MIRCal Medical Information Reporting for California

Quick Notes

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Access to Safe, Quality Healthcare Environments that Meet California's Diverse and Dynamic Needs

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IP Inpatient Discharges | ED Emergency Department | AS Ambulatory Surgery

ATLAS – Your Data Visualized

The California Healthcare Atlas offers an easy-to-use online portal to healthcare data published by OSHPD. This interactive, internet mapping application provides users access to large amounts of information on healthcare workforce, facilities, patients, and surrounding communities.

The site logically organizes and cross-references more than 16,000 geographic places with a myriad of healthcare facts from many state and federal sources into a cohesive, searchable, and cross-referenced atlas of healthcare information. For example, users can utilize the "GeoBrowser" to browse hospitals in any part of California geographically, and then access a wide variety of information about those facilities including financials, special designations, number of beds, common surgery costs, service utilization, and payer reimbursement rates.

Atlas content includes:

- ★ More than 16,000 searchable, cross-referenced geographic places in California
- ★ Facility types -- five types of hospitals, seven types of clinics, four types of long-term care
- ★ Dashboards for critical access hospitals, disproportionate share hospitals, rural hospitals, emergency departments, and trauma centers
- ★ Reimbursement rates by payer categories at hospitals
- ★ Hospital market maps and market data
- ★ Hospital financials
- ★ Hospital inpatient reports
- ★ Hospital ambulatory surgery reports
- ★ Hospital and clinic license reports
- ★ Seven types of workforce shortage areas
- ★ Several Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality volume and utilization hospital measures

If you have any questions regarding the content of the California Healthcare Atlas, please communicate with the appropriate point-of-contact which can be found at the Atlas Contact Us page.

ED AS

ED to AS Transfers

Dear MIRCal: We sometimes have patients who present in our ED and are sent to our outpatient room for a procedure where the patient is then discharged or, in some cases, dies. Should these cases be reported as an ED or AS record to OSHPD?

OSHPD regulation does not strictly prohibit these patients from being reported as an AS record. However, the intent of collecting an ambulatory surgery data record is to capture those patients who had a true ambulatory procedure performed on an outpatient basis. The patient is presumed ambulatory before and after the procedure.

OSHPD encourages these cases to be reported as an ED record for data quality, especially in cases of an accident, trauma, or those that resulted in death.

IP ED AS

User Account Administrator Duties

A User Account Administrator (UAA) has the responsibility of managing user accounts in MIRCal by maintaining users who have access to correct and submit a facility's confidential data. Essentially, UAAs control the permissions for adding and modifying user accounts. This includes adding and inactivating users, changing passwords, unlocking accounts, changing role assignments, and updating facility contact information.

Per regulation, the UAA is required to update any designated MIRCal contacts within 15 days after any change. This applies to designating a new contact person or updating a current contact's telephone number, mailing address, or email. Users who are no longer with the facility or are no longer responsible for OSHPD data should be inactivated and their user roles removed immediately.

Each facility may designate as many as three UAAs. OSHPD strongly recommends the assignment of more than one UAA to help ensure adequate coverage for the facility.

IP ED AS

OSHPD Patient Data Regulations Update A Move Towards National Standards

OSHPD sent a survey in November 2013 asking California's reporting facilities for feedback regarding potential changes to the patient data reporting requirements for "disposition of patient" codes. In particular, the survey asked about:

- Adding the 16 new National Uniform Billing Committee (NUBC) "disposition" codes for Emergency Department (ED) and Ambulatory Surgery (AS) patient data
- Changing the reporting of Inpatient "disposition" codes to align with ED and AS data

The survey feedback received from facilities with inpatient services showed support to move ahead with these data element changes. This prompted OSHPD to draft regulations to adopt these changes with an effective date of January 1, 2015. The draft regulations also address the recent ICD-10 code set delay by modifying the implementation date to October 1, 2015. It is OSHPD's intent to adopt the ICD-10 code set on the same schedule as the federal government.

Please check our Laws & Regulations page for the latest regulatory updates.

New Pending Regulations Comment Period Open

As referenced above, there is a new update to MIRCal regulations which has been submitted to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for the public comment period which will conclude July 21, 2014. OSHPD encourages you to review the changes and submit your comments by this date.

The proposed regulations will update the ICD-10 implementation date and change Inpatient Disposition codes to match ED and AS Disposition codes. Please check our Law and Regulations page for the text of the proposed regulations and continued updates. A Final Statement of Reasons will be posted following OAL approval.