AMERICAN DATA | Cares

ECS Monthly Newsletter

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

November 2023

American Data Hosting

Upcoming Webinar:

MDS to the MAX!
Wednesday, November 15th
(1:00pm-2:00pm CST)

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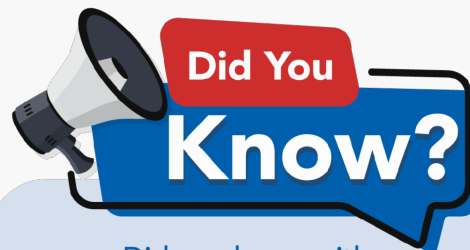
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ECS Tip of the Month:
MDS Correction VS Changes

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Deficiency-Free Surveys

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Did You Know?

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.

Contact us now at
info@american-data.com

to learn more!

Upcoming Webinars

MDS to the MAX!

Session Date:
Wednesday, November 15th
(1:00 - 2:00 pm CST)

SIGN UP TODAY

ECS Updates and Industry News

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.

CONTACT US

A Message from American Data President

A speaker at a convention years ago told his audience that a nursing home should know and focus on the purpose of their business. For Nursing Homes, that purpose is obvious: **quality care for the people entrusted to them in their facility**. It is not enough to say the words in advertisements. It is a goal to reach by doing all things possible when providing care. And this means striving to operate, as much as possible, **above the minimal standards of care.**

Being in the NH business for fifty (50) years, I see this goal slipping away from nursing homes. Why? Because the minimal standards of care are regulations. That is, the state is becoming the standard barrier for quality care, rather than the facility.
Regulation can cause a facility to lose sight of its purpose of business and insidiously cause a focus to shift to regulations as the definition of quality care. As another speaker, also years ago put it at a state convention, "A great survey equals a "report card" grade of a D, F being failure." Striving for and setting a B or A-grade goal results in quality patient care.

Many SaaS, multi-tenant EMR systems can also focus on regulations, where regulations are the one thing that is common **between unrelated facilities**. This only promotes the idea that compliance with the state is the objective of the facility.

American Data's ECS will NOT become multi-tenant but will keep the foundation of a focus on the goals of the facility that are above and beyond those minimal standards of care and regulations. Recently in a breakout session of the 2023 Leading Age Fall convention, the presenter (a state surveyor) stated that "with ECS" the facility must furnish the surveying team with computers to access ECS when on-site, and "with PCC" (a multi-tenant system) the surveying team can use their laptops. While this might be true, making the job of surveyors easier is not a reason to use a multi-tenant system if the facility wants to provide services above and beyond regulations. This statement from the surveyor presenter comes as no surprise to American Data. We have heard the complaints coming from our ECS clients. From one client: "So excited [hearing we now offer a hosting solution using a browser], we hate when surveyors come, and they crab at us because they can't use their computers." American Data now has a solution. **Use American Data's new cloud hosting option when those given facility clearance, can access the facility's ECS using a browser on the surveyor's laptops.**

Regardless, the facility should at least be using ECS's unique "EASY ACCESS capabilities for surveyors". A single click on the screen provides the surveyor with the information desired per the guidelines from the Bureau Director of the Division of Quality Assurance. American Data clients are welcome to contact our clinical support team if they need help setting up this unique functionality.

John Ederer
President - American Data

*"……the facilities take a long time to get the surveyors set up and logged on delaying starting to get into records, especially **when the survey is standalone like a complaint** that is only one day". [bold emphasis added by American Data]*

ANN ANGELL, BUREAU DIRECTOR
DIVISION OF QUALITY ASSURANCE

P.S. The day is coming when a complaint will be dealt with from a surveyor's office... maybe their living room.

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 10.2.0.3 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

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.
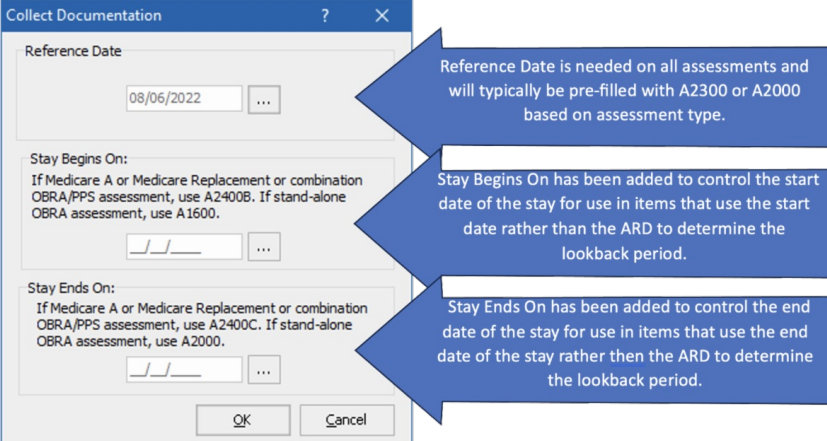
Please Note: Standing Orders

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**.

