
General Comments on 1st Quarter 2003 Data

The following general comments about the data for this quarter are made by THCIC and apply to all data released for this quarter.

- Data is administrative data, collected for billing purposes, not clinical data.

- Data is submitted in a standard government format, the UB-92 (or HCFA 1450). State specifications require the submission of additional data elements. These data elements include race, ethnicity and non-standard source of payment. Because these data elements are not sent to payers and may not be part of the hospital's standard data collection process, there may be an increase in the error rate for these elements. Data users should not conclude that billing data sent to payers is inaccurate.

- Hospitals are required to submit the patient's race and ethnicity following categories used by the U. S. Bureau of the Census. This information is generally not provided by the patient, rather, it is collected subjectively and may not be accurate.

- Hospitals are required to submit data within 90 days after the close of a calendar quarter (hospital data submission vendor deadlines may be sooner). Depending on hospitals' collection and billing cycles, not all discharges may have been billed or reported. Therefore, data for each quarter may not be complete. This can also affect the accuracy of source of payment data, particularly self-pay and charity categories, where patients may later qualify for Medicaid or other payment sources.

- Hospitals record as many as twenty-five diagnosis codes and twenty-five procedure codes for each patient for billing purposes. Data submitted to THCIC is limited to nine diagnosis codes and six procedure codes. Therefore, the data submitted may not fully represent all diagnoses treated by the hospital or all procedures performed. A consequence may be that sicker patients with more than nine diagnoses or undergoing more than six procedures are not accurately reflected. This may also result in total volume and percentage calculations for diagnoses and procedures not being complete.

- THCIC assigns the Risk of Mortality and Severity of Illness scores using the APR-DRG methodology designed by 3M Corporation. These scores may be affected by the limited number of diagnosis and procedure codes collected by THCIC and may be understated.

- Length of Stay is limited to three characters in length and therefore cannot exceed 999 days. A few patients are discharged from some hospitals after stays of more than 999 days and the length of stay for these patients, presented as 999 days, is not correct.

- Several data elements are suppressed and will be released after corrections to data submission processes have been made. These data elements will be released beginning with data for 3rd quarter 2000. They include:
 - Standard source of secondary payment
 - Non-standard source of secondary payment
 - All charges

- The Source of Admission data element is suppressed if the Type of Admission field indicates the patient is newborn. The condition of the newborn can be determined from the diagnosis codes. Source of admission for newborns is suppressed indefinitely.

- Conclusions drawn from the data are subject to errors caused by the

Comments, 1Q2003

inability of the hospital to communicate complete data due to reporting form constraints, subjectivity in the assignment of codes, system mapping, and normal clerical error. The data are submitted by hospitals as their best effort to meet statutory requirements.

PROVIDER: Austin State Hospital
THCIC ID: 000100
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Due to the system limitations, note, that this is just an estimate and relates to identified source of funds, rather than actual collections from the identified source of funds.

Admission Type = Because of system constraints, all admissions on the encounter records are reported as urgent. The data report also includes emergency admissions.

Admission Source = Because of system constraints, all admissions sources on the encounter records, are reported as court/law enforcement. The data reported also includes voluntary admissions. The Local Mental Health Authority refers the majority of admissions.

Patient Discharge Status = All patients, when discharged, are referred to the Local Mental Health Authority.

Standard Source of Payment = Because of system constraints, all payment sources on the encounter records are reported as charity. The sources of payment, by percent, are:

Standard Source of Payment	Total Percentage (%)
Self-Pay	2.52%
Worker's Comp	n/a
Medicare	10.48%
Other Federal Programs	8.06%
Commercial	3.71%
Blue Cross	n/a
Champus	0.18%
Other	n/a
Missing/Invalid	n/a

Non-Standard Source of Payment	Total Percentage(%)
State/Local Government	n/a
Commercial	n/a
Medicare Managed Care	n/a
Medicaid Managed Care	0.02%
Commercial HMO	n/a
Charity	75%
Missing/Invalid	n/a

Severity Index = All patients admitted have been determined to be a danger to self or others and the severity of illness is determined by an acuity assessment performed by the hospital. The Severity Index on the encounter record for each patient is assigned based on the patient's APR-DRG (All Patient Refined-Diagnosis Related Groups), which does not reflect the severity of mental illness due to reporting methodology.

