



# Drug Evaluation Network System

Volume 1, Issue 3

January 2004

## Update – Purdue Pharma

*Collection of zip codes and OxyContin® items*

Miriam Ackerman  
Site Specialist

As you know, DENS has been using the additional questions in the software to gather information on OxyContin® and other prescription drug use in the US. The pharmaceutical company that makes OxyContin®, Purdue Pharma, receives an aggregate report of these additional drug questions on a quarterly basis.

Recently, we asked all sites participating in DENS to provide us with information about what zip codes the majority (90%) of your client base are coming from. We will then remove the last 2 digits from those 5-digit numbers to create general areas from which your clients reside. For example, some of the zip codes in Philadelphia are 19106, 19147, 19128, etc. By removing the last 2 digits of each of these zip codes, you get a 3-digit zip code area, 191, of Philadelphia.

This zip code information will be used to match client responses to the OxyContin® questions with the 3-digit zip code area that they live in. Looking at the data this way enables DENS and Purdue Pharma to get an idea where OxyContin® is being used and/or abused.

Purdue Pharma will not be getting any specific information on 5-digit zip codes of your clients, or any specific information about your treatment program. If you have any questions, contact your site specialist. ❖

## Clinical Relevance of the ASI

*Make the ASI more valuable for you and your clients*

Sam Rikoon  
Site Specialist

Determining a client's relapse potential can be very helpful in forming a treatment plan for that individual. Each section of the ASI (and most of the individual items as well) can be used in some way as an indication of the client's ability to successfully engage in treatment, and their potential for relapse.

Here are a few examples of clinically relevant items in the ASI:

**G14:** Indicates the stability of the client's "home" environment. Informs the counselor of the client's recovery environment and aids determination of their relapse potential (i.e. Someone with no stable arrangement may be more likely to relapse)

**D1-D13:** Indicates a possible risk of acute intoxication and/or withdrawal. D13 and other item combinations carry the most weight of these items. They indicate a higher risk of overdose.

**D15, D16:** These items show the client's ability to achieve and maintain abstinence. The time since the client has been voluntarily abstinent indicates how "rusty" their tools are for living a substance-free lifestyle. The more recent a client's last period of abstinence, the more likely it is that they will be able to recall the benefits of being sober.

**F12-F17, F18-F26:** These items are intended to flag problems with interpersonal relationships that will affect the client's successful engagement in treatment.

**P11:** Gives evidence of the severity of a psychiatric problem. Indicates if the client has been evaluated by a licensed professional and their problems were serious enough to warrant medication.

These are just some examples of how to use ASI information to better serve your clients. Give us a call if you're interested in learning more! ❖

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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*Please email newsletter comments and questions to [acamilleri@tresearch.org](mailto:acamilleri@tresearch.org)*

# ASI Coding Tips

*Tips on completing more accurate ASIs*

Amy Camilleri  
Quality Assurance Coordinator

After your program's data is sent to DENS, it undergoes a battery of tests to help identify miscodes. In turn, we will use this newsletter to help you complete accurate ASIs. Here are the top 10 potential coding issues (and remedies) for the data collected last year.

## 1. **Client is paid for working all 30 of the past 30 days.**

Question #: E11

**Remedy:** Probe to make sure the client worked Monday-Friday, in addition to weekends. Most "full-time" jobs are worked on weekdays, in which case the correct E11 code would be '20.' Try to code the actual number of days worked in the past 30.

## 2. **Clinician reports client's misrepresentation of responses and/or an inability to understand ASI items.**

Question #s: M10 & M11, L31 & L32, E23 & E24, D34 & D35, F37 & F38, P22 & P23

**Remedy:** Make sure you have definitive proof (e.g. a criminal record or toxicology results) that the client misrepresented the majority of the section in order to code these items as "yes". This question is not intended to flag a client in denial and consequently, if you cannot prove that the client is not being honest, code as "no".

## 3. **Client reports receiving no money from pensions in the employment section but reports getting medical or psychiatric pension in other ASI sections.**

Question #s: E15, M5a, P3

**Remedy:** Cross-check the client's responses (if they are still present), and re-code the ASI to facilitate agreement among sections. If M5a or P3 > 0, then E15 should be greater than zero.

## 4. **Lifetime usage of substances before age 10.**

Question #s: D1-D13

**Remedy:** Probe further to make sure that the client

was using regularly (3x per week or more) for at least 6 months prior to age 10 in order to count these as a year of regular use.

## 5. **Clinician codes the "class" field as a follow-up interview rather than an intake.**

Question #: G8

**Remedy:** Most ASIs done for the DENS study will be coded as "Intake". ASIs done on or near admission are intakes even if the client has been in the treatment program before. Follow-up ASIs are generally completed by interviewers involved in follow-up studies (after the client is discharged).

## 6. **Client reports more than 17 drug treatment episodes in his/her lifetime**

Question #s: D20

**Remedy:** Only include drug-related treatment episodes. Include detox, halfway houses, in/outpatient treatment, & NA (if 3 or more meetings in one month). Exclude psychiatric and medical treatments. Also, if a client moves straight from inpatient to outpatient treatment, without any breaks, this is coded as ONE treatment episode.

