



ECS Monthly Newsletter

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

December 2023



American Data Hosting

Upcoming Webinar:

[ECS Financial Year End Webinar](#)

Wednesday, December 20th
(10:00am-11:00am CST)

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President*

NDC Change Warnings

New and Notable Clinical Features:

- *Changes to Lookback Periods*

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*Issues & Solutions Client Access
Report*

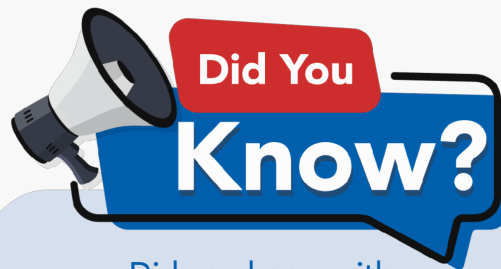
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*ECS Tip of the Month:
ECS Accounts Receivable*

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Business Office Managers, and
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browser access.



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Wish you the happiest holidays



Upcoming Webinars



ECS Financial Year End Webinar

Session Date:
Wednesday, December 20th
(10:00 - 11:00 am CST)

SIGN UP TODAY

ECS Updates and Industry News

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	

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.

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.

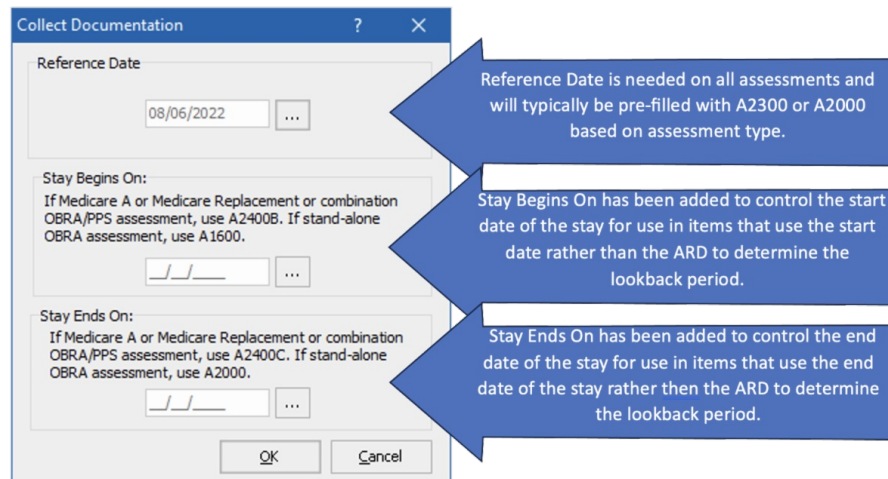
Please Note: Standing Orders

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.

New & Notable Clinical Features

Changes to Lookback Periods

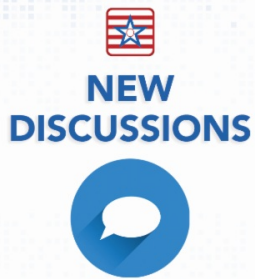
The "Collect" feature in ECS collects information from the resident's chart for the MDS assessment. This feature has been updated to reflect the changes made by CMS. These changes will be seen in the dialog box that pops up when "Collect" is chosen on the assessment completion screen.



The screenshot shows a dialog box titled "Collect Documentation" with three main sections. The first section, "Reference Date", has a text box containing "08/06/2022" and a dropdown arrow. The second section, "Stay Begins On:", includes a text box with "11/11" and a dropdown arrow. The third section, "Stay Ends On:", also has a text box with "11/11" and a dropdown arrow. At the bottom are "OK" and "Cancel" buttons. Three blue callout boxes with white text point to these sections:

- Reference Date** is needed on all assessments and will typically be pre-filled with A2300 or A2000 based on assessment type.
- Stay Begins On** has been added to control the start date of the stay for use in items that use the start date rather than the ARD to determine the lookback period.
- Stay Ends On** has been added to control the end date of the stay for use in items that use the end date of the stay rather than the ARD to determine the lookback period.

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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

10.1 ECS Issues & Solutions Client Access Report (View Only)

Primary	Category	Description	Resolution or Work Around	Open For Release/ Anticipation	Discontinued in Version	Fixed in Version
3000	COSIGN	Will not View in ...	N/A			10.1.0.0
3000	COSIGN	...				10.1.0.0
3000	COSIGN	...				10.1.0.0
3000	COSIGN	...				10.1.0.0
3047	MDS			10.1.7.0
	MDS			10.1.0.0

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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ECS Tip of the Month

ECS Accounts Receivable

Make your New Year's resolution to make your Financial system more efficient in 2024! Use ECS for your Accounts Receivable! The integration between your clinical charting improves efficiency in your billing process. This allows you to send claims faster, and receive payments faster. We also offer Accounts Payable and General Ledger. View a demonstration of the complete Financial module on the client sign-on portion of our website.

LEARN MORE

Deficiency-Free Survey Awards



Share your success with American Data!

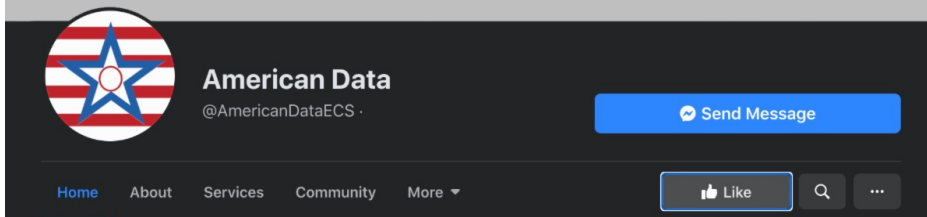
Many ECS Facilities receive perfect surveys. Did your facility? Let us know! Please let us know of your facility's Deficiency-Free Survey and/or Most Improved Survey so we can share your successes! Send an email to cares@american-data.com.

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Saturday & Sunday: Closed

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