

Louisiana Addictive Disorders Data System
LADDS WEEKLY BULLETIN
Issue #3 July 16, 2003

WHEN TWO IS TOO MANY

We know the problem with duplicate records is really annoying many of you. But please be patient. We still have another data import. It's the data imports that are the main source of duplicate records. After that we will begin a process of merging the duplicate records. Meantime, please resist the temptation to close one of the duplicate records. The merge facility will likely merge only duplicate open cases and perhaps expired cases. So just leave them open. Choose one of them to work with and consistently use that one if you can. In a week or two you will find most of the duplicate records will have disappeared.

We will need your help then to report to us duplicates that the automated procedures may have missed. Converting over 2.5 million records from a mainframe system to a totally different kind of database was quite a challenge. And though it may not seem so to you, it is actually proceeding about as smoothly as could be expected.

THE CASE OF THE EXPIRED CASES

Some of you have continued to have some of your open cases expired by LADDS in error. The reason for this is that sometimes the date that some users put into the system is recorded as January 1, 1900 regardless of what date they entered. This doesn't happen with everyone and even when it does happen to a particular user, it doesn't always happen for that user.

We frankly don't yet understand what is happening to cause this problem, but one theory is that it could be related to the version of browser you are using. LADDS was developed with a language called Javascript which is interpreted by your browser. Some browsers (Netscape 4 is an example) are notorious for their date bugs. But other browsers also have this problem of not initializing the Javascript date object properly. Sometimes they will interpret what you type in properly if you use a four digit year but improperly if you use a two digit year

We can't be sure that browser version is involved with this error. But in any case, LADDS requires Internet Explorer 6 to function properly. It will NOT function properly with any other browser. To find out if you are using Internet Explorer 6 you should click the Help button on the Internet Explorer menu bar and then click "About Internet Explorer" on the dropdown menu. That will tell you your browser version. If it is version 4 or 5 or 5.5 you must contact your regional LADDS administrator to have version 6 installed right away. If you are using Netscape, you must stop doing that. Some of us just love Netscape, but LADDS does not.

Meantime, we are trying to stay on top of the date error problem by monitoring the database daily and replacing the

1/1/1900 dates with the current date when they occur in the Last Service Date field. That's where LADDS looks to see if your case should be expired or not.

HOW TO REPORT A PROBLEM

If you experience a problem such as an expired case that should still be open, you can help speed up the process of fixing the problem by reporting the Unique ID of the client, the case number exactly as LADDS has it, and your facility number. You will find the Unique ID on the Client Registry page for your client.

Please do not email client names and social security numbers. The chances are slim of someone eavesdropping on our email, but it is possible.

NEW FEATURES

Right now our energy is being focused on getting the data import completed, the LADDS data cleaned up, and other problems resolved. But one of the new features we will implement as soon as possible will be a PRINT button on the reports. Some users say they have found the reports useful, but they need a better way to print them. We will also increase the number of reports available to you.

One of the principles followed in the LADDS design was to make sure the data you work so hard to enter is available to YOU to make your job easier as well as available to the managers and administrators who need it. That's why we like to say it's an Information Management System and not just a Management Information System.

MULTIPLE FACILITY NUMBERS

The agency is returning to a single facility number for each physical location even if several different service types (IOP, OP, and Gambling, for instance) are located there. So do NOT close anymore cases in your regular OP clinics and open them in a gambling or IOP facility number.

You will get detailed instructions about how to proceed on this matter in a few days. A memo just went out from Galen Shum instructing everyone in the meantime to just continue your current practices.

We can't promise anything yet, but there is a possibility we can automate the conversion of some records currently attached to an IOP or Gambling facility number back to their regular OP facility number. If we work out a way to do this you will receive instructions from your local management about what information we will need from you to help with this task..