

CMS COW Project Update to CLIAC

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CLIA

CMS
CENTERS for MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

CMS COW Project Update

- **Follow Up on Feb. '04 CLIAC Report**
- **BACKGROUND:**
 - CMS implemented a database developed with CDC to receive & compile COW results.
 - CMS presented to CLIAC *preliminary* data from COW visits during '02 & '03.
 - CLIAC responded enthusiastically and made several recommendations.
 - Concerns were expressed about the severity and number of problems identified.

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- What happened following CLIAC?
 - CMS validated 2002 data.
 - CMS evaluating 2003 data now.

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- What does the data look like now?
 - ALL data are correct.
 - Some results are different than initially reported.
 - Most are very similar.

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- What caused the differences in the data?
 - Initially reported data was raw & unverified.
 - Data system was new to users.
 - Requires manual data entry.
 - Had no edits.
 - CMS had no process to identify/verify questionable information timely.

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- What caused the differences in the data?
Cont'd.
 - Surveyors made data entry errors and/or entered unconfirmed data that wasn't subsequently updated.
 - Some surveyors may have considered testing beyond the certificate scope an immediate jeopardy situation, but didn't notify CMS.

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- What Has CMS Done to Correct the Problems?
 - Training provided to surveyors on data base use and COW survey procedures.
 - Edits placed in the system to prevent entering certain information without confirmation.
 - CMS regional offices will regularly review their States' data.

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- What has CMS Done to Correct the Problems? Cont'd.

- The data base will be locked at the conclusion of each FY to prevent interlopers from changing data.
- Definition of immediate jeopardy clarified.
- **All immediate jeopardy situations must be reported & confirmed to the CMS regional and central offices prior to entry in the data base.**

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- Where are we now?
 - Completing validation of '03 COW data.
 - Completing '04 surveys by 9/30.
 - Data system edits have been instituted and tested.
 - Proposal to continue COW surveys indefinitely has been submitted to CMS management.
 - *WE NEED YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!!*

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- **SUMMARY**

- Problems with preliminary data identified & addressed.
- Data is squeaky clean & credible with minimal adjustments.
- Future data will be reliable prior to release.
- ***Serious quality problems do exist in COW facilities.***
- Continued CLIAC support will enable us to address these issues appropriately.

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And now here is the final 2002 data!

