



## ***Bureau of Public Health Statistics***

*Arizona Department of Health Services*

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Janice K. Brewer, Governor

Will Humble, Interim Director

**Date:** April 29, 2009

**To:** All Users of Public Release Arizona Hospital Emergency Department Discharge Data

**From:** Donna Courtney, Hospital Data Manager, Bureau of Public Health Statistics

**Subject:** Issue Affecting Arizona 2008-02 Emergency Department data

Since 2004, the Arizona Department of Health Services has used various auditing methods on the discharge data with the goal of improving the quality of the data. This included audits on the physician information, due to an awareness that physician data is valuable to our commercial data purchasers.

Unfortunately, commencing with discharges July 1, 2008 and later, the auditing of physician information in the discharge data has been temporarily scaled back. Please be aware that this may result in a higher volume of questionable physician information than in previous years' data sets. The Department will again fully audit physician data at some time in the future; however, it is not possible to state when this will occur.

Please contact our office with any questions or concerns.