

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE ACCESS AND INFORMATION  
CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT AND  
AMBULATORY SURGERY PATIENT DATA REPORTING MANUAL, FIFTH EDITION**

**SERVICE DATE**

**Section 97257**

*(a) For online transmission of data reports as electronic data files, the patient's service date shall be reported in numeric form as follows: the 4-digit year, the 2-digit month, and the 2-digit day. The numeric form for days and months from 1 to 9 must have a zero as the first digit.*

*(b) For online entry of individual records, the patient's service date shall be reported in numeric form as follows: the 2-digit month, the 2-digit day, and the 4-digit year. The numeric form for days and months from 1 to 9 must have a zero as the first digit.*

**DISCUSSION**

Specifications for reporting this data element with the Record Entry Form for online web entry of individual records:

<b>SERVICE DATE</b>							
<i>Month</i>		<i>Day</i>		<i>Year (4-digit)</i>			

**Critical Data Element:** If the reported service date is blank or invalid (such as February 31) and is not corrected by the facility after it is identified by HCAI as an error, **the entire encounter data record will be deleted.**

**Reporting Requirements:**

- The actual date of service must be reported.
- The Service Date is the start of care date, also known as "From Date" or "Begin Date".
- If the patient received service on May 3, 2004, the reported value would be:

Electronic Data File	Record Entry Form
20040503	05032004

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For all observation services provided to an outpatient who was diagnosed and treated for emergency care and/or ambulatory surgery, the service date is the start of care date provided in the emergency department or ambulatory surgery, whichever occurred first.