



AMERICAN  
DATA

cares

# ECS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

The latest in ECS News, Technology, & Company Updates



APRIL  2020

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### What's Covered?

- **Webinar Date-** Wednesday, April 8th (1:00pm-2:00pm CST)
- **ECS Updates/ Industry News-** New MDS Release-TODAY, Interrupted Stays, COVID-19 Tools in ECS, Revised Billing Changes, and Remote ECS Access
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## Webinars



### Upcoming Webinar

*Infection Control*

**Session Date:** Wednesday, April 8th  
(1:00pm-2:00pm CST)

**Sign-Up Today- Space is limited!**

[SIGN UP](#)

## ECS Updates/ Industry News

# IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

### New MDS Release- Effective TODAY

CMS posted a new PDPM grouper version and tables on **4/1/2020** that also go into effect on **4/1/2020**. We are working to get these included in our next update, which is set to be posted this month.

In the meantime, simply ignore any re-calculation warnings due to incorrect versions. These are warnings, **not** fatal errors, and will not cause any MDS rejections.

## Interrupted Stays

PDPM has been around for a little while now and overall, the going has gotten much smoother. However, interrupted stays remain the fly in the PDPM ointment.

## PDPM REMINDERS

*What is an interrupted stay?*

- Three or fewer consecutive non-covered days.
- Code A0310G1 (Is this an interrupted stay?) as Yes, only on the OBRA discharge, when a PPS Discharge is NOT needed.

*An interrupted stay is determined by 2 things:*

1. Did the resident leave PPS?
  - Either by leaving the facility, or by changing to a non-PPS status and remaining in the facility.
2. Did the resident return to PPS at the same facility within the 3-day interruption window?
  - The window starts the day they leave and ends at midnight on the second full day that they are gone.

View the document below to help determine if your resident has had an interrupted stay and what assessments are necessary when they leave and return to your facility. For additional help, feel free to contact our Clinical Department for support at **1-800-464-9942**.

[VIEW DOCUMENT](#)



## COVID-19 Tools in ECS

To be mindful of all of our client's time, we decided to cancel the webinar scheduled for March 25th. Instead, a recorded version outlining ways to prepare your EMR for the COVID-19 has been posted on the Client Sign On. If however, you'd prefer to have someone at American Data complete the setups to receive all of the tools outlined below, we are offering that option as well for a small fee (\$45). With those setups, your facility will receive all of the following items:

1. Compare setups on the Temperature word(s) to alert the user group(s) of your choosing if anything above 100 is charted.
2. A COVID-19 care plan topic which has templates for the following: isolation, at risk, suspected case, and confirmed case.
3. Primary Contact List report which details each resident's primary contact information. This report can be easily printed or exported.
4. Adding of COVID-19 into the Infection Control topic, as well as a testing option for 'nasal swab.'
5. Optional: if you'd like us to create an order template in nursing orders for staff to be able to easily order vital signs on all residents, please let us know how this should be setup, which vitals you are monitoring, and how often; so we can setup the template appropriately.

If you are interested in receiving the above tools, please contact our clinical department and call **1-800-464-9942** approving the billable time and informing us of a time that we can connect to your device via fast support for 30 minutes to complete the necessary setups (unless you are hosted by us or have a remote connection available to our team). If you are interested in the compare notifications, include the user group(s) to be notified of temperatures above 100 degrees. The above items are all the options available, however if your facility needs anything specific setup for COVID-19, please include those requests in this email to clinical and we will be sure to complete those as well. The great part about ECS is that each facility can customize to meet their specific needs. As we know all facilities have different workflows and policies that are being put into place. Please include these in your email so that we can ensure ECS fully meets all of your needs. As always, we are happy to meet these requests efficiently and quickly.



### Using ECS Remotely

As many of our clients are sending staff home to work remotely during the COVID-19 outbreak, a common question that has come up is "How do I use ECS from a remote location?"

The following document will outline what you will need to do in order to establish remote connectivity to your ECS System. Click the button below to download the document. For additional help, get in touch with our Technical Department at: **1-800-464-9942**.

[VIEW DOCUMENT](#)



### Revised ECS Billing Changes COVID-19

CMS has indicated that they have waived the 3-day Qualifying Hospital Stay requirement due to the State of Emergency that has been declared. In conjunction with this change, Condition Code DR is to be used on claims. Sequestration has also been waived temporarily as of May 1, 2020.

Below, please find **revised** instructions for completing these setups yourself. However, if you'd like us to complete this setup for you, feel contact our Financial Department at **1-800-464-9942**. There is no cost for this setup.

[VIEW DOCUMENT](#)

## You & Your Residents

**PICTURE THIS**  
Speed Training™ (TM) System, Inc. 2019

Try Picture This with a resident today!

Download the FREE app!

