

ECS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

The latest in ECS News, Technology, & Company Updates



DECEMBER 2019

Happy Holidays



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Webinars

Don't miss our next Webinar:
2019 Wrap-up (PDPM/AR Topics)

Session Date:
Friday, December 20th (1:00pm-2:00pm CST)

SIGN UP TODAY- SPACE IS LIMITED!

SIGN UP



American Data Reminders

HOLIDAY HOURS

REMINDER

American Data will be **CLOSED** on **Wednesday, December 25th** and **Wednesday, January 1st** (New Years Day).

Please call the after-hours support number if in need of **urgent** support (1-608-438-7505) on these days. Regular business hours and support line will return on the following day of closures: (Thursday, December 26th and Thursday, January 2nd).

For additional assistance, please send us an **email** with your **Name, Facility Name, Phone Number**, and the **Issue**.

ECS Updates/ Industry News

Therapy Billing Changes 2020

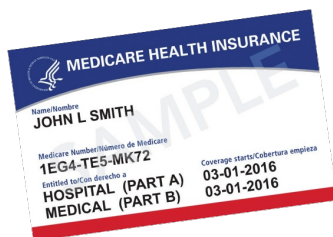
As part of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, Congress has directed CMS to establish a payment differential for services provided in whole or in part by Physical Therapy Assistants (PTA) and Occupational Therapy Assistants (OTA) on/after January 1, 2022. In preparation for this, CMS has mandated the use of **new Modifier Codes (CQ for PT and CO for OT)** that must be applied for services provided by the therapy assistants for dates of service on and after **January 1, 2020**.



For full details, please view the document [Therapy Changes for 2020.docx](#), or click the "view document" button to download.

For questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our financial department and send us an email at financial@american-data.com or call **1-800-464-9942**.

[VIEW DOCUMENT](#)



News From the Medicare Learning Network

New Medicare Card: Get Paid January 1, 2020 – Use MBIs Now

American Data Clients,

Please update your patients' records and use Medicare Beneficiary identifiers (MBIs) before other patient insurance changes arise in January.

People with Medicare are encouraged to carry their cards with them since the Social Security Number-based number was removed; if your patients do not bring their Medicare cards with them:

- Give them the "Get Your New Medicare Card" flyer [English](#)* (or [Spanish](#))*.
- Use your Medicare Administrative Contractor's look-up tool. [Sign up](#)* for the Portal to use the tool.
- Check the remittance advice. Until December 2019, we return the MBI on the remittance advice for every claim with a valid and active Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN).

Starting January 1, you must use MBIs to bill Medicare regardless of the date of service:

- Claims submitted with HICNs will be rejected with a few [exceptions](#)*.
- All eligibility transactions submitted with HICNs will be rejected.

See the [MLN Matters Article](#)* provided by MLN for answers to your questions on using MBIs.

**All attachments are provided by the Medicare Learning Network*



American Data Thanks YOU!

The changes that come with PDPM can be a difficult adjustment and pose many issues. The staff at American Data wants to thank all of our amazing clients for being so cooperative and understanding with us as we adjust to these changes with PDPM as well.



Picture This

Holiday Parties are coming up!

Picture This is the perfect party game to get everyone involved at your next gathering. Use your own photos to create a personalized gaming experience or create custom card backs through our website. Raise the stakes by turning each card match into a trivia question or prize! For a little friendly competition, team up to go against friends or colleagues and play Picture This at your next holiday get-together.

Visit the [Facebook](#) page for more information.

DOWNLOAD NOW





Bright Light Therapy



Winter is near and so are the months of prolonged gloominess. The change in seasons can abnormally alter people's moods and behavior. This is known as Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). During this time, people frequently produce less serotonin due to the lack of sunlight. Luckily, there's a method to reduce the side effects of SAD and it comes in the form of Bright Light Therapy.

How it works: For 30 minutes each morning, exposure to artificial light of 10,000 lux or more will stimulate the retinas and signal the brain to produce serotonin and endorphins. This boost in production will positively affect one's mood and behavior.

Other Benefits: Bright Light Therapy not only treats the symptoms of SAD but also helps with Circadian Rhythm Sleep Disorders, eating disorders, fatigued cancer patients, and dementia. Bright Light Therapy is helpful with sleep issues because it triggers nerves in the retina that put your internal clock "back on track" and affects the body similarly to how natural sunlight does. Try Bright Light Therapy with your residents to help alleviate any of the above ailments, or to simply shed light on these upcoming winter months.



**Maplewood
Sauk Prairie**
Health & Rehabilitation Center

December's Featured Facility!

Maplewood Sauk Prairie

Location: Sauk City, WI

AD Client Since: 1999

Erica Sears of Maplewood Sauk Prairie references ECS multiple times a day to answer questions and concerns. "We are reliant on American Data's program...it's an essential part of our documentation and billing system," Sears says.

Thanks, *Maplewood Sauk Prairie*, for being a part of the American Data community!



Picture This thanks Maplewood Sauk Prairie!



Picture This would like to thank Maplewood Sauk Prairie for allowing us to film and capture this moment at their facility. *Picture This* is a great way to help those living in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living facilities exercise their memory, and connect with loved ones. This heartwarming video demonstrates the game being played between multiple generations and explains how *Picture This* helps with memory care. Try *Picture This* at your facility and play with your residents today!

For more information, follow us on [Facebook](#) or visit our [Website](#)

We want to get to know you and your hardworking facility!

Submit a group photo of members of your staff via [Facebook](#) or email us at cares@american-data.com with your facility's name and location to be the feature photo at the top of the next monthly newsletter!

Your facilities are the reason American Data thrives, and we want to recognize that.

SUBMIT A PHOTO

"Like" Us On Facebook!

Want to be the first to know about the latest software updates, reminders, and company news? Follow our [Facebook](#) page to receive up-to-date posts on all things ECS, American Data, and much more.



American Data

Healthcare Administrator

1.1 miles · 711 21st St, Prairie du Sac · [Open Now](#)



FOLLOW US

Deficiency-Free Survey Awards



Did your facility receive a Survey?

Please let us know of your facility's Deficiency-Free Survey and/or Most Improved Survey so we can share your successes! Send us and email at Info@american-data.com.

EMAIL US

Updating Contact Information

Is your facility's contact information current?

It's important to let us know of changes in key staff members such as Administrators, Directors of Nursing, or ECS System Supervisors. Please email us with any changes to the contact information of those members at cares@american-data.com.



New Staff/Position/Title



New Phone Number



New Email Address

UPDATE INFO

American Data After-Hours Support

Regular Business Hours:

Monday- Friday: 8:00am-5:00pm

Saturday & Sunday: Closed

For immediate assistance after regular business hours, call 1-608-438-7505.

Or send us an email at cares@american-data.com

Stay Connected to American Data!



Follow our social media accounts to get the latest information on software updates, reminders, and company news!