



ECS Monthly Newsletter

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

October 2023



American Data Hosting

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ECS Online Resources

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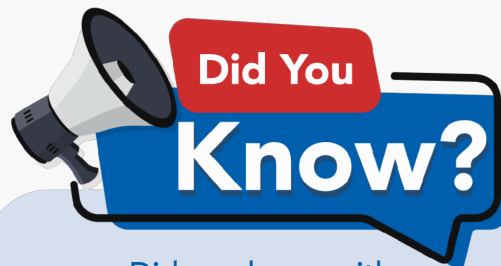
American Data NEW Phone System

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you can access your
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anywhere with a browser?

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

ECS Tip of the Month:
Medication Warning Alerts

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Deficiency-Free Surveys

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Manor!

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to learn more!

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ECS Updates and Industry News

ECS Online Resources

In lieu of a webinar in October, ECS would like to remind you of the tools available on our website under the Client Sign On. These tools are free to ECS users, but a login is needed for the website. If you do not know who has the Client Sign On information, contact us. We have available documentation from ECS Basics to Setups. There are over 90 training videos as well as past webinars to view. Below is a list of Webinars that contain helpful information about the latest changes for the MDS.

- [MDS Regulation and Documentation Changes](#)
- [Clinical FAQs 2023](#)
- [What's New in the Fall Release \(10.2.0.x\)](#)
- [ECS MDS Documentation Update Training](#)

This is just a portion of what ECS has to offer. Please log on to see a full list of past webinars and training videos. Questions The ECS Forum is a great place to ask a question and review current information such as the Tip of the Month or Frequently Asked Questions. If you have any questions or concerns, please email Clinical at Clinical@american-data.com and Financial at Financial@american-data.com or call us at (800) 464-9942.

CONTACT US

MDS Rejections on Section O

MDS Rejections on Section O

CMS has identified a problem with Edit 4058. They will not be correcting the problem with Edit 4058 until approximately November 1, 2023. The correction will be retroactive to assessments with a target date of 10/01/2023 and after. Until CMS makes the correction, you will receive rejections on any assessments where A0310B = 99 for Section O.

We have programmed a utility that will allow your assessments to pass through CMS (with their Edit 4058 issue) until their correction is in place.

UTILITY LINK

Instructions For Running the Utility

1. Click the Utility Link provided in this email. This will likely open in your internet browser.
2. Click Download.
3. You will find the downloaded file (FixMDSAssessmentsEdit4058) in your Recent Downloads box.
4. Select the FixMDSAssessmentsEdit4058 from the recent downloads. Based on your internet settings, you may have to click "More Info" and "Download Anyway" from the Windows Protection message. to allow your system to run this file.
5. When the utility box opens, click Select File.
6. Select the appropriate MDS Zip file and click Open.
7. Click Fix Assessments. This will save the new Zip file with an extension of **_Fixed** at the end of the file name, in the same location as the original file was located.
8. When you submit, make sure to select the Zip file with **_Fixed** at the end.

Sample File of Before and after:

 util1002	10/2/2023 4:35 PM	Compressed (zipp...	10 KB
 util1002_Fixed	10/2/2023 4:49 PM	Compressed (zipp...	10 KB

If you have any questions, please email clinical@american-data.com

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MDS Changes Effective 10/01/2023

MDS Changes Effective 10/01/2023

MDS Changes went into effect 10/01/2023. If you have not already updated to 10.2.0.1 you will need to do so immediately. If you have not done so already, please fill out the form below, so we can complete setups for required documentation

FILL OUT FORM

Changes to Existing Documentation Topics

The following documentation will be completed in the same way that it has been. New questions have been added to the MDS and some existing questions have changed. American Data's staff has completed, or will complete, setups in the following topics, to correspond with these MDS changes.

- 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

Mid-September, we posted an update, **v10.2.0.0** to our website. This update included most of the programming needed for the **10/01/2023 MDS changes**. This update also allowed us to complete setups that could not be sent via an update.

At the end of September, we posted **v10.2.0.1** to our website. This is a patch which included the remaining programming needed for the 10/01/2023 MDS changes as well as any fixes that were needed.

If you downloaded v10.2.0.0, you must download and apply v10.2.0.1 asap. If you did not download v10.2.0.0, you can skip that update and must download and apply v10.2.0.1 asap.

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](#)

Vaccines

Vaccines

Fall is vaccine season and the time to provide vaccine clinics in your facility. Changes to Flu and Covid Vaccines have been made and the RSV Vaccine has been added.

BEFORE you provide any vaccines to your residents, ensure that your clinical charting screens are up to date and your staff are trained on proper charting practices.