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

Or visit our website:  
[www.picturethisgames.com](http://www.picturethisgames.com)

### Try Picture This with your Residents Today!

Interactive activities help keep the minds of residents engaged. Picture This helps those with memory-loss exercise their brain by connecting past memories to their present realities. It's simple! Create your desired game, upload your pictures, and play!

To see for yourself, visit the website below to read our blog post on Seniors, Memory Care, and the benefits of Picture This.

GET MORE INFO



### April's Featured Facility!

*Cortland Acres*

Location: Thomas, WV

AD Client Since: 2008

Located in Thomas, West Virginia, Cortland Acres has been an American Data client since 2008. Cortland Acres is Skilled Nursing Facility and Rehabilitation Center that utilizes American Data's EMR system in their everyday patient care routines. Above, a few members of the Cortland Acres staff take a quick time out from their resident duties to enjoy the West Virginia sunshine. "As we continue our social distancing with daily temperature and symptom screenings, the health and welfare of our residents remain our first priority. Thank you for securing our valuable clinical information".  
Thanks for being a part of the American Data community, Cortland Acres!



**NPHW**

**National Public  
Health Week**

April 6th-12th

April 6th-12th is recognized as National Public Health Week, and due to the public health crisis faced around the globe, awareness is as important as ever.

The concern for public health goes beyond basic hygiene knowledge. Each day of NPHW, the American Public Health Association narrows in on a topic related to the social and economic health of the public. This year, the topics will correlate with the impact of COVID-19 and ways to support your community in these areas.

**Monday- Mental Health:**

COVID-19 is causing heightened levels of stress. In particular, isolation and quarantine can be highly stressful. As can separation from loved ones, especially those detained off-shore or in other countries. And many in the public health and health care sectors, as well as those working in affected industries, are shouldering a significant mental health burden. Reach out and check on your loved ones and community members.

**Tuesday- Maternal and Child Health:**

Research to date finds pregnant women and young children do not seem to be more susceptible to COVID-19. If anything, women (in general) may have a survival advantage over men (In China, 2.8% of infected men have died, compared to 1.7% of women). Still, pregnant women and children are considered "at-risk populations" and need some special support during the pandemic.

**Wednesday- Violence Prevention:**

Increased stress can lead to increased aggression, feeding a cycle of violence, especially in communities already under strain. Much of the stress people are feeling as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic is linked to fear fed by misinformation. Help counteract the "infodemic" of bad and troubling information by [researching multiple outlets].

**Thursday- Environmental Health:**

In perhaps one of the few silver linings of the COVID-19 pandemic, air pollution, specifically CO2 levels, diminished in Italy due to dramatic lifestyle changes. Yet as always, changes in people's lifestyle patterns can have unexpected consequences on our environment. For now, remain vigilant in recycling plastics. If you are sick, dispose of soiled items by double-bagging in secured containers with lids. Continue to advocate for increased funding to improve our water infrastructure and adequate funding to support public health workers in monitoring, preparing for and responding to the health effects of climate change.

**Friday- Education:**

As with any illness, reliance on science-based information and response is key. Schools at all levels should be engaged in active surveillance and communicate with their state and local public health departments should a person display possible COVID-19 symptoms. Distance learning is now more necessary than ever, heightening the need for access to technology and high-speed internet. As schools are often the key source of daily nutrition for students in low-income families, school systems are now called on to find ways to distribute meals while maintaining social distancing. Reach out to your local school system to see if volunteers are needed, whether for meal distribution, online learning support or other tasks.

**Saturday- Healthy Homes:**

During the COVID-19 quarantine, people are spending even more time in their homes than usual. For those living in unsafe environments, problems like mold and secondhand smoke exposure can worsen existing health conditions. However, the National Center for Healthy Housing's [Fact Sheets, Checklists and Guides page](#) offers links on ways to keep your home safe, the costs of home upkeep and seasonal maintenance checklists.

**Sunday- Economics:**

One of the most dramatic reactions to COVID-19 has been that of the stock markets and the underlying industries they represent. It already appears clear that many industries and their employees will suffer significant financial hardship. On an individual level, the burden of being out of work and (potentially) hospitalized for an extended period of time can have disastrous impacts on financial health. Advocate for paid sick leave and a living wage. [Urge your members of Congress to prioritize public health infrastructure and paid sick, family and medical leave](#) in any future legislation to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

*Above tips taken from [National Public Health Week](#).*

## Deficiency-Free Survey Awards



# Congratulations to Sylvia G. Thompson!

*Thanks for providing the highest level of care in your facility!*

### Did your facility receive a Survey? Let us know!

Please let us know of your facility's Deficiency-Free Survey and/or Most Improved Survey so we can share your successes! Send an email to [cares@american-data.com](mailto:cares@american-data.com).

## "Like" Us On Facebook

### "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

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## 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](mailto: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!**

**American Data** | <http://www.american-data.com> | 1-800-464-9942