A Short Take on Success

The Challenge
- Effectively manage enormous amounts of data from northern Texas hospitals
- Maintain compliance with rapidly changing healthcare reform submission mandates, HIPAA and FISMA

The Solution
- Partner with DataBay Resources for its data extraction and validation services
- Leverage DataBay Resources’ CheckNet tool and its data submission experience

The Outcome
- Successfully implemented DataBay’s FISMA-compliant solution within limited time constraints to fulfill data cleansing and submission requirements
- CheckNet processed more than three million claims and allowed correction of nearly one million errors in the first eight months
- CheckNet implemented with minimal disruption to DFWHC Foundation customers

“We were all under a lot of pressure during the implementation phase. But the DataBay Resources team really stabilized the situation for us and exceeded our expectations.”
Theresa Mendoza
Director of Quality, Business Intelligence and Data Services
DFWHC Foundation

DataBay Resources’ Data Cleansing and Validation Solutions Help DFWHC Education and Research Foundation Fulfill Community Health Improvement Mission

DataBay Resources

The Challenge
The Dallas Fort Worth Hospital Council (DFWHC) Education and Research Foundation is an organization comprised of nearly 90 hospitals in the north Texas region who are committed to becoming the community resource to create knowledge, insight and wisdom for the continuous improvement of healthcare.

To achieve this vision, the DFWHC Foundation began collecting data from its members 15 years ago and recording it into a regional database. With this data, the organization is able to identify and address disparities related to language, ethnicity, race, culture, gender, age, income, literacy, health, diseases and access to healthcare in the community. The DFWHC Foundation then helps transform this information into knowledge that can be used to create health programs that benefit the community.

The data services that the DFWHC Foundation provides encompass many different layers including data collection and analysis, education on quality measurement and practice improvement, and general consultation. Through its products and services, the organization offers a unique way for north Texas hospitals to cleanse, submit, and mine inpatient and outpatient data. The DFWHC Foundation also acts as a submission agent to the Texas Health Care Information Collection agency (THCIC). Additionally, its analytical tools allow hospitals to examine their own data and also benchmark themselves to other facilities in the north Texas region.

After five years of managing the data collection in-house, the DFWHC Foundation started grappling with the issue of how to cost-effectively manage the enormous amount of data it had recorded.

“We were not staffed to be a software development center,” said Theresa Mendoza, director of Quality, Business Intelligence and Data Services, for DFWHC Foundation. “The man-hours needed to research and revise invalid data after it has been rejected by the data collection agency is significant and that is why having a data cleansing tool on the front end of the process is critical to our success. It just became too large and too important of a job to manage internally without having the technology, sophistication and expertise in data cleansing.”

The Solution
The DFWHC Foundation issued a request for proposal (RFP) and they awarded the business to DataBay Resources, a subsidiary of Amerinet, Inc., for its data extraction and validation services.

“After working with previous providers and doing in-house development ourselves, we learned a lot about what we truly needed from a partner. So going into the RFP we had high standards and specific criteria that had to be met,” noted Mendoza. “We needed a data cleansing tool that
Success Story
DataBay Resources

could easily adapt to our needs and requirements – not the other way around.” Most importantly, the DFWHC Foundation needed a tool that was Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) compliant.

Four companies responded to the RFP, but the DFWHC Foundation quickly realized that DataBay Resources had the solution to address its challenges – CheckNet.

A user-friendly tool for cleaning and validating discharge data prior to submission, CheckNet applies state-specific data validation rules and allows users to edit discharge data to submit a “clean” file on the first attempt. DataBay’s CheckNet product streamlines the manual process of UB-04 data collection, allowing for direct submission of data to state reporting agencies via the Internet. By ensuring the overall quality of submitted data, CheckNet promotes a more streamlined approach to data validation.

“We were all under a lot of pressure during the implementation phase,” commented Mendoza. “We had to meet a hard data submission deadline from THCIC and CMS. The DataBay Resources team really stabilized the situation for us and exceeded our expectations.”

With product expertise, quality data and knowledgeable staff members, DataBay Resources successfully assisted the DFWHC Foundation in elevating its data acquisition, validation and submission processes. With good, clean data, the DFWHC Foundation can make more accurate analyses and provide evidence-based support to regional health partnerships, community programs and various public health committees. And this knowledge can mean greater operational efficiencies, cost reductions and reduced risk in healthcare.

“We had found a partner with true data submission experience.”

The Outcome
Since the launch of the DataBay Resources solution, the DFWHC Foundation has nearly 90 hospitals submitting their data monthly through the CheckNet tool – even though the requirement is only quarterly. In the first eight months since implementation, CheckNet processed more than three million claims and allowed correction of nearly one million errors, resulting in cleaner and more efficient data for DFWHC Foundation.

“Our data management services really fill a niche for an organization who needs access to a flexible and powerful solution to managing large volumes of data, but wants an alternative to purchasing the hardware and software needed to run these programs in-house,” said Scott Mullins, executive director of DataBay Resources. “We provide the expertise needed to design and build solutions that effectively support data management initiatives.”

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About CheckNet
CheckNet is a software tool from DataBay Resources that edits inpatient and ambulatory UB-04 data and validates entries in all fields required for submission to state data agencies. DataBay also provides the ability to read and write EDI 837 5010 formatted files.

About Amerinet
As a leading national healthcare solutions organization, Amerinet collaborates with acute and non-acute care providers to create and deliver unique solutions through performance improvement resources, guidance and ongoing support. With better product standardization and utilization, new financial tools beyond contracting and alliances that help lower costs, raise revenue and champion quality, Amerinet enriches healthcare delivery for its members and the communities they serve. To learn more about how Amerinet can help you successfully navigate the future of healthcare reform, visit www.amerinet-gpo.com.

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About DataBay Resources
DataBay Resources, a subsidiary of Amerinet, provides healthcare market intelligence software to hospitals, health systems and ambulatory surgery centers to improve their market and financial positions and to translate state discharge databases into action plans. With product expertise, quality data and knowledgeable staff members, DataBay Resources assists clients in elevating financial performance by offering technology and services that merge financial, physician and market data. Its customized, service-oriented approach enables customers to understand their market and the competitive forces that influence profitability. Learn more at www.databayresources.com.