



AMERICAN  
DATA

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# ECS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

The latest in ECS News, Technology, & Company Updates

OCTOBER  2020

## In This Issue



### What's Covered?

- **Webinar Dates:** *Thursday, October 8th (1:00pm-2:00pm CST) and Thursday October 15th (1:00pm-2:00pm CST)*
- **ECS Updates/ Industry News:**
  - *FAQ- CMS October 2020 Changes*
  - *Sneak Peek- November Report Maker Webinar Series*
  - *Online Video Resources*
  - *New Client Sign On- how to log on*
- **Picture This:** *Try With Your Residents Today*
- **Featured Facility:** *Huron County Medical Care Facility*
- **Respiratory Care Week:** *October 25th-31st*
- **Deficiency-Free Surveys:** *Congratulations to Huron County Medical Care Facility for a THIRD deficiency-free survey!*
- **"Like" us on Facebook**

## Upcoming Webinars



### Don't be spooked by October MDS Changes!

**Session Date:** Thursday, October 8th (1:00pm-2:00pm CST)

**\*Zoom Passcode:** 715899

[JOIN WEBINAR](#)



### Updating Rates for PDPM

**Session Date:** Thursday, October 15th (1:00pm-2:00pm CST)

**\*Zoom Passcode:** 851526

[JOIN WEBINAR](#)

**\*PLEASE NOTE:**

American Data has switched webinar platforms. All webinars moving forward will be held via Zoom to expand the number of available seats. No need to reserve a spot, space is now flexible!

## ECS Updates/ Industry News



### FAQ- CMS October 2020 Changes

With October 1st approaching, we have received many questions about the CMS changes soon to be in effect. Below, American Data answers a few frequently asked questions in order to help you prepare and ease any concerns these changes may bring.

**Q:** I am receiving recalculation warnings on my validation report from CMS. The message on the report is:

**Z0100B, RECALCULATED\_Z0100B**

**1.0004, 1.0006**

**-3935b WARNING**

**Incorrect RUG/PDPM Version: The submitted value of the RUG/PDPM version code does not match the value calculated by the QIES ASAP System**

**A:** If A2300 on the MDS submitted is 10/1/2020 or later, then you will want to confirm that your version of ECS is at the latest version. To check this, navigate to American Data – ECS > Help > About. Ensure that you are seeing 9.1.4.1 or 10.1.4.1 in red text. If you are not seeing one of these version numbers, you need to inform your IT that they need to download the latest update from our Client Sign On. If A2300 on the MDS submitted is prior to 10/1/2020 then the warning can be ignored.

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**Q:** How do I turn the feature on in ECS to ensure that stand alone OBRA assessments calculate a PDPM HIPPS code?

**A:** Once you have updated, a system supervisor or super user at the facility will need to navigate to American Data – ECS > Setup > Settings > Site. Utilize the dropdown in the upper left-hand corner to select a Site that needs to have this feature enabled. Click into the MDS tab. Place a checkmark in Calculate PDPM for OBRA. Click Apply to save changes if you need to update several different sites. Use the dropdown to flip to the next site. If only one site needs to be updated, click OK to save changes.

**Q:** **Can I still combine my OBRA assessments with PPS assessments?**

**A:** Yes, you may still combine an OBRA assessment with a PPS assessment, including a Medicare Advantage/Insurance billing PPS assessment.

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**Q:** **Do I have to utilize the new combined ADL topics American Data created for CNA's?**

**A:** No, your facility does not. We merged into each facility topics for charting GG when GG was first introduced on the MDS. Facilities may continue to utilize their existing ADL charting for CNAs in addition to utilizing those GG topics, if they would like to. You may also choose to not have CNAs document anything for GG, but rather just continue their usual ADL charting which is based on the G coding key. It is not a regulation change that CNAs must now chart GG, but rather American Data wanted to provide an option for facilities who do want all ADL charting coming directly from the CNA users. This new combined ADL option allows for all G and GG charting to be satisfied based on the newly combined ADL topics. This new method of ADL charting for CNAs is only available to ECS10 clients. If you are currently in version 9 and do want to move forward with this, please contact a support staff at American Data so we can assist you in getting converted to ECS10.