New & Notable Clinical Features

Changes to Lookback Periods

The "Collect" feature in ECS collects information from the resident's chart for the MDS assessment. This feature has been updated to reflect the changes made by CMS. These changes will be seen in the dialog box that pops up when "Collect" is chosen on the assessment completion screen.

LEARN MORE

American Data News

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 Fall of 2023 with version 10.2.0.0. 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.
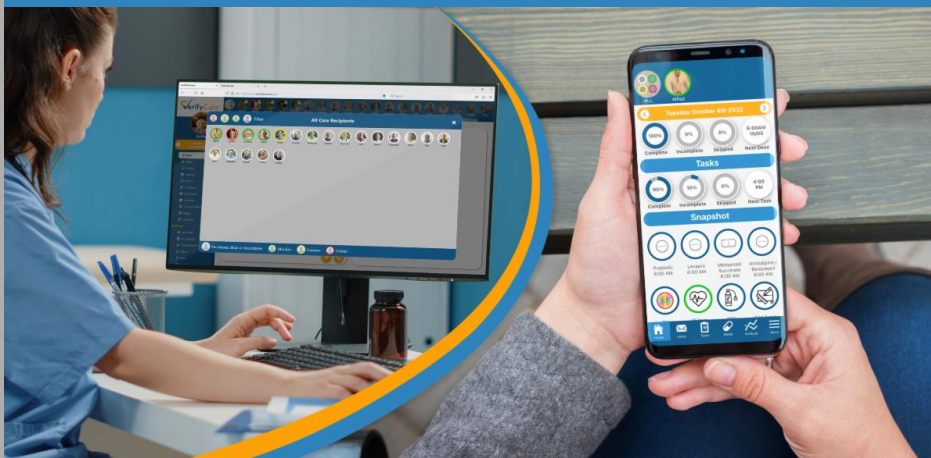3. Click on *Sign In with American Data User in the right-hand corner.*

LOG IN

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

For the Activity Department
$1.99

Learn more about Deal of Fortune

For Families & Friends
$0.99

Learn more about Picture This Game

ECS Tip of the Month

MDS Correction VS Changes

The only time **Correction** MDS's are needed is once an assessment has been accepted and there is a modification to that assessment that needs to be made. If assessments have been rejected or not yet transmitted, then a **Change** is selected.

Change a Submitted Assessment (before it is accepted by the state)

(This process is used if either is true:
• The assessment has been submitted but not yet transmitted to the State

- The assessment has been transmitted to the State and was rejected)
  1. From within the **MDS Manager**, highlight a resident's MDS and click onto the **Change** button. If not using the MDS Manager this can be accessed through **American-ECS > Write > MDS 3.0 Assessment > Change.**
  2. The assessment will reopen. Make the appropriate change(s) to the assessment and click **Sign** Section to save.
  3. When all necessary changes to this assessment are complete, the assessment must be resubmitted.

Complete a Correction of an Assessment

(A Correction may need to be completed if the state accepted an assessment and the assessment needs to be modified or inactivated)

  1. From within the **MDS Manager**, highlight a resident's MDS and click onto the **Correct** button. If not using the MDS Manager this can be accessed through **American-ECS > Write > MDS 3.0 Assessment > Correct.**
  2. A copy of this assessment will appear. Select the appropriate answer for **A0050** (Modification or Inactivation) and sign Section A. Complete Section X and click **Sign** Section to save.
  3. If you choose to modify (rather than inactivate) the assessment, select the section(s) where the correction is needed, make the appropriate change(s), and click **Sign** Section to save.
  4. When all necessary changes to this assessment are complete, the Correction assessment must be submitted, and then transmitted to the state.

Note: each correction assessment will have an "**M**" or "**I**" in parentheses to indicate whether the correction is an inactivation or modification.

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**LEARN MORE**

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Deficiency-Free Survey Awards

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.**

<div align="center">

SHARE YOUR SUCCESS

</div>

"Like" Us On Facebook

"Like" Us On Facebook!

Follow our **Facebook** page to stay connected with the American Data community.
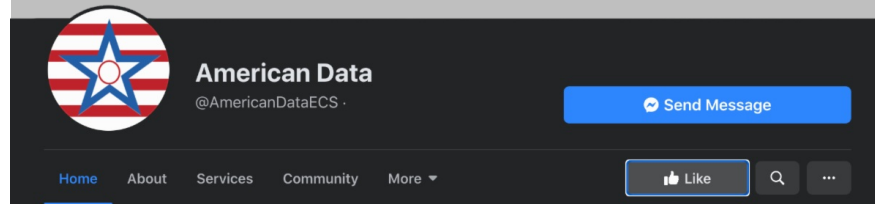
American Data After-Hours Support

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!