



# ECS Monthly Newsletter

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

August 2023



## American Data Hosting

### Upcoming Webinar:

#### [What's New in the Fall Release \(10.2.0.x\)](#)

Wednesday, August 23rd  
(1:00pm-2:00pm CST)

### ECS Updates/ Industry News:

*American Data NEW Phone System*

*Accounts Receivable Email Communication*

*NDC Change Warnings*

*Automated Medi-Span Update Changes and DTMS Upgrade*

*MDS Changes Effective 10/01/2023*

*Accounts Receivable Support*

*New and Notable Clinical Features:*

- *Discharge Goals & Care Conference Topic*

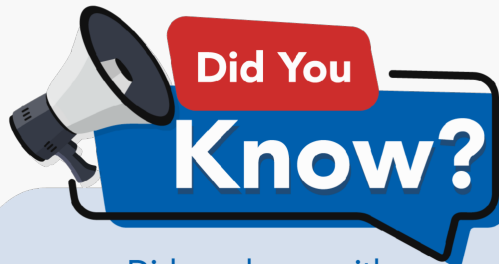
*ECS User Forum Discussions*

*Issues & Solutions Client Access Report*

### Paid Advertisements

*ECS Tip of the Month: Tile Side-by-Side*

**Share your success!**



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.

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[info@american-data.com](mailto:info@american-data.com)  
to learn more!

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### Upcoming Webinars



### What's New in the Fall Release (10.2.0.x)

Session Date:  
Wednesday, August 23rd  
(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

# NDC Change Warnings

## Important Notice

Medi-Span, the ECS partner for drug and interaction information, is in the process of updating to a new version. National Drug Codes (NDCs) expire when there is a change to the medication formula, strength availability, manufacturer, or other drug information. Previously, existing orders with expired NDCs could be copied forward within ECS, as the pharmacy filled these with an equivalent drug. Moving forward, drugs with expired NDCs will no longer be available within ECS. What this means for your facility is that any order for a medication with an expired NDC will need to be re-written with a valid NDC. If an order containing a medication with an expired NDC is copied, the Drug name will appear blank, signaling users that that medication order will need to be re-written. This is in an effort to keep medication lists as accurate as possible for the safety and well-being of all medication recipients.

### Please Note: Standing Orders

Along with the NDC changes, you will find that some of the standing orders may not populate the drug name. These medications will need to be updated. Please contact the Clinical Department at [1-800-464-9942](tel:1-800-464-9942) or email [clinical@american-data.com](mailto:clinical@american-data.com).

# 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 **June 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](mailto:tech@american-data.com) to set up a time to complete the

upgrade.

If you host with American Data Cloud, changes will be automatically applied. The new Medi-Span update system was already enabled in April 2023.

If you have any questions, please reach out to American Data Technical Support at [tech@american-data.com](mailto:tech@american-data.com)

CONTACT US

## MDS Changes Effective 10/01/2023

### MDS Changes Coming 10/01/2023

New item sets for the MDS will take effect on 10/01/2023.

Is your facility ready?

- **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.
- Make plans to collect PDPM-related documentation on your long-term residents. This will involve multiple departments and require staff training.
- The Specifications for the OSA have been released by CMS. Please reach out for instructions if your state is adding or changing their policies for the optional state assessment.
- 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.
- Participate in educational sessions hosted by your state, affiliated organizations, and vendors.
- Communicate that plan with American Data - ECS.

American Data will continue keeping up with state changes, but please share your resources with us. **In preparation for the MDS changes please fill out the form below.** This will help us in making the required changes at your facility.

FILL OUT FORM

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

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](mailto:financial@american-data.com)

CONTACT US

# New & Notable Clinical Features

## Discharge Goals & Care Conference Topic

The screenshot shows a software interface for a patient record. At the top, there are dropdown menus for 'Name(s)' (Adams, John) and 'Topic(s)' (Department Notes / Discharge Goal/ Care Conf.). Below this is a table with two main columns: 'Discharge Goals/ Care Conf.' and 'Participants'. The 'Discharge Goals/ Care Conf.' column contains two red boxes: 'DATE OF CARE CONFERENCE:' and 'DATE OF DC PLAN/GOAL REVIEW:'. The 'Participants' column contains a red box 'PARTICIPATION ASSESSMENT/GOAL:' followed by a list of participant roles: 'Resident', 'Family', 'Significant other', 'Legal guardian', 'Other legally authorized rep.', and 'None of the above'. Below the list is a red box 'Other participants:' and another red box 'FACILITY PARTICIPANTS:'. On the left side of the form, there is a vertical menu with buttons: 'Exit', 'Save', 'Sign', 'Clear', and 'More...'.

To best address new MDS items for October 2023, ECS has implemented a new topic that combines care conferences with discharge goals for streamlined documentation. This topic combines existing information from both areas with the new MDS items and language.

New featured items:

- Updated language describing participants in the assessment process.
- An expanded list of special treatments and procedures.
- Updated language for discharge planning and referral items.
- Health Literacy documentation.
- Transportation documentation.
- Documentation of the provision of the current reconciled medication list upon discharge.
- Updated language for items regarding talking about returning to the community.
- Expanded care plan goals.

This topic provides documentation to address new MDS items in sections A, B, O, and Q. This topic will be included in the next **ECS update, Version 10.2.0.0**, for all databases.

LEARN MORE



## 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](#)



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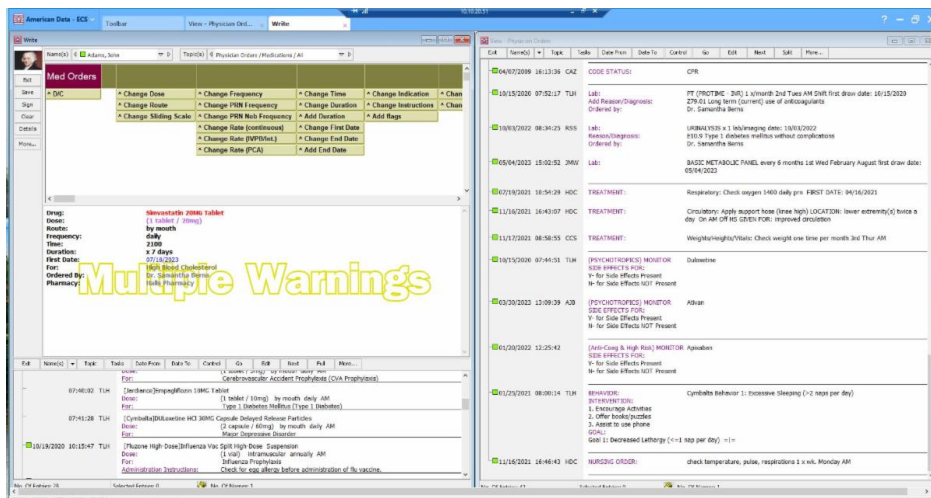
**For Families & Friends**  
**\$0.99**

[Learn more about Picture This Game](#)



**ECS Tip of the Month**

## Tile Side-by-Side



### American Data - ECS → Window → Tile Side by Side

If you have 2 windows that you would like to see next to each other, rather than switching back and forth, you can use the American Data drop-down menu to access "Tile Side by Side" to view both at once.

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](mailto: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.



American Data  
@AmericanDataECS

Send Message



## American Data After-Hours Support

### Regular Business Hours:

Monday- Friday: 8:00 am-5:00 pm  
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](http://www.american-data.com) | 1-800-464-9942

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