ArcBITS Newsletter

ArcSys Hot Tip

Want to verify an address and zip code on your own? Go to the web site

zip4.usps.com/zip4/

You enter the address, city, state, and zip and a standard address will appear along with the zip+ 4 code.
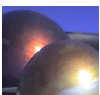
Zip-A-Dee-Do-Dah

One of the requirements of sending electronic claims in the new 5010 format is that the Zip Code be in the Zip + 4 format. You may have noticed that the mail that comes to your residence or business is usually in this format.

ArcSys is pleased to announce that we now have the software to assist you in transitioning your patient data base to this format. While simple and straightforward, there are some interesting side effects that we have seen during the development of this software.

The first step is to load the USPS Zip + 4 data base on to your server. This is a copyrighted data base and we have purchased the rights to distribute it to your servers. We have not loaded the data base for the entire country, only those states where the bulk of our clients' patients reside. Regardless, this is a massive file (by our standards). The data for the state of Utah takes 11MB alone. (As a point of comparison, the Diagnosis file contains 17,000 records and occupies about 1.2MB)

The second step is to run a program which looks at the street address and zip code of each patient record. This program will then "standardize" the street address. For instance, 506 NORTH 100 EAST will be turned into 506 N 100 E. Or, 1357 WEST KAYS CREEK DRIVE will be turned into 1357 W KAYS CREEK DR. *Assuming the spelling of the street and the house number are correct,* the 4-digit zip code extension is looked up and appended to the zip code. As you may know, these additional 4 digits assist the USPS in their

mail sorting process to place the envelope in the proper delivery order for the carrier.

If your house number is odd, the +4 may be different from your neighbor across the street who has an even number.

As stated, the spelling of the street name and the house number have to be valid. In the example above, KAYSCREEK may not be valid. Or, 137 may not be a legitimate house number. In such cases, the existing zip code is left alone without adding the +4.

In Red Planet, when you bring up the patient record, an edit warning message will appear if there is no zip+4 listed. You and your staff can choose to ignore this, but eventually it will have to be corrected. This is where it gets tricky. In some cases you can look at the address and see that part of the street name was misspelled. An "I" was used where an "E" should have been, for instance. But, most of the time, you really don't have a clue what is wrong. Is it the house number? Or, just how do you spell AVENIDA ESPLENDIDA?

When entering a new address and zip code, the edit check takes place and, again, the warning is presented. If the address is not in our zip data base, a prompt appears asking if you want to look it up on the Internet. If you click Yes, your web browser is directed to the USPS web site, and you do a ctrl-V in the address box, key in the zip code, and then click Submit.

Making this transition will have an impact on how you do things. Allow plenty of time well before January 1 to have this in place at your business.
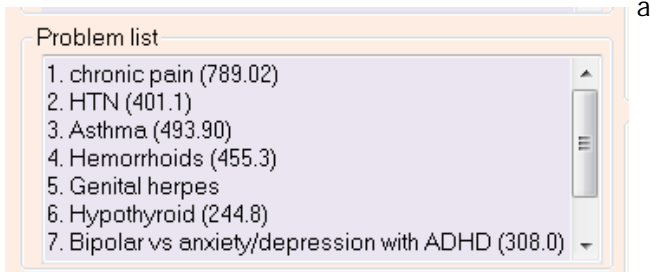
Certification Projects

September 7, 2011 is the date that ArcSys will be going through the process of having Red Planet 2.0 become certified with the ONC ATCB (Office of the National Coordinator—Authorized Testing and Certification Body). We have contracted with the Drummond Group to perform this testing. They have assigned a test proctor who will connect into our system and then instruct us to demonstrate how we perform certain functions.

Some of the tests are simple and straight forward like entering the weight and height of child and then generating a growth chart. Most tests, however, are quite complex. All of the required tests and procedures are documented in a binder that is 3 inches thick. The testing process consumes a full day.

If your practice is wanting to take advantage of meeting the requirements of Meaningful Use and become qualified, then you need to start as soon as possible in making incremental changes on how patient visits are recorded. This is not a "simple overnight" procedure. It takes time and your staff needs to be completely engaged in the process. As an example, the Problem List for a patient needs to switched from a

Problem list

1. chronic pain (789.02)
2. HTN (401.1)
3. Asthma (493.90)
4. Hemorrhoids (455.3)
5. Genital herpes
6. Hypothyroid (244.8)
7. Bipolar vs anxiety/depression with ADHD (308.0)

"free-text" field to a table file with associated diagnosis codes. We have the tool, but someone has to "push the button" to make the switch on each patient.

ArcSys has collaborated with HealthInsight to help physicians reach the requirements for Meaningful Use of an electronic health record (EHR) system.

Over 1,300 primary care providers have taken advantage of the FULLY subsidized services offered by the *HealthInsight* Regional Extension Center (REC). *HealthInsight* offers a full range of services to help you, as a *primary care provider*, achieve Meaningful use at no cost. However, **less than 100 openings** remain for primary care physicians to receive these subsidized services. To ensure that you do not miss this opportunity, please contact *HealthInsight* today. They would be happy to discuss the advantages of partnering with *HealthInsight* and enroll you in their program at NO cost through Stage I Meaningful Use. In order to guarantee enrollment, you will need to have a signed service level agreement with *HealthInsight*.

Once all of the fully subsidized openings are filled, they will still offer the same great range of services, but for a fee. So do not delay! Contact one of their Project Coordinators at (800) 483-0932 or rec@healthinsight.org.

Syndrome Surveillance

One feature of utilizing a certified system is that it has the ability of collecting information on your patient data base and making it available to government agencies. For many years there have been published standards on how data is to be shared between hospitals and the government. These standards are now applicable to physician offices as well - especially if they have a certified EHR system and have received payment from the government for Meaningful Use.

There are two areas of surveillance. The first is with respect to immunizations. In Utah, the MegaWest and Red Planet software systems have always been able to transmit this data to USIIS. Under the standards of data files, there is now the ability to include information such as vaccination lot number and site of administration in the data file. Too much detail, in our opinion, but the capability is there.

The second area is with respect to diagnoses or syndromes.

Although there is nothing mandated, the government could request that a practice provide this file in a standard format from their patient data base. The file contains (minimally) the patient number, date of birth, gender, diagnosis, state, and zip.

Below is the screen used in Red Planet to initiate the capture of this syndrome information.