



ECS Monthly Newsletter

The latest in ECS news, technology, and industry updates.

April 2023



American Data Hosting

Upcoming Webinar:

[What's New Spring Update: Clinical and Financial](#)

Wednesday, April 19th
(1:00pm-2:00pm CST)

ECS Updates/ Industry News:

American Data NEW Phone System

Accounts Receivable Email Communication

Automated Medi-Span Update Changes and DTMS Upgrade

New CMS Transmission Portal: Action Required

MDS Changes Effective 10/01/2023

Accounts Receivable Support

New and Notable Clinical Features:

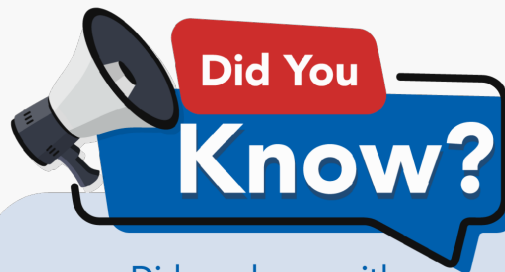
- *STEADI Fall Risk Assessment*
- *COVID - Resident Vaccine Status*

ECS User Forum Discussions

Issues & Solutions Client Access Report

Paid Advertisements

ECS Tip of the Month:



Did you know with

American Data Hosting

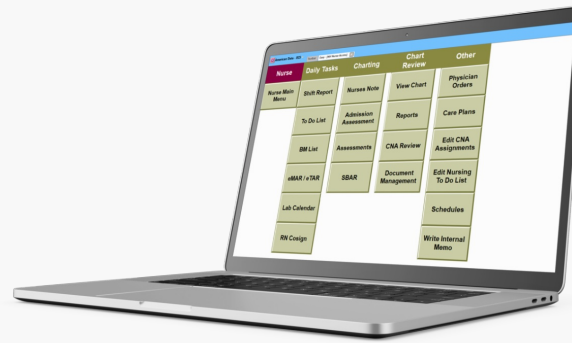
you can access your ECS medical and financial data securely through a laptop from anywhere with a browser?

Administrators, DONs, ADONs, Supervisors, Pharmacists, Physicians, Business Office Managers, and others can benefit from the ECS browser access.

Share your success!
Deficiency-Free Surveys

Quick Links:
[Client Sign On](#)

"Like" us on [Facebook](#)



Contact us now at
info@american-data.com
to learn more!

LEARN MORE

Upcoming Webinars



What's New Spring Update: Clinical and Financial

Session Date: Wednesday, April 19th
(1:00 - 2:00 pm CST)

SIGN UP TODAY

ECS Updates and Industry News



American Data NEW Phone System

Good News! To better serve you, we have upgraded our phone system allowing you to dial by department or extension. If you know the American Data Employee extension, you can dial them directly.

- For **Sales**, Press **1**
- For **Support**, Press **2**, then:
 - For **Clinical**, Press **1**
 - For **Financial**, Press **2**
 - For **Technical**, Press **3**
 - For **Interface and HL7** Press **4**

For **Administration**, Press **3**

If you are unsure, pressing zero will get you to a team member that will direct your call to the appropriate person.



Accounts Receivable Email Communication

CONTACT US

As we continually look to improve our process at American Data, we have recognized that using regular mail for Accounts Receivable is not the most efficient process. To continue giving our customers the quickest service and best attention, we will now be conducting all our **accounts receivable communication through email**. This includes sending invoices. By sending invoices through email, we can ensure each invoice includes the necessary information and can be received in a reasonable amount of time for our customers to pay by the due date.

Contact us if you want to apply these changes to your Facility.

Automated Medi-Span Update Changes and DTMS Upgrade

What's Medi-Span?

To maintain up-to-date drug formulary and diagnosis coding information for ECS, American Data utilizes a 3rd party drug database called Medi-Span that is regularly updated through service(s) installed on the server hosting ECS.

One of the core components of the Medi-Span drug database within ECS is called DTMS (Drug Therapy Monitoring System). Its purpose is to provide healthcare professionals with accurate information about drug interactions and allergies for a given combination of medications.

What's Changing?

Starting on **April 1st, 2023**, American Data Technical Support will be working to roll out a new version of the automated Medi-Span Update system that also increases the number of drug-to-drug interactions provided by DTMS to the facility staff. This provides more detailed information to the user and further decreases the likelihood of a harmful drug interaction.

To make this change, American Data Technical Support will apply a standard ECS Update to your system. After the update is applied, American Data Technical Support can enable the new Medi-Span update system and DTMS upgrade.

What's Next?

For self-hosted clients, American Data Technical Support will be reaching out to establish system access and schedule the short ECS Update outage with your facility. You are also welcome to email us at tech@american-data.com to set up a time to complete the upgrade.

If you host with American Data Cloud, you don't need to do anything. The new Medi-Span update system will be enabled during the April 4th 2023 maintenance window.