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**Q:** **Who do you recommend charting section GG? I thought only a qualified clinician could provide the documentation for GG coding on the MDS?**

**A:** For coding admission performance in Section GG, here is an excerpt directly from the RAI manual. Take extra note of the underlined items, which state that the assessment of the resident's performance can be based on care staff.

- Assess the resident's self-care performance based on direct observation, incorporating resident self-reports and reports from qualified clinicians, care staff, or family documented in the resident's medical record during the three-day assessment period. CMS anticipates that an interdisciplinary team of qualified clinicians is involved in assessing the resident during the three-day assessment period. For Section GG, the admission assessment period is the first three days of the Part A stay starting with the date in A2400B, the Start of Most Recent Medicare Stay. On admission, these items are completed only when A0310B = 01 (5-Day PPS assessment). For the Interim Payment Assessment (A0310B=08), the assessment period for Section GG is the last 3 days (i.e., the ARD and two days prior).

Also, directly from the RAI, here is the excerpt regarding a qualified clinician:

- QUALIFIED CLINICIAN: Healthcare professionals practicing within their scope of practice and consistent with Federal, State, and local law and regulations.
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**Q:** **What do these October 2020 changes really mean for my facility? Does anything else have to change besides putting a checkmark in Site Settings?**

**A:** Although enabling the checkbox in Site Settings is the only item needed to make this work within your system, be aware that calculation of a PDPM HIPPS code is much different than that of a RUG. A PDPM HIPPS code calculates a functional score, which is derived solely from the coding in Section GG. If your facility did not have a high Medicare population prior to this October, then you may not be collecting much data based on the GG coding, so this will be something new to collect on all residents. In addition, questions I0020, I0020B, and J1900-J5000 all now need to be addressed on all residents, not just the Medicare residents.

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**Q:** **Does this mean that all residents can no longer have a Return to Provider code for their Primary or Admission diagnosis?**

**A:** Non-Medicare and Medicare Replacement/Insurance Billing residents may continue to have a Return to Provider code listed as a Primary or Admission. In addition, an RTP code may be listed in I0020B on the MDS. This will not cause an MDS rejection as CMS included a secondary ICD table in the latest update. This secondary table includes all diagnosis codes which are RTP codes and allows for stand-alone OBRA assessments to list an RTP in I0020B.

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**Q:** **How do I know if my state is requiring PDPM HIPPS on stand-alone OBRA assessments?**

**A:** We recommend that you reach out to your state RAI coordinator and see if they are aware. If not, then reach out to whoever provides state payments, such as a Medicaid program for your state. Most state Medicaid programs have posted information directly on their website on whether they will be requiring this and as of what effective date.

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**Q:** **Is this like 10/1/2019 where we had to do a transitional IPA to get things started? Do we need to complete an assessment, so things start?**

**A:** No, you do not. Any assessment with a target date (ARD) that is post 10/1/2020 will begin to calculate a PDPM HIPPS code. This means that some resident's may not have their first PDPM HIPPS code until November, December, or even January. There is no transitional assessment to be completed, so whenever the resident is next due for an OBRA is when the PDPM HIPPS will calculate.

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**Q:** **I have already opened several MDS assessments with an ARD that is 10/1/2020 or later. How do I fix these assessments so that they have the new questions turned on?**

**A:** After your facility has updated, please follow instructions listed in Answer 2 above. After you have turned this feature on for the necessary site(s), then any assessments that have an ARD of 10/1/2020 or later and were opened prior to the update will need to be reset. To complete this, navigate to the assessment via Continue or Change if in ECS10. Or via Change if in version 9. Once in continue/change, click onto the Change Assessment Type picklist box located underneath question A0200. The Type of Assessment/Tracking box will appear. Click OK which will now open all questions needed to calculate a PDPM HIPPS code.

\*Note: You will only need to complete this step for stand-alone OBRA or combined OBRA with PPS assessments. This is not necessary for stand-alone PPS or tracking record assessments.

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**Q:** **What is the look back period for GG questions on a stand-alone OBRA?**

**A:** Here is an excerpt directly from the updated MDS item sets:  
If A0310B = 01, the assessment period is days 1 through 3 of the SNF PPS Stay starting with A2400B. If state requires completion with an OBRA assessment, the assessment period is the ARD plus 2 previous days; complete only column 1.