## 7. **Client reports more than 20 medical hospitalizations.**

Question #: M1

**Remedy:** Remind client to only include overnight hospitalizations, not the number of nights they spent in the hospital. Also, include only hospitalizations for medical ailments (including ODs and DTs requiring medical intervention, but NOT including detox, alcohol/ drug/psychiatric treatment and childbirth with no complications).

## 8. **Client reports more than 9 episodes of Delerium Tremens.**

Question #s: D17.

**Remedy:** Be very clear about how you define DTs to the client. DTs are not simply a terrible hangover or "the shakes". They are much more severe and may produce symptoms such as seizing & hallucinations, normally requiring an emergency medical intervention.

## 9. **No medical problems reported in past 30 days, yet client reports being bothered or needing treatment.**

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## DENS SUPPORT

The Drug Evaluation Network System support staff operates Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM EST. When calling, please specify your name, and the facility from which you are calling.

All Site Specialists and Coordinators are able to answer questions about computer problems, data transfer, ASI coding, training, and study procedures.

## DENS SITE SPECIALISTS AND COORDINATORS

All Site Specialists and Coordinators may be reached via the DENS Toll-Free Support Helpline:

MIRIAM ACKERMAN

SITE SPECIALIST

[mackerman@tresearch.org](mailto:mackerman@tresearch.org)

ext. 116

SAM RIKOON

SITE SPECIALIST

[srikoon@tresearch.org](mailto:srikoon@tresearch.org)

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AMY CAMILLERI

QUALITY ASSURANCE COORDINATOR

[acamilleri@tresearch.org](mailto:acamilleri@tresearch.org)

ext. 144

DENI CARISE

PROJECT INVESTIGATOR

KATHY GEARY

DIRECTOR OF PROGRAM RELATIONS

MEGHAN LOVE

SECTION COORDINATOR

TOM MCLELLAN

SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR

HELPLINE: 1-877-TRI-DENS

WEBSITE: WWW.DENSONLINE.COM

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Question #s: M6, M7, & M8.

**Remedy:** Probe further! A client should not be bothered by non-existent problems. Also, remind the client that this question asks about any treatment needed in addition to what they may already be receiving.

**10. Client reports spending more than \$5000 on drugs in the past 30 days.**

Question #: D24

**Remedy:** Count only actual money spent (cash out of pocket) on drugs in the past 30 days. The intent of the question is to ascertain the financial burden caused by drug use.

## Comings and Goings...

*Updates on the DENS staff*

Miriam Ackerman

Site Specialist

The DENS team is sad to report the following "going":

As of January 23<sup>rd</sup>, Michelle Boss, DENS Site Specialist, will no longer be with TRI and the DENS team. Michelle has moved to Pittsburgh, PA to get her Master's in Counseling Psychology.

Also:

Meghan Love, Section Coordinator, had a beautiful baby boy, Owen James, on December 29<sup>th</sup>. She is still on maternity leave. Please contact Kathy Geary, Director of Program Relations, in her absence.

Let's wish everyone good luck! As always, you may still contact the DENS staff at 1-877-TRI-DENS with any questions or concerns. ❖

## Websites and Freebies

*These websites will keep you informed about new topics in addictions research, and give you access to free resources!*

[www.nida.nih.gov](http://www.nida.nih.gov) – National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)

[www.health.org](http://www.health.org) – SAMSHA's Nat'l Clearinghouse of Alcohol & Drug Information (NCADI)

[www.niaaa.nih.gov](http://www.niaaa.nih.gov) – National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism ❖

# Word Search

Find these words in the puzzle to the right:

ADDICTION  
ALCOHOL  
ASI  
ASSESS  
CLINICIAN  
COMPUTER  
COORDINATOR  
DENS  
DRUG  
DSM  
FAMILY  
FAX  
GENERAL  
LEGAL  
LOGS  
MEDICAL  
MODEM  
PSYCH  
RESEARCH  
SCIENCE  
SOCIAL  
SOFTWARE  
SUPPORT  
TREATMENT  
TRI

Small prizes will be awarded to the first ten people who mail or fax in a correctly completed word search. Send completed puzzles to:

Via Mail:  
Amy Camilleri  
Quality Assurance Coordinator  
Treatment Research Institute  
600 Public Ledger Building  
150 S. Independence Mall West  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Via Fax:  
Attn: Amy Camilleri  
(215) 399-0987

Answers will be published in the next issue ❖



Created using Word Search Factory Lite – [www.schoolhousetech.com](http://www.schoolhousetech.com)

## From Last Issue...

*Thanks to everyone who completed the crossword puzzle from the last newsletter. You all did a great job! Here are the answers:*

### Across:

1. Patient Rating Scale
5. narrative
7. security
8. export
10. modem
12. practice
14. help
15. TRI
16. SSN
17. legal
20. search
23. drug/alcohol
24. psych

### Down:

2. employment
3. hints
4. Treatment Care Plan
6. ASI report
9. family/social
10. medical
11. DENS
13. intake
18. lifetime
19. TRI-DENS
21. backup
22. DOB

DENS is Funded By the Office of National Drug Control Policy – Counterdrug Technology Assessment Center (ONDPC-CTAC) and Purdue Pharma, L.P.