

News and Highlights



Black Box Users

"NEW" Version 2.0 coming soon

Black Box Users * Please READ!

Effective April 10, 2018 the current black box will no longer be supported. All current black box users must download and install the new version of the .NET Framework, Version 4.5 or higher. The new black box will be available for download on March 20, 2018 – http://whainfocenter.com/whaic_837_handler.zip

As WHAIC continues to tighten its security to protect the data submitted, hospitals and ASCs that use our black box program to calculate the unique case ID value and remove the patient names and/or upload their data directly to Wlpop using the black box program from their 837 files **must act on this message.**

The black box was originally written using the .NET Framework 4.0, for maximum compatibility. However, 4.0 does not support the modern protocol for encrypted communications. Therefore, the black box is being updated to use what is called the **.NET 4.5 Framework**. **You will need to download and install this update, which is being designated version 2.0 for all data submitted in Q1 2018.**

The new program, version 2.0, does not have any functionality changes and will operate the same as the current black box. **Data Submitters may need to contact their IT or tech support to download and install the new version of the black box.**

837 Claim File Conversion Project!

Q118 – first quarter to report using 837 claims file format

We finally made it! All discharge data with dates of service that fall in Q118 must be submitted using the 837 claims file format. There are three major points to address before the close of quarter one:

- 1) There are no changes to the data submission dates as outlined in the current calendar. To print or download the 2018 data submission calendar go to the [WHA Information Center](#), Data Submitters / Wlpop Compliance & IC Updates for a copy of the [2018 Data Submission Calendar](#).
- 2) **We will continue to reach out to the CEO or other senior leadership of any facility that has not completed testing in the 837 format throughout the month of March.** Not having a complete, fully tested file is cause for serious concern in addition to putting the facility at risk of being out of compliance to submit state mandated discharge data. If your site does not have access to upload a file for 2018, a red notice informing you that you do not have permission to submit for the quarter will appear. Files must meet a certain amount of criteria in order to pass to production.
 - ❖ **Delaying 837 claims file testing causes hardship for your facility as well as WHAIC staff.**
- 3) In May and June we will be reviewing and rolling out changes to the file downloads and validation reports. We encourage you to maintain a hard copy or electronic copy of your last few quarters of validation reports to use as reference when comparing historical data during your validation review. This will provide the necessary resources to evaluate any major shifts in the current data versus what was historically reported.

WHAIC Website changes to support 837 Implementation

As a reminder, the current Wlpop Data Submission Manual will be replaced with the new Wlpop 837 Companion Guide and Technical Specifications.

In addition to the new Black Box version 2.0, there have been a number of updates and clarification made to the Wlpop 837 Data Submission Manual.

*In the Payer Mapping Table – **REMOVE:** Transplant Network, Organ Procurement, Donation and Transplantation We could not support this option as an actual payer type, and as a result we do not have a payer class to map this to for the data sets.

All Wlpop users, data submitters and editors should consult the online Wlpop manual prior to reaching out to WHAIC staff. While we make every effort to respond to all calls and emails in a timely manner, we have very limited resources. The online manual has a tremendous amount of information and should be utilized often.

Important Dates!

- 3/20 Posting: New Black Box Program
- 3/20 Posting: Updated Wlpop 837 Manual and Companion Guide
- 3/31 First Quarter ends
- 4/10 Current Black Box functions will be disabled
- 5/15 First quarter data is due in the 837 format

The Respected Source for Health Care Data

Who's who in CRM and Wlpop?

As we continue our efforts to transition our data submission process to the 837 claims file format, WHAIC staff has reached out to all primary contacts to verify and validate current Wlpop Users. Our goal is to make sure we have current information on file in both our contact management system and Wlpop. We are aiming to wrap up the 2018 database audit by the end of March 2018.

We appreciate the time you took to respond and the effort you make to keep us informed of current users. WHAIC staff will continue to reach out to anyone who has not responded, as it is important to maintain accurate contact information in our contact management system and Wlpop. If you have individuals from your facility or vendor contacts who do not need access to Wlpop but would like to keep up-to-date on what's happening at WHAIC, we can assign them a "newsletter role." As always, remember to check your users in the portal and inform us of any changes, including any vendor changes. For more information on the roles, refer to the [Wlpop Roles Document](#).

Mueller joins WHA Information Center

The WHA Information Center (WHAIC) is pleased to welcome Jennifer Mueller as their new vice president and privacy officer. Prior to joining WHAIC, Mueller spent 19 years at Watertown Regional Medical Center. She most recently served as the vice president, ancillary services; chief information officer and HIPAA privacy officer. Mueller holds a bachelor's degree in health information administration and a master in business administration from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

As vice president of the WHA Information Center, Mueller will be responsible for overall direction and oversight, including managing and developing WHAIC's product and service portfolio, guiding staff development, maintaining customer relationships and assisting in the growth and development of the organization.

"We are very excited to have Jennifer lead the WHAIC team. While she is a new employee, she is no stranger to the organization, having previously served on the WHA Information Center Data Advisory Committee. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the organization and will help WHAIC continue to meet the growing data and analytics needs of our members and other data-driven organizations," said Brian Potter, WHA chief operating officer.

The WHAIC staff is pleased to have Jennifer join our team and look forward to working with her.

