

FAQ
Freestanding Emergency Medical Care
Facilities

86th Legislative Session, HB 2041

A **Freestanding Emergency Medical Care Facility** (FEMCF), as defined by Section [254.001](#), including a freestanding emergency medical care facility that is exempt from the licensing requirements of Chapter [254](#) under Section [254.052](#)(8).

DSHS interprets the FEMCFs which are exempt from the licensing requirements under Chapter 254 as hospital owned emergency medical care facilities which are located away from the licensed hospital's primary or home address.

Are FEMCF's that are "exempt" from licensing under Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 254, required to report?

Yes. A Freestanding Emergency Medical Care Facilities (FEMCF) that is "exempt" from licensing under Health and Safety Code, Chapter 254 **does not** mean that it is exempt from reporting data to the THCIC. Under Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 108, an FEMCF that is "exempt" from licensing is **required** to report data on emergency medical services provided at their physical location under their assigned THCIC ID. While some hospitals may refer to these Hospital Outpatient Departments (HOPD), if the HOPD performs emergency medical services and bills patients using revenue codes 0450, 0451, 0452, 0456 or 0459, they are required to report under Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 108.

What is required to be reported by FEMCs?

The data which must be reported are administrative claims level billing data on all patient ED visits and would include the same information for patient visits that do not generate a billing claim due to a "self-pay" patient or "charity" patient. The data would also include the patient SSN, Race, and Ethnicity.

A list of all required patient information may be found beginning on page 19 at

https://dshs.texas.gov/thcic/OutpatientFacilities/TechReqSpec5010_Outpatient_THCIC837.pdf

Are HOPDs required to report?

Yes. Hospitals sometime refer to Freestanding Emergency Medical Care Facilities as a Hospital Outpatient Department (HOPD). If your hospital has a HOPD and that facility is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and provides emergency medical care services, that facility's emergency medical care services will be required to report data separately from the hospital data.

Are Micro Hospitals required to report?

Yes. Hospitals sometime refer to Freestanding Emergency Medical Care Facilities as a Micro Hospital. If your hospital has a Micro Hospital and that facility is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and provides only emergency medical care services, that facility's emergency medical care services will be required to report data separately from the hospital data.

Are FEMCFs required to report individually?

Yes. Each state licensed FEMCF and hospital owned FEMCF will be required to report data to the THCIC program based on the physical location of services using a specific THCIC ID.

Do FEMCFs report using a data identifier?

Yes. THCIC will issue unique THCIC IDs to each hospital owned and state licensed FEMCF for reporting purposes. FEMCF THCIC ID assignments will E-mailed or mailed on **May 15, 2020** to all known FEMCs.

When will FEMCFs be required to begin reporting?

We anticipate the FEMCFs will follow the THCIC Reporting Schedule beginning with **4Q2020** data reporting timeline (pending Rule approval). 4Q2020 data include services provided from October 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. **4Q2020** data must be reported no later than **March 1, 2021**.

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/THCIC/datareportingschedule.shtm>

When do I send contact information to THCIC for my FEMCF?

Once the THCIC IDs are issued in May 15, 2020, THCIC will provide each FEMCF with a **THCIC Facility Information Contact form** for completion and return to THCIC at that time. The contact information is necessary so that THCIC can activate an account for your FEMCF in our system.

Is there a specific format the data must be submitted in?

Data must be reported in the ANSI (American National Standards Institute) 837 Institutional Guide format, same as required by HIPAA, with modification/addition to the K3 segment to include: Patient **Ethnicity**, Patient **Race**, and Patient **SSN** (The Patient SSN is required here if the patient is not the subscriber to a third-party payer, where the patient SSN is submitted).

The data reporting specifications format will be the same as the Emergency Department data reporting requirements, which are already available on the THCIC website.

https://wwwstage.dshs.internal/thcic/OutpatientFacilities/Tech_Req_Spec_5_010_Ver_10-2_Outpatient_THCIC837.pdf

Where can I find the rule requirements?

Rules for collecting data from FEMCFs will follow the same guidelines of the Outpatient Emergency Room rules. These rules are currently being modified to include FEMCFs.

[https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=25&pt=1&ch=421&sch=E&rl=Y](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=25&pt=1&ch=421&sch=E&rl=Y)

Are there trainings available?

THCIC provides online Webinar training to staff that have been issued a Provider Login Username. FEMCs will sign up for the OUTPATIENT Trainings for **WebClaim, WebCorrect, and WebCertification**. FEMCFs won't receive a Provider Login until **June 1, 2020** if a completed THCIC Facility Information Contact form is received from the FEMC. See the following website link for additional information about the trainings.

<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/thcic/Training.shtm>

How do I get a Provider Login Username?

THCIC initiates this through our contract vendor, System13, for each FEMCF, which will occur on **June 1, 2020** if the THCIC Facility Information Contact form has been received.

What do I need to do to submit my data electronically?

FEMCFs must first be issued a THCIC ID, which won't happen until May/June 2020. Once your THCIC ID has been issued, you may sign up with System13 for a Submitter ID and Login (this is different from the Provider Login) and then you may begin testing your data files to see if the files will be accepted into the system at System13.

Sign up for a Submitter ID here: <https://thcic.system13.com/enrollments>