



SEP 13 2001

Dear Tribal Leader:

This is an advance notice of an upcoming project that will involve a comprehensive export of patient registration files from all Indian Health Service (IHS) direct and tribal facilities into the National Patient Information Reporting System (NPIRS).

Ongoing efforts to review, evaluate, and modify patient care data collection and compilation for workload reporting and user population counts have resulted in several recommendations that are expected to improve quality and timeliness. These recommendations are a culmination of the joint efforts of IHS Headquarters, Area, and Data Center staff to find solutions to tribal and Federal concerns.

One recommendation requires all facilities to do a comprehensive patient registration export to reload NPIRS. This recommendation was made when it was determined that an accumulation of problems evolving over time had an adverse effect on data quality in the NPIRS database. The results from this recommendation should correct problems in under and over-counting of user population.

The Patient Registration Re-Export Workgroup, composed of statistical officers and information systems staff from seven Area offices, Data Center staff and Statistics Program staff in Headquarters, are actively involved in developing and coordinating the recommendation and the process. Area representatives have provided valuable insight and input into the process from a local perspective.

This notice should be used as an opportunity to instruct your staff to do patient registration files cleanup or maintenance before the export. Technical information on files cleanup and maintenance is provided in the enclosure.

Our goal is to set a timeframe for the actual export to occur during a two-month period, starting in approximately two to three months. This will provide ample time to develop the process and instructions, perform local files cleanup, and allow the Data Center to prepare for receipt of the files.

Page 2 - Dear Tribal Leader

You will receive a formal request to begin this process with the official timeframes, guidelines and instructions. We want to make this process as simple and problem-free as possible.

For RPMS exports this is a very simple process, as standard methods will be employed; the major difference is the size of the file exported. For non-RPMS sites, the degree of work will vary. Every effort will be made to minimize the resources required.

This project should resolve most of the data quality problems identified recently. I recognize the importance of having quality data to justify our requests for resources and to distribute those resources equitably. I look forward to working with you on this project, and ask for your support and cooperation for this effort.

Please contact Ms. Edna Paisano, Principal Statistician Consultant, on (301) 443-1180, if you have questions.

Sincerely yours,

/Michael H. Trujillo/

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Enclosure