
RSR in Focus

Understanding Client-Level XML Import Rules for Merging Records



Key Point

For the 2009 annual RSR submission, when multiple client-level data files for the same provider are merged, actual values are never replaced with missing or unknown values.

Introduction

Sometimes, a Ryan White provider may submit more than one client level data file for the RSR. For example, a provider with a Part A data system and a Part C data system might do two uploads.

When HAB receives more than one file from a provider, the files are combined. New clients and new information on current clients are matched by the encrypted Unique Client identifier (eUCI). This way, all the data will be captured and reported.

For the 2009 interim report, the newer data replaced the older data. Grantees and providers then saw reports that seemed to have lower completion rates. In response to grantee concerns, HAB investigated and changed how this works. The system is now modified to eliminate this problem.

This change is in place for the 2009 annual report. Future RSR data submissions will follow a similar approach.

What are the rules for merging records?

For a given provider, if a client's data already exists in the RSR and new information for that client is uploaded, the new data is merged with the original data. Some data items are added to the old file, and some data items overwrite the information in the original file.

Added data

Data elements that can have multiple responses are added in. New information on medical insurance, race, risk factors, and core and support services are *added* to the pre-existing data. Note that "unknown" records for these data elements are not deleted. For example, a client's race can be recorded in the system as both "African-American" and "unknown." Before data analysis, HAB will remove these inconsistencies during the data cleaning process.

Overwritten data

Data elements that can take only one response can be overwritten. The previous response will be replaced by a new response if:

- The previous response is missing.
- The previous response is unknown.
- The previous response is a more recent date. For example, if one client-level data file says the client was first diagnosed in 2008 and the second says 2000, then 2000 is stored.
- The previous response has a lower priority.

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Responses on clinical questions are assigned priorities with the following order (where 1 has the highest priority):

- 1 Yes
- 2 Not medically indicated
- 3 No
- 4 Not applicable
- 5 Refused to answer
- 6 Unknown

Data elements that are overwritten, not appended:

First Service Date
 Enrollment Status
 Birth Year
 Ethnicity
 Gender
 Transgender
 Poverty Level
 Housing Status
 Geographic Unit Code
 HIV / AIDS Status
 AIDS Diagnosis Year
 Risk Screening Provided
 First Ambulatory Care Date
 Prescribed PCP Prophylaxis
 Prescribed HAART
 Screened TB
 Screened TB Since HIV Diagnosis
 Screened Syphilis
 Screened Hepatitis B
 Screened Hepatitis B Since HIV Diagnosis
 Vaccinated Hepatitis B
 Screened Hepatitis C
 Screened Hepatitis C Since HIV Diagnosis
 Screened Substance Abuse
 Screened Mental Health
 Received Cervical PAP Smear
 Pregnant
 Prenatal Care
 Prescribed ARV Medication

Tales from the Field...

A Part A, B, and D provider is required to input its Part A and B services into AIRS. The provider inputs its Part D services into CAREWare. Part A/B and Part D client-level data files are submitted separately.

The provider submitted their Part D file after the Part A/B file for the interim reporting period; some data values were replaced with the subsequent upload. This caused low completion rates.

If the provider follows the same strategy for the 2009 annual submission, missing and unknown responses will be replaced by actual responses, thus improving the quality of the data.

Learn More!

Data element definitions and reporting logistics:
Rwdatasupport.wrma@csrincorporated.com

XML schema and export:
CallCenter@HRSA.gov

Additional technical assistance:
RSR.TA@sphereinstitute.org

What are the rules for deleting records?

If a provider needs to replace all of its existing client records, the provider should use the "Clear Clients" command before importing the new records.