If you have any questions, please reach out to American Data Technical Support at tech@american-data.com

[CONTACT US](#)

New CMS Transmission Portal: Action Required

Please be aware that the CMS transmission portal will be changing from **QIES to iQIES on April 17, 2023**. The CMS QIES system will experience downtime from April 13 to April 17 and will not be accepting assessments during this time. Please plan accordingly as they will not be providing a grace period for late assessments due to this outage. While you will need to take steps to access the new iQIES system from CMS, your workflow within ECS will not change. For assistance with access to iQIES or submission of assessments to CMS, please reach out to the iQIES Service Center. More information is available at the link below.

[READ MORE](#)

MDS Changes Effective 10/01/2023

The time has come to implement the new item set for **MDS effective 10/01/2023**.

What do you need to do?

- **Be proactive!** This is a major change for your teams. The volume of new data that you will be required to collect may be significant and will require preparation.
- Find out what your state's plan is as soon as possible. If you haven't already, sign up for your state's email list. If your state doesn't currently reimburse based on State RUGs, don't assume you are not impacted. Find out what your state's plan is just in case.
- Communicate that plan with American Data - ECS.
- Participate in educational sessions hosted by your state, affiliated organizations, and vendors.
- Make plans to collect PDPM related documentation on your long-term residents. This will involve multiple departments and require staff training.

American Data will continue keeping up with state changes, but please share your resources with us. Email us at clinical@american-data.com with information.

As we go through 2023, American Data will be presenting webinars and documentation on this topic. Watch our newsletters each month for the latest information. October 1, 2023 will be here before you know it!

[CONTACT US](#)

Accounts Receivable Support

Is your Business Office in need of training? Maybe you have new staff who haven't been trained by American Data, or staff who could use a refresher on all the latest best practices. Are you experiencing staffing issues in your Business Office? Have someone out on temporary leave or just need assistance implementing a more efficient Business Office?

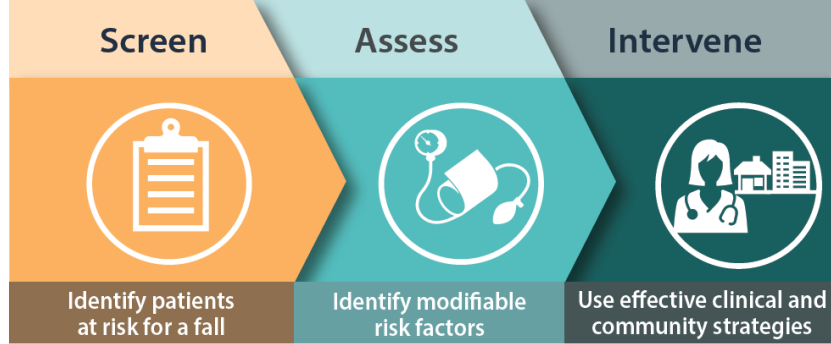
Contact American Data's [Financial Support Department!](#) We can provide on-site or remote training, and consultations, as well as manage certain tasks for your Business Office like the Trust Account, Self-Pay billing, posting cash, etc.

Contact American Data's Financial Department for assistance by emailing financial@american-data.com

[CONTACT US](#)

New & Notable Clinical Features

[STEADI Fall Risk Assessment](#)



STEADI Stopping Elderly Accidents, Deaths & Injuries

ECS has added a new Fall Risk Assessment from the [CDC's STEADI Program](#). This includes the Stay Independent Questionnaire, as well as the 4-Stage Balance Test, 30 Second Chair Test, and the Timed Up and Go follow-up tests to assist with evaluating strength and balance in your residents.

For more information contact American Data's Clinical Department by emailing clinical@american-data.com.

CONTACT US

COVID - Resident Vaccine Status

Use the ECS Resident COVID Vaccination Status Report to track vaccination rates in your facility and stay prepared for the survey.

Resident COVID Vaccination Status

Resident	Started Series	Completed Initial Series	Boosters	Bivalent Booster	Not Vaccinated
Amy, Annie A	X	X			
Anderson, Charlene	X	X	1	X	
Breunig, Olive K	X				
Brown, Timothy A	X	X	1	X	
Clem, Burt A					declined
Drues, Donald Patrick	X	X	1	X	
Evercare, Sara A	X	X	1	X	
Ford, Freda S					not eligible
Freymler, Elizabeth A	X	X	2	X	
Jean, Billie	X	X		X	
Johnson, Randy	X				
Lord, Star	X	X	1	X	
Madison, Caroline A	X	X	1	X	
Monroe, Alexander James	X	X	1	X	
Rothschild, Maggie	X	X		X	
Smith, Captain A	X	X	1	X	
Smith, Megan Joy	X	X	1	X	
Washington, George	X	X	1	X	
Total	16	14	12	13	2

The information documented in your immunization topic is pulled to this report to give you the data that you need. Upon requesting this report, ECS clinical support staff will ensure that your immunization documentation topic is up to date and add this report with appropriate links. This report lends itself seamlessly to use with the Survey Readiness module should your facility choose to add that either concurrently or at a later date. For more information, reach out to clinical@american-data.com.

