

February 20, 2014

To AHA RACTrac Partner Vendors:

Thank you for helping to make RACTrac a Success!

As of January 2014, there are more than 2,400 hospitals participating in RACTrac. The AHA is currently in the process of implementing enhancements to RACTrac in order to collect additional information on the impact of RACs on hospitals. At this time, we would like to work with current RACTrac-compatible vendors to incorporate new data elements into your CSV upload files. These enhancements are being made at the request of hospitals and state and local hospital associations. All vendors that complete the CSV update process will receive certification as “RACTrac 2014 Compatible.”

In order to better communicate the hospital story, RACTrac will now be collecting data on:

1. Appeal status at each level of appeal,
2. RAC process timeliness issues,
3. Impact of the 2-midnight rule,
4. Rebilling initiatives, and
5. RAC pre-payment denials.

A wire frame of the enhanced survey and data definitions document are attached. New data elements, changed data elements and related criteria are identified in the data definitions document. Identification of suggested quality assurance procedures is also included as a separate tab in the definitions document. Though it is not mandatory, it is strongly recommended that vendors incorporate these procedures into their software wherever possible to assure the quality of submitted data.

Regarding release management and testing, old CSV files that do not contain the RACTrac enhancements will still be uploaded into the survey after this release. However, AHA is asking current RACTrac-compatible vendors to incorporate these changes into their software to reflect the wishes of the hospital and association communities who believe these data points are necessary to fully measure RAC activity. Specifically, AHA requests that the CSV files be updated and distributed to hospitals for use in the data collection period beginning July 1, 2014.



A contact information sheet for you to update and email back is attached in addition to the enhanced survey and updated data definition file. The enhanced survey is reflective of the data definitions document which highlights the new, changed and deleted data elements and related criteria as follows:

- Updates to questions in the current survey are denoted in (green text),
- Questions or wording that is no longer relevant is denoted in (red text),
- 'NEW' questions are denoted with (green shading and white text), and
- Questions that have been moved from the Administrative Burden section of the survey (outside the scope of vendor software) to other areas of the survey are denoted with (grey shading and white text).

A sample enhanced CSV file will be available online shortly. Please contact AHA's contracted vendor and customer support for RACTrac ([ractracsupport@providercs.com](mailto:ractracsupport@providercs.com)) when you have created a CSV file that you believe is compatible with the test file on-line and make sure to communicate with your client hospitals as to the availability of this functionality for the 2014 Q2 RACTrac survey.

AHA does not foresee exhaustive testing comparable to the first CSV file testing process. AHA does foresee a 'quick' iteration whereby the CSV will be verified by PCS to be compatible with layout standards and contains reasonable values.

Please advise the AHA as to your release management timeframes so we know what to expect from a support perspective, and please let us know if you have any questions about the included survey update documents. Thank you again for your continued support.