



DEC 10 2003

Dear Tribal Leader:

I would like to inform you of upcoming plans for an Indian Health Service (IHS) Area-wide special export of all Resource Patient Management System (RPMS) , Patient Registration, and Patient Care Component data from October 1, 2000, to the present. The data will be used to populate a new national data warehouse (DW) developed by the Information Technology Support Center (ITSC) in Albuquerque. The design and programming of the DW are almost complete. The initial data load will begin approximately mid-December 2003 and will continue sequentially, Area-by-Area, over the next 9 to 10 months.

The DW project and its anticipated benefits have been widely discussed throughout the Indian health system at meetings with the Information System Advisory Council, Executive Leadership Group, Indian Health Leadership Council, and Combined National Councils as well as at Tribal consultation meetings. The DW project has incorporated various recommendations from these leadership groups resulting in a new data warehouse for improving quality data.

The DW project will yield many data quality and reporting improvements, which include:

- eliminating the duplication of patient reports and improving the accuracy of user population reports;
- adding data items, such as medications and lab test results, to better report patient outcomes;
- ensuring the DW more closely mirrors data at local sites so reports can be more readily verifiable;
- assisting local sites and Area information system coordinators to track and monitor locally exported RPMS data for DW purposes;
- providing a more complete data repository to support your Area's performance measurement activities, health status, surveillance, and epidemiology needs; and

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- providing the Agency with a "single version of current reality" by using one rigorously gathered, verified, and maintained data source.

We all recognize the increased need for timely, accurate, and complete data to support the IHS mission to elevate the health status of American Indians and Alaska Natives to the highest level. I am confident the DW project will improve the Agency's reporting needs.

Thank you for your support during this important project.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Charles W. Grim, D.D.S., M.H.S.A.  
Assistant Surgeon General  
Director

cc: Tribal Health Director