Determine ahead of time, the vaccine that you will be providing. You need to know the Manufacturer and vaccine name, the HCPCS/CPT Code and Fee Schedule if you are using

ECS to bill. Below is a link to the CMS website that has this information.

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.

Flu Vaccine

The annual influenza vaccine season runs from August 1 – July 31. Flu vaccine HCPCS codes and rates are change effective 08/01/2023. Please work with your DON and pharmacy to determine which vaccines you will administer.

Covid Vaccine

There are new Covid vaccines available. Please work with your DON and pharmacy to determine who will administer the vaccine, which vaccine will be provided, and who will be billing for the vaccine.

VISIT CMS.GOV LINK

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.

VISIT CDC.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** 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?

American Data's Technical Support Department has been 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. This provides more detailed information to the user and further decreases the likelihood of a harmful d

What's Next?

Once you have applied the 10.2.0.1 update, American Data's Technical Support will be able to schedule a time to reconfigure your Medi-Span updates. If you are not already converted to DTMS3, please reach out to tech@american-data.com to establish a plan for your conversion after the 10.2.0.1 update has been installed.

If you have already been converted to DTMS3, there is no further action needed. If you are hosted by American Data Cloud, the DTMS3 changes were enabled in April 2023. There is no further action needed.

CONTACT US

Surveyor Access Screens

Surveyor Access Screens

Some people call them "Easy Buttons", and some call them "Access Screens". Regardless, what they can do for staff (and surveyors) is provide a better workflow to record or retrieve chart information. These buttons can make life **easy** for users.

We heard from some clients that state surveyors want a better way to navigate ECS. How can it get any easier than with a click of a button? When a surveyor logs in, they immediately get a preselected list of clients they have decided to look at during their visit, followed by their easy access buttons designed by the facility (with American Data staff support if needed). These workflow buttons can also limit information to what they have the right or obligation to see.

The sample below gives you an idea of what is possible. Anything can be modified around your needs for your facility. Our clinical staff is ready, willing, and able to help you implement and use this ECS feature.

Surveyor								
Hide ECS	Pressure Ulcers	Falls	Elopement	PASARR	MDS	All Nurses Notes	Restorative Charting	View Chart
	Dialysis	ADL Status	Change of Condition	Advance Directives	CAAs	CNA Documentation	Physician Charting	
EHR Information Sheet	Infections	Bowel and Bladder	Physician Orders	Hospice	Care Plans	Activity Charting	MARs	
EHR Information Sheet (COVID)	Nutrition	Hospitalization	Diagnoses	COVID-19 Test Results	Face Sheet	Social Services Charting	TARs	

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Feedback From Our Clients

"Today, I am reaching out to you as a previous user of your services. I was with a Medical Care Facility for 15 years and utilized ECS for most of my time there. So many times, I was told how great Point Click Care was and that it was the "best program" for Long Term Care facilities. I have now worked in two other facilities that use PCC and I absolutely despise the program. It is not user friendly, and the customer support falls terribly below the level of support ECS had always provided. Thank you for smiling when answering the phone and being available to your clients. You are an amazing company to work with and I miss you.

Having said that, I am now the Director of Nursing with a small organization and would like to consider making changes with our EMR. We are a 39-bed facility and have been averaging approximately 28 residents. We are working to increase our census and would love to run in the upper 30's. To do this, I feel I need to make things more efficient for my staff. Could we set up a meeting to discuss?

Thank you and have an amazing day!"

V. Lenhard
Director of Nursing, LTC

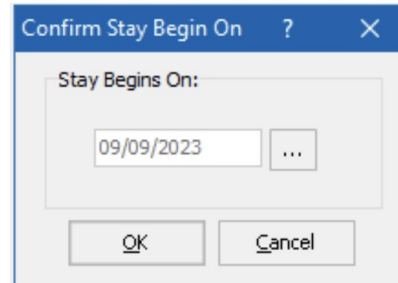
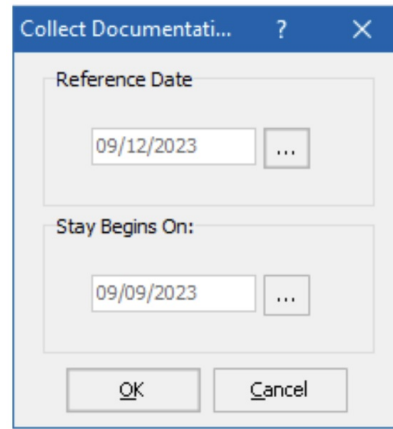
New & Notable Clinical Features

Changes to Lookback Periods

- CMS has changed the lookback period for several items on the MDS. Most significantly changed are the admission columns of items GG0130 and GG0170.
- These items now always look forward from the start of the stay, rather than looking back from the ARD.
- Depending on the type of assessment, the stay starts either on A2400B or A1600.
- ECS has added date fields to allow for these changes:
- Changes to *Collect*: As previously, a box will pop up to confirm the assessment dates prior to starting

the data collection process. However, due to the CMS changes, the user will now need to confirm both the ARD and the date that the stay begins on.

