



Welcome to the TriNet Decision Support newsletter. The consultants at TriNet decided to start this newsletter as a vehicle to share Decision Support ideas among our colleagues and customers in the healthcare industry.

We hope to offer timely and useful information through this service.

DSS ONLINE DISCUSSION GROUP

Several of our clients and colleagues have expressed an interest in forming an online discussion group, focused on the McKesson (HBOC) Decision Support systems. The purpose of such a group, often called a “List Serv”, is to exchange ideas about use of the McKesson Decision Support systems - Trendstar as well as Pathways Decision Support and Pathways Contract Management. You’ll be able to post a question to the group, and receive replies from other organizations that have encountered similar issues and have insights for you.

As an educational service, TriNet is willing to sponsor such a group. Please respond to the email address below if you are interested in participating:

dssgroup@trinethealth.com

TIPS AND TRICKS

We’ve put together a few “tips and tricks” that you may find useful. Check them out:

DOWNLOADING REPORTS FROM TRENDSTAR

When you download reports from Trendstar, do you find yourself manipulating the data in Excel (or another software tool) in order to work with it? Often you need a format that puts the row sorts in columns. This is possible, but you need to be sure that you’ve chosen the correct option in the CCA or HSL report writer. If you want the text file to be in a tabular, easy-to-use format, specify the lowest level of detail when you’re prompted for “Text file data”. Rather than specifying “All levels”, select the LAST option in the menu. For example, if your report is sorted by department and then by procedure charge code, select “procedure charge code”. Once you’ve downloaded the PRN file and imported it into Excel, you’ll have a tabular report that can easily be sorted and subtotaled.

PAYROLL REPORTING IN HSL

Quite a few organizations have enhanced the value of HSL by interfacing data from payroll systems. This information supplements the general ledger data already in HSL by providing greater detail on salaries and hours. The payroll data breaks out salaries and hours both by jobcode as well as by type of pay (regular, overtime, holiday, etc.). This detail can be critical to meet the organization’s needs for productivity reporting and cost accounting. However, before the addition of the entity field, users had to merge the jobcode and paytype into one field, the “account” field in HSL. This captured the necessary detail but was cumbersome for reporting. Now that the entity field is available in HSL, and provided that it is not already being used, it can be employed to store payroll data. Specifically, the entity field can store the paytype, while the account field stores the jobcode number, as in the following example.

HSL Field	Payroll Field	Sample Value	Description
Entity	Paytype	110	Overtime
Cost Center	Dept 6010	ICU	
Data Type	\$ or Hrs	E	Expenses
Account	Jobcode	1234 RN	

If the interface from the payroll system has not yet been developed, it can be set up to store the paytype in the entity field. However, if the payroll interface has already been developed and cannot be readily changed, the “Remap” function in HSL can be used to convert the existing payroll data and to update this data on an ongoing basis.

DEFAULT TABLE NAMES (A GREAT TIMESAVER!)

If there are certain data base and table names in Trendstar that you use most or all of the time (e.g. you always indicate “PHYSPC.PSP” for your CCA physician/specialty table), you can store these as defaults, so that they will automatically be displayed in the menu. The defaults are specific to your username, so by setting these up, you’re not affecting other Trendstar users. Secondly, you can always override a default name when it appears in the file menu. To set up defaults, select the “Maintenance” option “Default table set editor”.

We will have additional “tips and tricks” in each newsletter.

CONDUCTING A STRATEGIC REVIEW OF DECISION SUPPORT

Read the attached article for insights on how other healthcare organizations have conducted a strategic review of their Decision Support system, in order to “breathe new life” into DSS.

Articles and presentations written by TriNet consultants are now available on the TriNet web site. Click on the link below to see a listing:

www.trinethealth.com/information_request_form.htm

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS

Our corporate office is still in the Boston area, but we moved to Westford, MA (from Chelmsford) on October 1. Please note our new address and phone numbers:

TriNet Healthcare Consultants

319 Littleton Road, Suite 305

Westford, MA 01886

Phone: 978-692-1009

Fax: 978-692-9890

(Note: Our Philadelphia office address is unchanged.)

We hope this newsletter is of value to you. Look for future issues in the upcoming months. We plan to distribute this newsletter on a quarterly basis

If you do not wish to receive future newsletters, please click on the email address below and send:

unsubscribe-dss@trinethealth.com

Please contact us with ideas and feedback, or for further information about TriNet.

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HAPPY THANKSGIVING FROM TRINET!

TriNet Healthcare Consultants

www.trinethealth.com

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