



AMERICAN
DATA

cares



ECS Monthly Newsletter

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

September 2023



American Data Hosting

Upcoming Webinar:

[ECS MDS Documentation Update Training](#)

Wednesday, September 20th
(1:00pm-2:00pm CST)

ECS Updates/ Industry News:

MDS Changes Effective 10/01/2023

MDS and Documentation Changes for October 2023

ECS Update 10.2.0.x

PPS PDPM Rate Changes

Fall Flu Vaccine

NDC Change Warnings

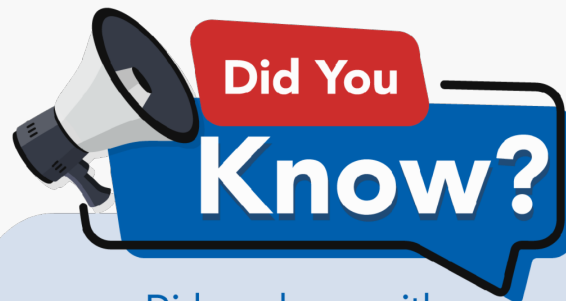
Automated Medi-Span Update Changes and DTMS Upgrade

New and Notable Clinical Features:

- RSV Vaccine

American Data NEW Phone System

Accounts Receivable Email



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.

Communication

Accounts Receivable Support

ECS User Forum Discussions

Issues & Solutions Client Access Report

Paid Advertisements

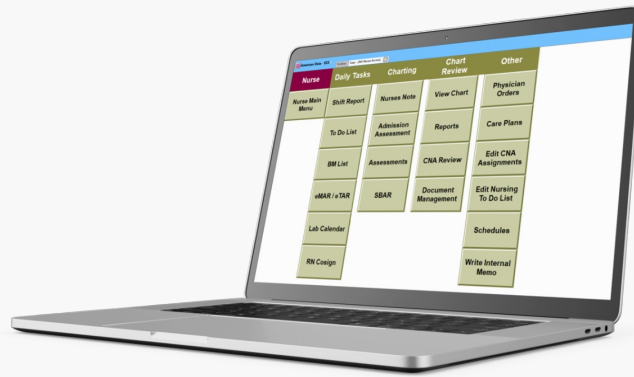
ECS Tip of the Month:
Adding a Provider

Share your success!
Deficiency-Free Surveys

Congratulations to Lakeview Health Center!

Quick Links:
[Client Sign On](#)

"Like" us on [Facebook](#)



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

LEARN MORE

Upcoming Webinars



ECS MDS Documentation Update Training

Session Date:
Wednesday, September 20th
(1:00 - 2:00 pm CST)

SIGN UP TODAY

ECS Updates and Industry News

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!

MDS and Documentation Changes for October 2023

Changes to Existing Documentation Topics

The following documentation will be completed in the same way that it was previously, but some questions have been added or changed to meet new MDS requirements.

- Pain Assessment
- Personal Information
- PHQ-2 to 9 (PHQ-9)
- Care Plans (Nursing or Person Centered)
- Status Topic
- Admission Note

New Documentation Topics

- Functional Abilities and Goals (GG) (Nursing/Therapy)
- Discharge Goal/Care Conference (Q)
- CNA Documentation Topics

Other Changes

- CNA Access Screens
- New View Tasks/Reports
- MDS Changes

[FY2024 CHANGES - FULL DOCUMENT](#)

[CNA USER HANDOUT](#)

ECS Update 10.2.0.x

American Data is planning to post an update to our website, version 10.2.0.x, which will provide the necessary programming, new topics, tasks, and reports for the October 1, 2023 changes. We will be sending an email next week with notification the update has been posted, instructions for downloading this update and follow up required once the update has been installed.

PPS PDPM Rate Changes

PPS PDPM Rate Changes

Along with the MDS changes effective 10/01/2023, your PPS PDPM HIPPS rates are changing. If you use the ECS Accounts Receivable module, you should update your rates in ECS, prior to calculating Medicare (A) for October 2023 dates of service. Click the button below for instructions on updating your PPS PDPM HIPPS rates.

[VIEW DOCUMENT](#)

Fall Flu Vaccine

The annual influenza vaccine season runs from August 1 – July 31. Fall is the time to provide Flu Vaccine clinics in your facility and this means that flu vaccine rates are changing effective 08/01/2023.

BEFORE you provide the Flu Vaccine to your residents, ensure that your clinical charting screens are up to date, your staff are trained on charting, and you have updated the fee schedule in ECS.

Determine ahead of time, the vaccine that you will be providing. You need to know the Manufacturer and vaccine name. If you use ECS for billing, you will also need to know the HCPCS/CPT Code and Fee Schedule. Below is a link to the CMS website that has this information.

Make sure your Immunization charting screens have the correct vaccine and that it is clear to your staff which vaccine they should be charting this year. Before billing, make sure you have updated the fee schedule in ECS, effective 08/01/2023.

Ensuring your clinical staff have up to date charting screens, and know how to chart, is essential to making the flow from clinical charting to billing smooth and efficient. If you

have any questions on this, please reach out to clinical or financial support departments at American Data.

VISIT CMS.GOV LINK

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.

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 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

CONTACT US

New & Notable Clinical Features

RSV Vaccine

The CDC recommends adults 60 years and older may receive a single dose of RSV vaccine, based on discussions between the patient and health care provider. If your residents will be receiving the RSV vaccine, please email clinical@american-data.com and we can get new words set up for you to record this vaccine. Billable time for the setups, up to 1 hour, will be incurred.

