ECS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
The latest in ECS News, Technology, & Company Updates

FEBRUARY 2021

Important Announcement

What's Covered?

Interoperability in ECS:

-Explore American Data's Interfacing Possibilities

Webinar Dates:

-Tasks for Days! Tuesday, February 16th (1:00pm-2:00pm CST)

-Demonstration of the new Nursing Module Tuesday, March 16th (1:00pm-2:00pm CST)

ECS Updates/ Industry News:

-Medi-span Announces GPI Changes

-AR Conversion Factor Change

-COVID Setups in ECS

-ECS Tip of the Month

American Heart Month:

Interoperability in ECS

Integration between ECS and other software vendors has become increasingly important for clients to streamline communication. We value your unique vision and use your customized screens to exchange data – you are in control to create your own care. We offer a wide range of compatible interfaces including Script v2017071, HL7, and more. For a full list of compatible interfaces, click **here**.

Interface Setups in ECS

There are many different vendors a facility may work with, such as therapy, lab, pharmacy, radiology, hospitals, and state health exchanges. An interface helps reduce faxing, phone calls, and double documenting in multiple systems. American Data has well established interfaces with many vendors, but each client's database is unique, so we customize each interface we setup. The unique design of ECS that allows clients to mold their EMR system to their particular health care goals and procedures to achieve those goals, does make it more challenging when it comes to interfaces. That same unique design of being able to customize the user experience is also a security feature of ECS in that from one facility to the next things may be different so that the facility can control when, where, why, how outside people have access to the medical records of your facility. Because every setup of an interface is unique to the facility, we only charge for an interface for those facilities which chose to have a desired interface rather than bury the cost in an unrelated cost to all facilities.

A common export of data from ECS to another vendor is an ADT

(admission, discharge, transfer) interface. This type of interface is similar from facility to facility and vendor to vendor, but where that information is documented in ECS can vary. This might mean triggering an interface message off the Admission Date word in the Face Sheet>Status topic, or possibly an Admission Date word somewhere in nurse charting. Variations in how charting is done, is one of the reasons why each ADT interface we setup is unique to each individual client's database.

Another common interface is lab and radiology results. In this case, ECS receives results from another vendor which are imported into ECS. Although most vendors put the same data in the same fields in the message, there can be significant differences. Those results are typically imported into a nurse charting topic, which can vary significantly from one client to another.

Also, if charting is done differently between the different sites and services within a client's database (SNF, AL, IL, etc.), all of these situations must be taken into account when setting up the interface. Customization can be done to modify how certain elements are presented in ECS, which allows us to tailor an interface according to the operation of the facility so that the facility can control their own workflows that work best for them.

Once we have an established interface with another vendor, in many cases the interface setup is similar from one client to another. We try to create "standard" setups whenever possible to help reduce setup time and allow us to get an interface live as soon as possible. ECS users are used to a system allowing for customization and flexibility to fit their individual facility needs. This same ability extends into the interface options we provide, allowing communication with other vendors to function in the best way for each of our clients. Significant, detailed customization cannot be done with fixed field, cookie cutter systems.

Expand Your Facility's Network

Click [**here**](#) to view a list of some of the other vendor interfaces we have been asked to build for clients. If your facility would like an interface with a vendor you work with, please contact [**megen@american-data.com**](mailto:megen@american-data.com) to begin the process.

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Upcoming Webinars

Tasks for Days!

Session Date: Tuesday, February 16th (1:00pm-2:00pm CST)

SIGN UP TODAY

Demonstration of the New Nursing Module

Session Date: Tuesday, March 16th (1:00pm-2:00pm CST)

SIGN UP TODAY

What's New in the Spring Update

Session Date: TBD

Stay tuned for the announcement of our *What's New in the Spring Update* webinar to be held in March. Webinar announcements are also posted to our **website** under the Upcoming Webinars page.

