leonardo, Dave Bracewell, Adnan Rizvi; (front row) Dale Burrows, Nicole Carter, Gerri Nye, Robin Ades, Henry Oglesby, and Chip Rivers.

Employee Spotlight: Nicole Carter

Nicole Carter, one of our Systems Engineers, joined Orchard Software in April 2002. She just completed her first solo install last month in Smith Center, Kansas (the geographical center of the United States). Currently, she is working on her second solo install in Klamath Falls, Oregon, which marked her first time traveling out West.

Before joining Orchard Software, Nicole worked with the Department of Public Health in Decatur, Georgia, in the Virology Department performing HIV Viral Load Testing. She graduated from Clark Atlanta University.

Nicole has two younger sisters, with whom she grew up in Metropolis, Illinois (the home of Superman). When she is not setting up Harvest LIS systems, Nicole enjoys reading, shopping, cooking, and spending time with family and friends.

Produce More with Less

System Engineer Gordon Saager showing off one of Orchard's new apples. Look for Gordon in our new ad in Advance for Administrators *of the Lab.*

Tech Support Reminder

Orchard backs its Harvest LIS with the best tech support team in the industry, and they're always there and ready to help. You can reach Tech Support by dialing 800-571-5835. Regular support hours are Monday - Friday, 8:00am - 5:30pm (Indiana time*). Emergency after-hours support is 24/7.

*Indiana is one of three states that does not "spring ahead" from standard to daylight saving time or "fall back" from daylight to standard. (Arizona and Hawaii are the other two.) In 2003, Indiana time is the same as New York City until April 6. On April 6, Indiana time is then the same as Chicago until October 26, when it changes again to match New York City.

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New Feature Focus — Reference Lab Interfaces

The year 2002 was a big year for Harvest LIS reference lab interfaces. We added the reference lab module to Harvest LIS in the 2nd Quarter of 2001, and we soon started testing with both Quest and LabCorp. To the best of our knowledge, Orchard Software is currently the only company with a complete, fully-functional bi-directional interface. These bi-directional interfaces include order and demographic information, as well as complete insurance information. This provides reference labs with correct patient billing data, which allows them to return results information to the Review Results screen in Harvest LIS. Now that Harvest LIS receives results from reference labs, our clients can maintain one repository for all laboratory results.

In addition to Quest and LabCorp, we have completed interfaces with many other reference labs, from AML to OML, as well as local reference labs. We continue to work with our client base to expand our reference lab capabilities to meet your needs.

upcoming conferences...

HIMSS	San Diego, CA	Feb 9 - 13
NW Florida Lab Assoc.	Pensacola, FL	Feb 26 - Mar 1
Iowa CLMA, CLS, AABB	Council Bluffs, IA	Apr 2 - 4
Florida Coalition of PLO	Orlando, FL	TBA
Kansas City CLMA	Overland Park, KS	TBA
NE Reg. Conf & Exhibition	Boxborough, MA	Apr 8 - 9

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