LEARN MORE



American Data

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**

NEW Phone System

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.

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 DISCUSSIONS



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!

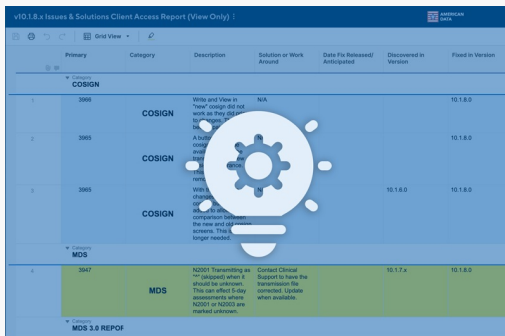
What's New & Upcoming

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 the spring of 2023 with version 10.1.9.0. 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



Primary	Category	Description	Solution or Work Around	Date For Release/Anticipated	Discovered in Version	Fixed in Version
COBSIGN						
3985	COBSIGN	Write and View in new design and work to that did not work in previous version.	N/A			10.1.8.0
3986	COBSIGN	Write and View in new design and work to that did not work in previous version.				10.1.8.0
3987	COBSIGN	Write and View in new design and work to that did not work in previous version.			10.1.8.0	10.1.8.0
3988	COBSIGN	Write and View in new design and work to that did not work in previous version.				10.1.8.0
MDS						
3989	MDS	N201 Transmitting as "Completed" when it should be unknown. This can affect other applications when N201 or N202 are marked unknown.	Contact Clinical Support to have this transmission file corrected. Update when available.		10.1.7.x	10.1.8.0
MDS 3.0 REPOF						

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

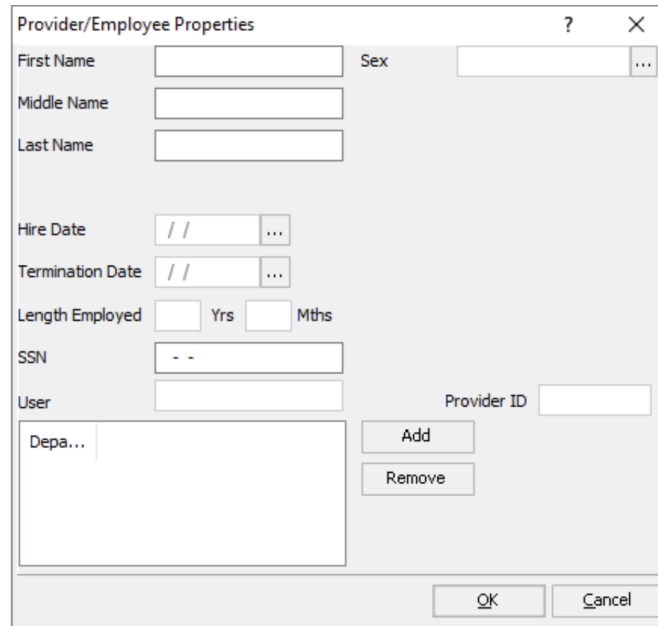
[Learn more about Picture This Game](#)



ECS Tip of the Month

Adding a Provider

When adding a new provider as a user in ECS you will receive a pop-up message that states, "Do you want to add a provider for this user?". If you select "Yes" you will be able to enter the new Provider/Employee Properties at that time and locate them.



If you select "No" you will still be able to add them in the demographics. To do this, follow the steps below:

- Click the Toolbar and Select ID.
- Click New and select the Provider option. The Provider/Employee Properties window appears.
- Enter the Provider/Employee demographic information and click OK to save the information.
- The user will then be prompted with the Locate screen where the Provider must be set to Active in the appropriate Site/Service that they will mainly be working in. If the provider floats between different services, pick the one that they will be working in most often.
- Once completed in the Locate screen, click OK to enter the Provider/Employee into the system.

For further assistance contact Clinical Support at clinical@american-data.com.

LEARN MORE

Deficiency-Free Survey Awards



Congratulations to

Lakeview Health Center!

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

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

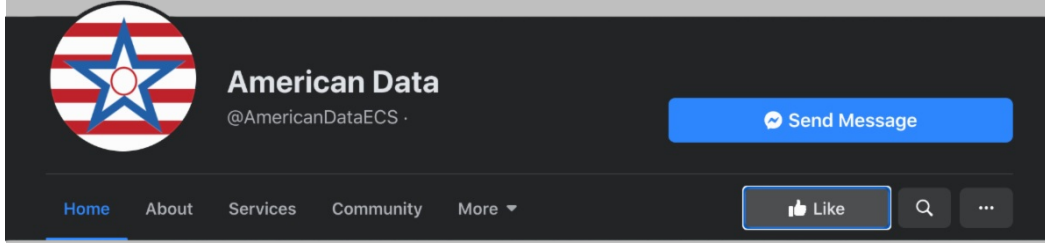
so we can share your successes! Send an email to cares@american-data.com.

SHARE YOUR SUCCESS

"Like" Us On Facebook

"Like" Us On Facebook!

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



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 | 1-800-464-9942

American Data | P.O. Box 640, Sauk City, WI 53583

[Unsubscribe cares@american-data.com](mailto:cares@american-data.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by cares@american-data.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!