

THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT
Office of Health Care Access

INPATIENT DISCHARGE DATA from CONNECTICUT HOSPITALS

Pursuant to **Section 19a-654 C.G.S.**, all of Connecticut's thirty-one acute care hospitals are required by state law to submit inpatient discharge data to the Office of Health Care Access (OHCA). The timing and format of the data are closely prescribed by OHCA, and include information taken from medical record abstracts and hospital bills. By collecting and evaluating this data, OHCA provides a mechanism for the oversight of Connecticut's health care delivery system in order to ensure that access to quality care is made available to the public in a fiscally prudent manner.

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

As required by state law, OHCA collects and maintains hospital inpatient discharge data for the purpose of monitoring the overall effectiveness of the state's health care system. Required hospital submissions typically include demographic, utilization, clinical, charge, payer, provider, and patient information. Patient information includes data regarding patient age, race, ethnicity, and gender; patient diagnosis; services provided and related charges; payer; provider; and length of stay.

As part of its data storage, archiving, and retrieval capacities, OHCA currently maintains a warehouse of hospital inpatient discharge data including records from hospital fiscal year (FY) 1991 through (FY) 1997. Although individual patient and physician data are kept confidential (individual patients and physicians are not identified), OHCA can offer aggregate reports to the public to serve a variety of needs including:

- serving as a reference tool for tracking health care trends;
- offering a source of reference to allow health care consumers the means to make informed decisions regarding health care choices; *and*
- providing an illustration of one component of the vast health care system and how one area may interrelate to the larger body.

What are some examples of data that can be obtained?

- Primary Payer
- Average Length of Patient Stay
- Major Diagnostic Category
- Diagnosis Related Group

What are the on-going benefits of the data collection?

OHCA now serves as a clearinghouse for the information collected. The Agency maintains a minimum of seven years' data in the warehouse, and can provide timely reports to government agencies, legislators, research organizations, providers, and consumers.

As a storage facility for most relevant data, OHCA may use its Hospital In-Patient Discharge Database to create aggregated provider, payer, geographic, clinical, and patient profiles. A variety of analyses can be performed on OHCA's data and resulting reports can be used to identify potential problems in health care delivery, to assist in planning activities, and to illustrate market share.

How can the data be accessed?

The information is available through a written request via mail to: **Gloria Sancho**, Health Care Analyst, **Office of Health Care Access** at (860) 418-7027 *or* E-mail: Gloria.Sancho@po.state.ct.us. For additional information, please contact **Kaila Riggott**, OHCA Research Analyst Supervisor, at (860) 418-7037 *or* **Lynne Garner**, OHCA Director of Research and Evaluation, at (860) 418-7014.