CONTACT US



ECS User Forum Discussion Threads:

Current Issues & Solutions

If you have ever wondered, "Is American Data aware?" when running into an issue with the latest version of ECS, now you can confirm for yourself! Join our new "Current Issues & Solutions" discussion thread on our ECS User Forum. Follow the Smartsheet in the comments to view the real-time progress of known issues in ECS, discover temporary solutions, and be aware of estimated repair dates. Stay as informed about these issues as our own staff!

What's New & Upcoming

If you are ever curious about upcoming enhancements in the next update, you can now be one of the first to know! Join our new "What's New and Upcoming in ECS?" discussion thread on our ECS User Forum. Follow the Smartsheet in the comments to view a list of enhancements ready to roll out in spring of 2022 with version 10.1.7.0. Additionally, you can find a link to our ECS Wish List. We want to hear your software suggestions!

How do I find the discussion threads?

1. Log into the [Client Sign On](#).
2. Locate the *ECS User Forum* under the *User* tab.
3. Click on *Sign In with American Data User in the right-hand corner*.

LOG IN

v10.1.8 Issues & Solutions Client Access Report (View Only)

Primary	Category	Description	Solution or Work Around	Start Fix Released/ Anticipated	Discussion in Version	Filed in Version
<div style="text-align: center;"> </div>						
3905	COSIGN	When you click on "New" under the "New" category, the system will not allow you to click on "New" until you click on "Save" first.	N/A			10.1.8.0
3905	COSIGN	When you click on "New" under the "New" category, the system will not allow you to click on "New" until you click on "Save" first.	N/A			10.1.8.0
3905	COSIGN	When you click on "New" under the "New" category, the system will not allow you to click on "New" until you click on "Save" first.	N/A		10.1.8.0	10.1.8.0
3947	MDS	NCCRT Reporting as "Completed" when it is not. This can affect only government users. NCCRT or NCCRT are not available.	Contact Central Support to have the system fixed. This can affect only government users. NCCRT or NCCRT are not available.			10.1.7.0

Issues & Solutions Client Access Report

View the [smartsheet](#) for the latest information on known issues, including planned dates of repair, and how you can work around them until then.

VIEW SMARTSHEET

Paid Advertisements





Discharge Planning with the VerifyCare Web Version

As residents return home after rehabilitating in your facility, why not charge a fee for your staff to assist the family in monitoring the resident's compliance with your developed home care plan? All your discharged residents can appear on a single dashboard screen where staff can instantly spot those at risk. The family also participates by using the app version of VerifyCare.

Coming in the weeks ahead, the VerifyCare Web Version!

Learn more about VerifyCare

Deal Of FORTUNE™

The most popular TV game show with a card matching twist!

Look back on favorite memories through a personalized game.
Find a match and guess the letters to solve the puzzle!

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

Patent # 11213749 | Copyright © 2018 Systems Inc. All Rights Reserved | www.dealoffortune.com

For the Activity Department
\$1.99

Learn more about Deal of Fortune

PICTURE THIS GAME™

Facilitate communication between Nursing Home residents and family members through the power of pictures. Create your own personalized memory game today!

GET IT ON Google Play | Download on the App Store

Patent # 11213749 | Copyright © 2018 Systems Inc. All Rights Reserved | www.picturethisgames.com

For Families & Friends
\$0.99

Learn more about Picture This Game



Top Off Your Immunization Topic



As the Public Health Emergency is winding down, now is a good time to verify that your immunization topic is up to date. Surveyors are still looking for resident initial series and booster completion rates. Whether your residents are receiving doses inside or outside of your facility, you can make it easier to get accurate and timely information by making sure that your immunization topic is in top shape. Contact clinical@american-data.com and let us help you.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Deficiency-Free Survey Awards



Share your success with American Data!

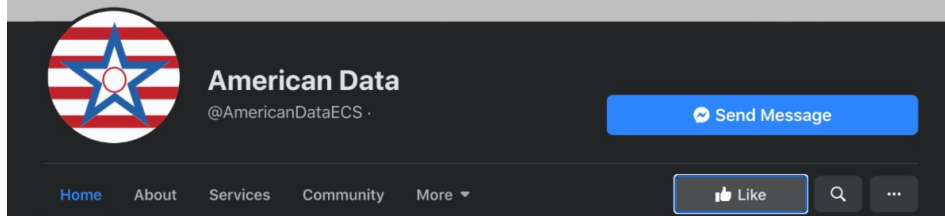
Many ECS Facilities receive perfect surveys. Did your facility? Let us know! Please let us know of your facility's Deficiency-Free Survey and/or Most Improved Survey so we can share your successes! Send an email to cares@american-data.com.

[SHARE YOUR SUCCESS](#)

"Like" Us On Facebook

"Like" Us On Facebook!

Follow our [Facebook](#) page to stay connected with the American Data community.



Regular Business Hours:
Monday- Friday: 8:00am-5:00pm
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!

American Data | www.american-data.com | 1-800-464-9942