



## Mark Your Calendar

### APRIL DEADLINE FOR 2005 DATA SUBMISSION

Just like taxes, the date for your next data submission is fast approaching. Please submit **ALL** 2005 data (user, encounter, clinical and provider) by **April 15**. If you have not submitted all of 2004 data, you may attach that data with the 2005 data submission.



## Data Status

### TWENTY-FIVE CENTERS HAVE SUBMITTED 2004 DATA

Thank you to all Centers that have already submitted data! Currently, we have a 65% submission rate for 2004 data. If you have any questions or need assistance with your data submission, please contact Josh Adams, [jadams@mphi.org](mailto:jadams@mphi.org), 517-324-7325, as we need to have all data submissions completed by the **April 15** deadline.

### NEW REPORTS THAT PROVIDE FEEDBACK!

As SCN staff standardize the data, Centers are receiving an Excel file with initial summary profiles of data completeness. Please review these to ensure data were received and interpreted as intended. If a discrepancy is identified, please contact Cheribeth Tan-Shriner, [ctanschr@mphi.org](mailto:ctanschr@mphi.org), 517-324-7384.

### REPORT TEMPLATE DEVELOPMENT

SCN staff are in the process of developing a report template that will be used to summarize data from each individual center as well as to compare the individual center to the aggregate SCN network. This report will contain Patient and Encounter Volume; Provider Information; Patient Demographics; Encounter Demographics; Overview of Health Conditions; Chronic Health Conditions; Procedure Summary; Center Operation Indicators; and Selected Indicators of Quality & Health Care Disparities. Centers will receive a copy of their individual report followed by a copy of the aggregate report. **To ensure a comprehensive report, it is essential for Centers to submit their data in a timely manner.**

## HRSA Update

### SCN SHARES IN THE NACHC LIMELIGHT!

The SCN was in the limelight during the National Association of Community Health Centers' Policy and Information Forum that took place in WDC on 3/24-3/29! During the PCA Meeting on 3/24, Kim Sibilsky and Amisha Pandya provided an overview of the SCN network to PCA leaders. On 3/28 during the presentation on "The Role of Information Systems in BPHC's Quality of Care Strategies" Ms. Pandya also described how the SCN will support and enrich BPHC's quality strategy as the network provides the administrative data component of BPHC's quality picture.

During both presentations, Ms. Pandya announced that SCN data will be featured within the Bureau's annual Primary Care Databook, as well as providing listings of the current SCN participants. As a result of these presentations, your PCA leader may contact you for additional information.

During the presentations, it was also revealed that HRSA has put forth an RFP for a new integrated registry system to support quality tracking and reporting. HRSA intends to provide more information on how to obtain this new free registry as it becomes available.



## From the Centers

*Do you have questions or suggestions to share? Does your center have special activities or unique programs that would interest others? Please send your questions or a brief description of your suggestions/activities/programs for future newsletters to [SCN@mphi.org](mailto:SCN@mphi.org).*

### Table of Contents

Mark Your Calendar .....	1
Data Status .....	1
HRSA Update .....	1
From the Centers .....	1
Data Submission Tips .....	2
Special Recognition .....	2
Announcements .....	2



Sentinel  
Centers  
Network

March  
2006

Volume I  
Issue 2

Page 2

## Data Submission Tips

In order to process your user, encounter, clinical and provider data in a timely manner, make sure you include the following items with your data submission:

- A cover letter/information form that discusses:
  - the actual time spent in preparing the dataset,
  - technical problems that were encountered,
  - who we should contact if we have questions about what you provide us,
  - need for technical assistance, and
  - specifics about your data extract.

A sample Database Return Form can be found at <http://www.sentinelcenters.org>.

- File layout documents that describe the files you are providing to us should include:
  - the field name (e.g., gender, race, etc.),
  - length (number of characters representing the field), and
  - location (exact position in the dataset).

Examples of some of the more common types of files that can be submitted include Access data tables, Excel spreadsheets, delimited field files, and report printouts saved electronically as files.

- Data dictionaries and/or code lists that provide valid codes for your data items should also be provided. We need to know, in conjunction with the file layout documents, the valid codes for your data items. Examples of data for which you may need to provide data dictionaries/code lists are:
  - race (e.g., 1=white, 2=African American, etc.),
  - payment source (e.g., 1=Medicaid, 2=Medicare, etc.),
  - clinical degree (e.g., 1=MD, 2=DO, 3=NP, etc.),
  - clinical specialty, and
  - any "local codes" (procedure or diagnostic codes that are not CPT-4 or ICD-9).

We are here to help you. If you have **any** questions, please contact Ray Kalush, [rkalush@mphi.org](mailto:rkalush@mphi.org), 517-324-8341; Josh Adams, [jadams@mphi.org](mailto:jadams@mphi.org), 517-324-7325; or Cheribeth Tan-Schriner, [ctanschr@mphi.org](mailto:ctanschr@mphi.org), 517-324-7384.

### IMPORTANT REMINDER

Due to HIPAA requirements, the patient and provider identifiers that you provide to us must not be sent in clear text over the internet. Therefore we strongly encourage the use of our encrypted FTP site when sending data files.

## Special Recognition

### BIRMINGHAM HEALTH CARE - BIRMINGHAM, AL

Thanks to Matthew Marinelli, Network Administrator, for taking the time to refine and simplify the instructions for extracting the SCN data from a BCA system. Mr. Marinelli provided more detailed instructions for converting the report to a text format from the print spool in a windows environment. The instructions can be found at <http://www.sentinelcenters.org>.

### COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER NETWORK - ALAMEDA, CA

Thanks to Neil Maizlish, PhD, MPH, Epidemiologist, who graciously contacted us to offer his assistance in advancing the SCN's mission to improve quality of care. Dr. Maizlish shared some of his network's expertise in measuring clinical quality indicators in Community Health Centers.

## Announcements

### SCN MEETING POSTPONED

In an effort to gear up for the 2006 Data Report, the annual SCN meeting will be postponed until 2007.

### DIFFICULTY WITH 2003 DATA

Currently, we are considering options on how to proceed with 2003 data.

### SUPER CENTERS GROUP LAUNCHED

SCN is in the process of creating a "Super Centers" group. The purpose of this group is to assist MPHI with the following tasks:

- 1 Providing feedback and ideas on the reporting elements and report template that will be provided to centers.
- 2 Generating ideas to increase responsiveness of data submissions.
- 3 Generating ideas to enhance involvement of SCN participants.