CONNECTICUT
Health Strategy

PATIENT ENCOUNTER DATA FROM CONNECTICUT HOSPITALS

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 19a-654 requires all of Connecticut's 27 acute care hospitals and 100 freestanding outpatient surgical facilities to submit inpatient discharge, emergency department and outpatient surgery administrative data to the Office of Health Strategy (OHS). OHS prescribes the timing and format of the data which includes information taken from medical record abstracts, and hospital and professional bills. OHS utilizes the data to plan and oversee Connecticut's health care delivery system to ensure access to affordable quality timely care for the state's residents. OHS also provides data to support public health, policy making, consumer decision making and research in health care.

Why is the data maintained, what does it include, and why is it important to the public?

As required by state law, OHS collects and maintains patient data for monitoring the overall effectiveness of the state's health care system. The data includes patient demographic (age, race/ethnicity, sex, town), utilization (length of inpatient stay, day/time of service), clinical (diagnoses, treatment, service type), charges, payer (Medicare, Medicaid, commercial insurance, self-pay), and provider information.

OHS's patient data warehouse includes hospital inpatient discharge data records for hospital fiscal years (FY) 1991-2024 and outpatient surgery encounters for FY 2018-present (based on most recent quarter). OHS also has remote access to CHIME Inc Emergency Department Database for FYs 2005-2024 data. While OHS keeps confidential individually identifiable patient, physician and payer data, OHS offers de-identified data (as allowed by state and federal law) and aggregate reports to the public to serve a variety of needs including:

- research
- serving as a reference tool for tracking health care trends; and
- serving as a reference to help health care consumers make informed decisions

What are the on-going benefits of data collection?

OHS serves as a clearinghouse for the information collected and can provide timely reports to government agencies, legislators, research organizations, providers, and consumers. OHS uses patient data to create aggregated provider, payer, geographic, clinical, and patient profiles which can be used to identify potential problems in health care delivery, to assist in planning activities, and to illustrate market share.

What are examples of data that I can obtain?

Counts by medical diagnoses or procedures, types of services, primary payer, Major Diagnostic Category, Diagnosis Related Group, average length of patient stay by hospital or by health condition.

How can I access the data?

Patient data is available by submitting a written request at GovQA.