



NTRACS BURN SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE



March 2007

Chicago, IL -- The American Burn Association (ABA) and Digital Innovation, Inc. (DI) have been developing a new version of the NTRACS Burn product. A version 4 of the product has now been developed and has been in beta test with the ABA's TRACS Users Committee.

For a number of reasons, the ABA, its TRACS Users Committee, and DI have decided to move directly to the NTRACS v5 platform for the general release of the new NTRACS Burn software. These reasons include:

- Allowing for the implementation of the new data dictionary currently being defined by the ABA TRACS Users Committee. The Committee, under the direction of Dr. Richard Kagan, has been working hard over the past year on the v5 data dictionary – and believes that this is the best dictionary upon which to base the new release.
- Eliminating the need for multiple updates within a short period of time (since the v5 is slated for a September 2007 release).
- Breaking all technology dependencies on the existing FoxPro database structure – which has caused a number of operational and/or conversion challenges to existing NTRACS users. These include a number of idiosyncrasies in FoxPro data and user configurations, which have made the conversion of patient data and data element definition setup information problematic in a number of hospital environments. In addition, the FoxPro technology has historically been problematic in regards to data integrity for certain hospitals. For these and many other reasons, the decision has been made to move all components of the v5 software to a newer database foundation.

Allowing for the now-to-be-built-in inclusion of the DI Report Writer – to be configured to the new v5 burn data set and to include a number of burn-specific standard reports identified by the ABA TRACS Users Committee. It is also anticipated that comparable custom reports to what are currently being utilized will be able to be created in version 5, as well as an expanded ad hoc query capability for all reports.

During the ensuing months, the NTRACS Burn v4 software will be used for two primary purposes: (1) development of the new burn data set and beta testing with the TRACS Users Committee; and (2) integration with the NTRACS Trauma v4.1 release for those sites that run a single combined burn/trauma database and who elect to upgrade to NTRACS Trauma v4.

Burn v5 will be finalized during the first part of 2007 and released in September 2007 for a January 2008 “go-live.” October 2007 through December 2007 will be an implementation/training period during which users will transition to Burn v5.

Additional information on the NTRACS Burn v5 release will be provided during the ABA's Annual Meeting in San Diego, March 20 – 23, 2007.