ECS Updates and Industry News

Medi-Span Announces GPI Changes

According to a technical bulletin sent from Medi-Span, several drugs are being re-categorized with a new Generic Product Identifier (GPI) to provide a positive impact to the drug formulary. GPIs are utilized to assist in matching a medication if sent via a Script pharmacy interface, as well as when completing drug contraindications. If your facility does not utilize a Script pharmacy interface, drug contraindications, or have any orders containing a medication in the list provided, then no changes are needed. However, if you do look through the table and find any of those medications on your resident records, these will need to be updated so they include the new GPI. Although there are 195 medications on the list, it appears many are not commonly used. So we are anticipating minimal changes needed, if any.

The GPIs are being updated as of the file pushed out on April 7, 2021. Our clients can begin to re-write any affected orders on April 12, 2021. Orders will need to be discontinued and

entered from scratch to pick up the correct GPI.

Please reference the **Medi-Span Spring 2021 GPI Changes** spreadsheet or click the "Get Document" button below for the list of medications being changed. In this spreadsheet, we list the old GPI, new GPI, and drug name. Keep in mind, this will only affect medications written **prior to April 7, 2021**. If any medications on the list are written after this date, they will automatically have the updated GPI attached.

For any additional questions regarding this change, please contact our clinical department at **clinical@american-data.com**.

GET DOCUMENT

RATE CHANGE
CONVERSION FACTOR

ECS AR - Conversion Factor Change

Since we sent the ECS AR Year End email, CMS has recalculated the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule rates. The Conversion Factor is used in calculating the MPPR (Multiple Procedure Payment Reduction) on your Medicare (B) calculations. In our Year End email, we reported the new Conversion Factor would be 32.4085 (32.41). The new/corrected rate for 2021 should instead be 34.8931. Please update your Charge Master tasks, replacing what you have entered with the **new 34.8931 effective 01/01/2021** prior to calculating and posting Medicare (B) for January 2021.

For further assistance, please email **financial@american-data.com**.

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COVID VACCINE
SETUPS IN ECS

How to Chart with the COVID-19 Vaccine Setups in ECS

To prepare your staff for the COVID-19 vaccination, American Data has provided an instructional video and documentation. These materials can be used to guide staff how to chart when they administer the vaccine in the facility vs. how to chart when it is provided by a third party.

To access these materials, please log on to the Client Sign On and locate the **Videos** Tab > **Training Videos** > **Clinical category** > **Nursing** subcategory > **COVID-19 Vaccination Charting**.

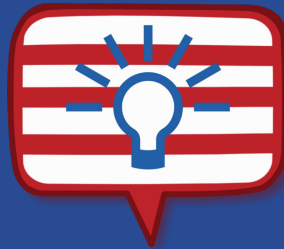**LOG ON**

Don't have the COVID Vaccine Setups in ECS?

COVID-19 vaccine distribution has begun and American Data is ready to complete setups in ECS to accommodate this. Whether you need to chart and bill for the SARS-CoV-2 vaccines to be administered at your facility, or document it was received out of the facility, we are available to get these words into your ECS database.

If you haven't already, contact our Clinical Department via email at **clinical@american-data.com** to be added to the list for these setups. Please include in your email if you'd like these words linked to your ECS Accounts Receivable module as well.
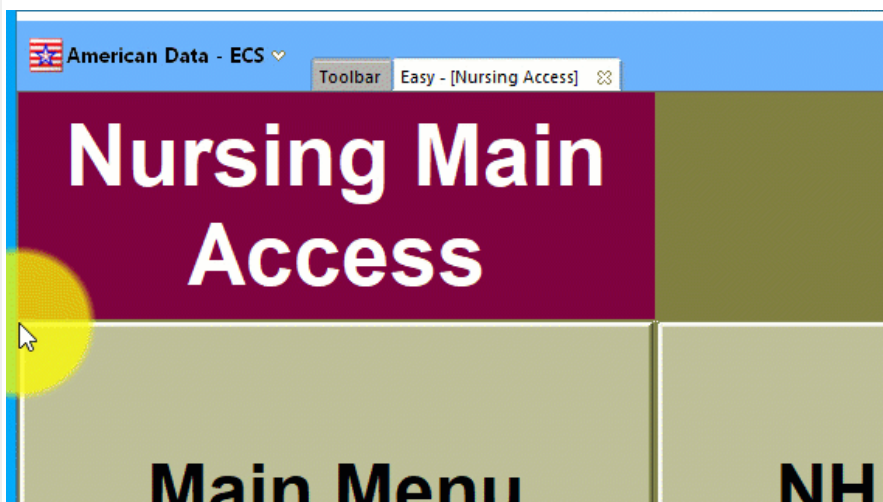
These setups are billable at $90/hour. We anticipate the clinical setups taking 30 minutes and the AR setups taking 1 hour.