- Reference Date: Unchanged, ARD in A2300
- Stay Begins On:
 - If PPS (A0310B=1), enter the Medicare Start Date from A2400B
 - If OBRA (A0310B=99), enter the entry date from A1600
- For Chart Review within section GG, clicking the item number gives a box to verify when the stay begins. Confirm as above.



[LEARN MORE](#)

American Data 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.

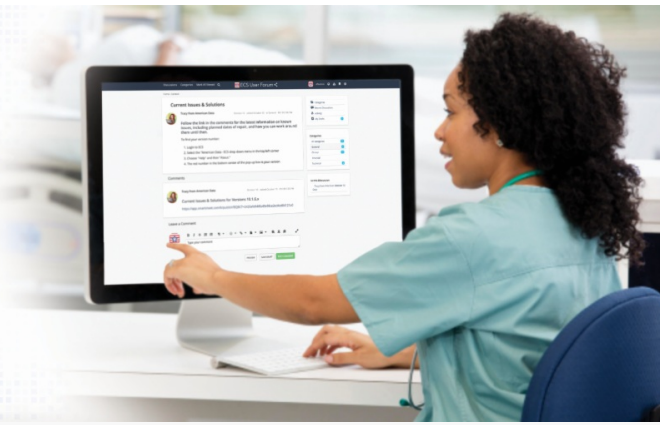


Accounts Receivable Email Communication

[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.



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	Case Fix Release/ Mitigation	Discussed in Version	Fixed in Version
<div style="text-align: center;"> </div>						
3900	COSIGN	Write and View in...	N/A		10.1.8.0	10.1.9.0
3900	COSIGN	...			10.1.8.0	10.1.9.0
3900	COSIGN	...			10.1.8.0	10.1.9.0
3947	MDS	NDSM Transacting as...	Order Central...		10.1.7.0	10.1.9.0

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

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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!

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ECS Tip of the Month

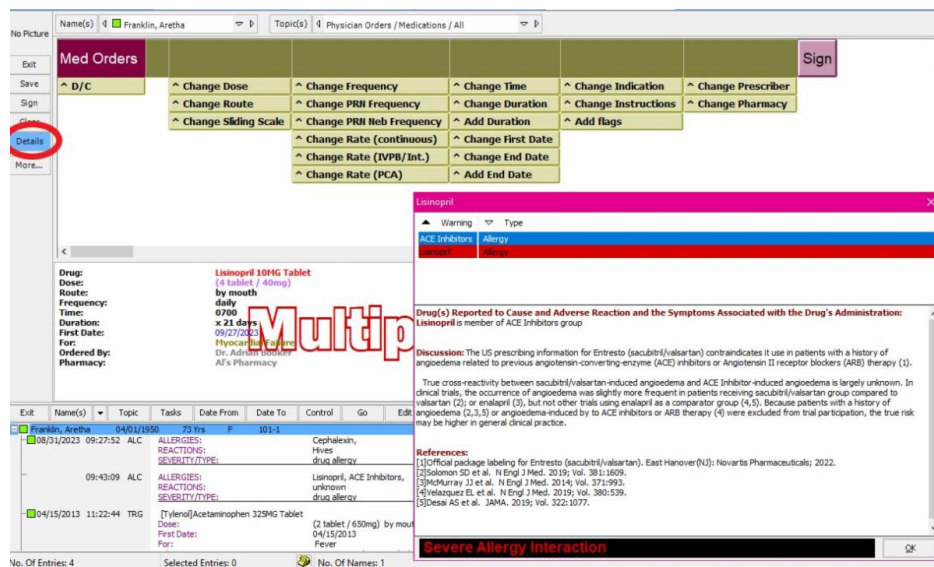
Medication Warning Alerts

When a medication order is being written and the resident has an allergy to that medication, a red watermark will appear behind the Drug entry alerting of that allergy interaction.



If there are multiple warnings, the user entering the information will want to check what warnings are present.

To do this, click on the "Details" button on the left side of the screen to view all warnings.



[LEARN MORE](#)

Deficiency-Free Survey Awards



Congratulations to
Greenway Manor!

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.

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