

NDoc Version Number: 17.45.02

INSTALLATION:

- Please note that users logged in while installing an update will lose access and any unsaved work.
- There are a number of ways that the update can be applied to your NDoc server:
 - Download and execute the update from the Thornberry Knowledgebase (<https://www.thornberryltd.com/ndoc-updates/updates>)
 - Schedule the update for installation in System Updates using instructions found within the Operations Manual: <https://www.thornberryltd.com/documentation/operations-manual-tech>

Summary: This update contains the following enhancements and corrections (applies to all customers)

SIGNIFICANT NEW FEATURES/ENHANCEMENTS/REGULATORY CHANGES:

- **FY2026 Regulatory Changes:**
 - o **Diagnoses Code Updates:** As of October 1, there are changes related to diagnoses/procedure codes. The FY 2026 ICD-10 Code (diagnoses and procedure) updates are included in this release and are effective October 1, 2025. [THOR-664]
NOTE Regarding ICD-10 Update Procedures: With the annual ICD-10 Updates, agencies may encounter a situation where a patient's diagnosis codes were intact in a Bill Period 1 with a start date in September, but the code is deleted or replaced effective October 1 prior to the end date of Bill Period 1. In those cases, the existing code may remain intact for the final Bill Period 1. For Bill Period 2, agencies should utilize the Diagnosis Order to update the code accordingly to ensure Bill Period 2 has the updated/revised/approved code. The updated code will then be included in the Bill Period 2 Final and be positioned for the Recert going into the next Cert Period. *For planning purposes, ahead of October 1, agencies may want to consider using the Census Reporting tools to identify patients with any updated/revised codes included in the annual ICD-10 Updates posted each year on the CMS website <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10>. Please note that to access the list of patients with expiring/deleted codes, the report should be generated before the effective date of the change on October 1.*
 - o **Home Health Grouper for October 2025:** To accommodate the changes tied to the ICD-10 update, an updated HH Grouper has been released. This HH PPS Grouper version v06.1.25 is required for OASIS submissions with an assessment completion date on or after October 1, 2025. [THOR-456]
 - o **Hospice FY 2026 Hospice Wage Index and Payment Rate:** The Hospice Payment Rate/Wage Index files for FY 2026 have been included in this update for Integrated Billing customers. Netsmart/HBS customers will receive the same via an upcoming release from the vendor. [THOR-457]
- **Hospice Outcomes and Patient Evaluation (HOPE) Functionality:** Leading up to the October 1 effective date of the HOPE, agencies should have taken steps to prepare with training options detailed in the previously released [Training Transition Guide](#). With the 17.45.01 release, the items listed below will enable agencies to navigate and manage the HOPE charting, tracking, export, and download functionality. Specifics of this process are available for review in the [Managing HOPE Records](#) document found here:
<https://www.thornberryltd.com/documentation/managing-hope-records>
 - o **HOPE Edit Checks/Validation Logic:** Similar to OASIS and HIS, HOPE Records will undergo edit checks and validation prior to export. These checks are based on the HOPE Data Specifications and will help ensure records will be accepted by iQIES without issue.
 - o **HOPE Downloads Page (Administration>System>Downloads):** A HOPE Downloads option has been added to the OASIS and HIS Downloads menu under Administration>System>Downloads. The process of viewing and downloading the files mirrors that of the OASIS and HIS files.
 - o **OASIS/HOPE/HIS Download History (Administration>System>Downloads):** The OASIS/HIS Download History Report has been renamed to reflect the addition of the logging of HOPE file downloads. This report is found under Administration>System>Downloads and lists the details about downloaded HOPE files (i.e., export dates, download dates, users performing the actions).
 - o **HOPE Employee Dashboard Reminders:** Dashboard reminders are available for Missing and Incomplete HOPE files, as well as SFV Needed messages. Refer to the Managing HOPE Records documentation for specifics.
 - o **HOPE Settings (Administration>System>Settings):** This settings page gives agencies the ability to determine the timing of the HOPE Export queue, as well as default Hold Reasons.
 - o **HOPE/HIS List (Reports>Patient):** The HIS List Report has been renamed the HOPE/HIS List to reflect the inclusion of HOPE Records to this report in an effort to manage these files.

- o **A0215 – Site of Service at Admission Responses:** HOPE Records will include the new A0215-Site of Service at Admission response. The mapping of these responses is still based on the mapping built into the Patient Status Location Table. This should require no intervention by agencies if these fields were mapped previously for HIS' A0205 response.
- o **Race/Ethnicity Field Changes:** HOPE Records replace the HIS A1000 Race/Ethnicity field with separate A1005 Ethnicity and A1010 Race questions. The charting of these new values as of October 1 will result in the responses flowing to POC/485, HBS/Netsmart billing, and applicable Hospice CAHPS interfaces. [THOR-822]
- o **SHP Interface and HOPE:** As with HIS Records, the SHP Hospice Interface will include an export of verified HOPE records. [THOR-787].

CARE PILOT:

- **Visit Charting/Patient Profile>Wound Category – New Wound Type Options:** With the addition of the new M1195-Types of Skin Conditions HOPE question, three new options have been added to the Wound Type drop down. The additions include:
 - o skin tear
 - o Kennedy terminal ulcer
 - o Moisture Associated Skin Damage (MASD)

MEDICATIONS:

- **Patient Allergies: Save and Save & Add Button Performance Issue:** In certain cases, the Save and Save & Add Buttons became disabled. This has been corrected. [THOR-147]

OPERATIONS:

- **Patient>Billing Management (HBS/Netsmart Billing Customers) - Erroneous 485 Export Message:** This update includes a correction to an issue where Billing Management messages erroneously indicated that a POC/485 had not exported when the document had exported. The conflict was the result of the Edit Approved/Printed option being used on the POC/485 creating a new version of the document even though the original had gone out and has been correctly signed. The issue has been corrected and the system will no longer generate the message in error. [THOR-839]

INTERFACES:

- **SHP Hospice CAHPS Issue:** The 17.44 Update introduced a bug that resulted in certain errors within the SHP Hospice CAHPS feed. The issue caused the primary diagnosis to be missing for patients. This issue has been resolved. [THOR-832]
- **EVV Management Enhancements for Integrated Billing Customers** - Changes have been made to the EVV interface to allow the NDoc Billing Component to work with HHAX. [THOR-833]

17.45 SUB-RELEASE – 17.45.02

- **FY2026 Regulatory Changes>Home Health Grouper for October 2025:** An issue with the October HH Grouper has been corrected. Assessments with M0090 Dates on or after October 1 should score accordingly.
- **HOPE HUV 1/2 Visit Pop-Up Issue:** HUV 1 and 2 Visit Reminder Pop-Ups were displaying erroneously for non-HOPE patients. This has been resolved, and the reminders will now only be triggered for records with a HOPE Admission on or after October 1, 2025.
- **HIS/HOPE Record A1400 Edit Checks:** Per CMS Data Specifications, a new edit check for A1400 responses was implemented to prevent selecting both options A and B in HOPE charting. This edit check does not apply to HIS Records but was inadvertently applied to HIS Admissions in NDoc. That conflict has now been corrected. Please note, during our review, we also identified that the edit check (-3083) in the CMS data specs conflicts with the HOPE Guidance Manual. We have contacted QTSO staff for clarification, which may result in future changes to the logic. In the meantime, this release removes the edit check from HOPE charting and export validation.

⚠ For Hosted Customers, all NDoc monthly updates are installed by the Thornberry support team per the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding: Server Maintenance and Updates.

⚠ These Release Notes detail significant changes in user side functionality. Coding changes for program maintenance are not reflected.