Have additional questions? Our support team is always happy to help. Give us a call at 1-800-464-9942 or send an email to [cares@american-data.com](mailto:cares@american-data.com) to contact us. Save these questions for future reference by downloading the document below.

[VIEW DOCUMENT](#)

## Join us for our November Webinar Series- Report Maker

Join us in November for three webinars which detail how to best utilize the Report Maker feature in ECS. In the first session, we will explore the basics of report maker so that your facility can build reports to meet specific facility needs. In the next two sessions, we explore the new report maker features programmed within the last



year, as well as how to troubleshoot existing reports that are not providing the intended results. Do you have a topic you would like to see covered in a webinar? Send us your suggestions today!

[CONTACT US](#)



## American Data's Online Video Resources

Although we encourage everyone to join our live webinars for an interactive training experience, we have you covered if you are unable to attend! Recordings of our webinars are available under the Past Webinars category of our training videos located on our Client Sign on. These are typically posted within 48 hours of the recording date. Log on to view recordings of our latest webinars,

**What's New in the Fall Update**, and **MDS October Changes**. Download documentation and handouts used during the webinars right under the video. Whether you're a seasoned ECS user looking to get acquainted with new features, or are a new employee needing training on the software basics, we have videos to help. Browse video categories such as ECS Basics, MDS, System Supervisor Training, CNA, Nursing, Physicians Orders, and more.

Have additional questions? Leave a comment on a video and our team will reach out for support.

**LOG ON**



### Please Note!

**American Data's Client Sign On has changed.**

The Client Sign On is an important tool for many roles in your facility. The site is not only a training tool for new ECS users, but is also a resource for documentation on new features in ECS, important company announcements, an outlet to download the latest ECS software update, and much more. Log on today and check it out for yourself!



### **I have not received my new log in credentials. What now?**

Contact your facility's Administrator or System Supervisor. A set up email containing instructions was sent to the Administrator or System Supervisor at each facility. Please contact the person who holds either of these positions to provide you with log in credentials.

### **I am an Administrator and/or System Supervisor and did not receive the set up email. What now?**

Please check your spam/junk folder as this email may have initially been detected as spam. This email was sent out on July 13th.

### **I have checked my spam/junk folder and do not have the email. What now?**

Please contact American Data by emailing [cares@american-data.com](mailto:cares@american-data.com) or call **1-800-464-9942** to confirm we have your correct contact information.

If your account has already been set up, go to [www.american-data.com](http://www.american-data.com) and click on the Client Sign On tab to log in.

CONTACT US

## You & Your Residents



## PICTURE THIS

Patent Pending | © 2018 Systems Inc. 2018

### **Want to share Picture This with your residents and their families?**

Copy and paste the link to this video in your resources or activities section along with a little information about the app:

<https://youtu.be/Sf1BrkGyL80>

"When a loved one's memory declines, conversation can become a struggle. Picture This helps facilitate communication between loved ones and their families through the power of pictures. You can create custom card backs and send text message invites straight from your phone! Use your own family photos to help connect past memories and people to present realities. Picture This engages the short-term and long-term memory all in one activity."

GET MORE INFO



## October's Featured Facility!

Huron County Medical Care Facility

Location: Bad Axe, MI

AD Client Since: 2007

In American Data's September issue, we recognized Huron County Medical Care Facility for receiving not one, but TWO Deficiency-Free Infection Control Focus Surveys. Since then, they have proudly announced their facility has received a THIRD Deficiency-Free Infection Control Focus Survey and remain citation free! Jessica Gottschalk of Huron County Medical Care Facility reflects on the success of the facility, "It is not often that the state tells us we are doing everything perfectly and it is always nice to hear it from them; especially with all the hard work our staff has put in to keep our resident's safe and healthy during this pandemic." Above, the facility gathers to celebrate. Properly masked, of course. Congratulations and keep up the great work, Huron County Medical Care Facility!

Thanks for being a part of the American Data community!

# Respiratory Care Week



No need to hold your breath for Respiratory Care Week any longer. It's almost here! The week of October 25th- October 31st is recognized as Respiratory Care Week, which emphasizes the importance of respiratory health. Because COVID-19 affects the respiratory system, spreading awareness about healthy habits for your lungs is as important as ever.



# Congratulations!

## Huron County Medical Care Facility

*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).

[SHARE YOUR SUCCESS](#)

## "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

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

 Like

## 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!**