CONTACT US

ECS Tip of the Month

Each month staff at American Data share lesser-known features of ECS to help the charting and billing process go smoothly.

Tools in ECS

If your name panel is hidden, you may still access it from any access screen by hovering your mouse near the left edge of your screen. Once it pops up, you may utilize the handy navigation tools at the top. Clicking "hide" will hide the panel out of your way until it is needed.

LEARN MORE

Have an area of ECS you would like to learn more about? Let us know and we will cover it in future Newsletters.

CONTACT US

National Wear Red Day

February 5th is **National Wear Red Day** to help raise heart health awareness for **American Heart Month**. Participate by wearing a red article of clothing or go all out and wear red scrubs!

Send us a picture of your facility decked out in red to participate in National Wear Red Day and American Data will feature your facility in next month's newsletter! **Submit** your image below or send an email to **cares@american-data.com.**

Click here for more ways to contribute.

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTO

SUBMIT A PHOTO!

Be featured in the Newsletter!

YOUR Facility could be in next month's Newsletter as American Data's Featured Facility! Submit a group photo of members of your staff via Facebook Messenger or email us at cares@american-data.com with your facility's name, location, and a short blurb 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.

Deficiency-Free Survey Awards

DEFICIENCY FREE STATE SURVEY

Share Your Success!

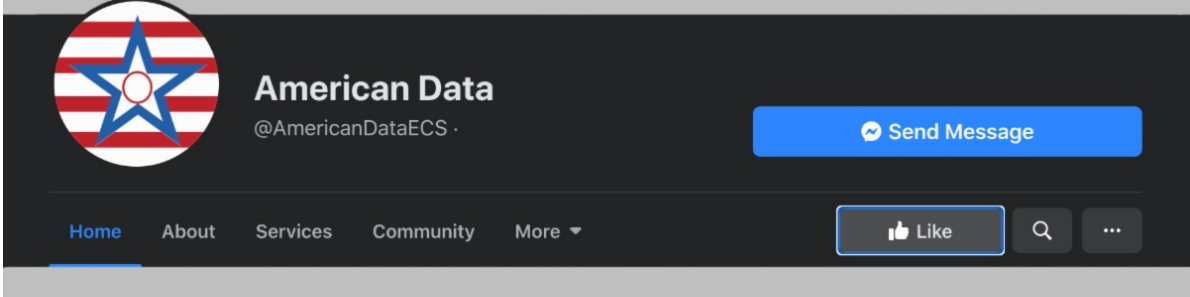**Did your facility receive a Survey? Let us know!**
Please let us know of your facility's Deficiency-Free Survey and/or Most Improved Survey so we can share your successes! Send an email to **cares@american-data.com.**

SHARE YOUR SUCCESS

"Like" Us On Facebook

"Like" Us On Facebook!

Follow and like our **Facebook** page to receive up-to-date posts on all things ECS, American Data, and much more.

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American Data After-Hours Support

Regular Business Hours:
Monday- Friday: 8:00am-5:00pm CST
Saturday & Sunday: Closed

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

Stay Connected to American Data!

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