## Tech Brief Series



The term ODBC stands for "open database connectivity" - a standardized application interface (API) technology that allows applications to access multiple third-party databases. ODBC was designed by Microsoft®. ODBC-enabled applications can access data in any database that provides an "ODBC driver" for that particular database. The HSS Systems MH/MR/D&A software uses a language called Synergy, and supports the Synergy® ODBC Driver. This enables 32 bit (Windows 95/98/2000 and Windows NT) applications to seamlessly access the full range of Client data in the HSS Systems MH/MR/D&A system.

## **ODBC** Driver

Now applications such as Microsoft Excel, Crystal Reports®, Microsoft Access, and SPSS® can be used in preparing reports for Clinical Improvement, and Quality Improvement, as well as Financial and budgetary analysis. Importantly all data in the HSS Systems MH/MR/D&A is now accessible to the standard PC applications.

The HSS Systems ODBC module has two basic parts, the ODBC driver that is loaded on the server and provides the linkage into the main databases, and the ODBC driver manager that is loaded on each client PC. The ODBC driver manager is a highly efficient 32 bit driver and must be loaded on a 32 bit operating system such as Windows 95/98/2000 or Windows NT.

The addition of the ODBC module to the HSS Systems system is a cost effective method of extending the usefulness of the HSS Systems system's databases and providing direct access to the full database.

The ODBC driver module must be purchased for the server and one ODBC driver manager per PC that will access the database.

Third party applications such as Crystal Reports® provide true "client server" SQL based access to all of the data in the HSS Systems database. Queries are updated in a real time manner so that the most current information is returned for reports.