PROVIDER: Big Spring State Hospital
THCIC ID: 000101

Comments, 1Q2003

QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Due to the system limitations, note, that this is just an estimate and relates to identified source of funds, rather than actual collections from the identified source of funds.

Admission Type = Because of system constraints, all admissions on the encounter records are reported as urgent. The data reported also includes emergency admissions.

Admission Source = Because of system constraints, all admissions sources on the encounter records are reported as court/law enforcement. The data reported also includes voluntary admissions. The Local Mental Health Authority refers to majority of admissions.

Patient Discharge Status = All patients, when discharged, are referred to the Local Mental Health Authority.

Due to system entry there is a slight variance between actual demographic data and what is reported.

Standard Source of Payment = Because of system constraints, all payment sources on the encounter records are reported as charity. The sources of payment, by percent, are:

Standard Source of Payment	Total Percentage(%)
Self-Pay	2%
Worker's Comp	n/a
Medicare	4.91%
Medicaid	9.49%
Other Federal Programs	n/a
Commercial	1.49%
Blue Cross	n/a
Champus	1.06%
Other	n/a
Missing/Invalid	n/a

Non-Standard Source of Payment	Total Percentage(%)
State/Local Government	n/a
Commercial	n/a
Medicare Managed Care	n/a
Medicaid Managed	0.00%
Commercial HMO	n/a
Charity	81%
Missing/Invalid	n/a

Severity Index = All patients admitted have been determined to be a danger to self or others and the severity of illness is determined by an acuity assessment performed by the hospital. The Severity Index on the encounter record for each patient is assigned based on the patient's APR-DRG (All Patient Refined-Diagnosis Related Group), which does not reflect the severity of mental illness due to reporting methodology.

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PROVIDER: Rio Grande State Center
 THCIC ID: 000104
 QUARTER: 1
 YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Comments, 1Q2003

Due to system limitations, note, that this is just an estimate and relates to identified source of funds, rather than actual collections from the identified source of funds.

Admission Type = Because of system constraints, all admissions on the encounter records are reported as urgent. The data reported also includes emergency admissions.

Admission Source = Because of system constraints, all admissions sources on the encounter records are reported as court/law enforcement. The data reported also includes voluntary admissions. The Local Mental Health Authority refers the majority of admissions.

Patient Discharge Status = All patients, when discharged, are referred to the Local Mental Health Authority.

Standard Source of Payment = Because of system constraints, all payment sources on the encounter records are reported as charity. The sources of payment, by percent, are:

Standard Source of Payment	Total Percentage (%)
Self-Pay	0.55%
Worker's Comp	n/a
Medicare	5.92%
Medicaid	7.32%
Other Federal Programs	n/a
Commercial	0.87%
Blue Cross	n/a
Champus	0.32%
Other	n/a
Missing/Invalid	n/a

Non-Standards Source of Payment	Total Percentage (%)
State/Local Government	n/a
Commercial	n/a
Medicaid Managed Care	0.00%
Commercial HMO	n/a
Charity	85%
Missing/Invalid	n/a

Severity Index = All patients admitted have been determined to be a danger to self or others and the severity of illness is determined by the acuity assessment performed by the hospital. The Severity Index on the encounter record for each patient is assigned based on the patient's APR-DRG (All Patient Refined-Diagnosis Related Groups), which does not reflect the severity of mental illness due to reporting methodology.

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PROVIDER: University Of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
THCIC ID: 000105
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center is one of the nation's first three comprehensive Cancer Centers designated by the National Cancer Act and remains one of only 36 such centers today that meet the rigorous criteria for NCI designation. Dedicated solely cancer patient care, research, education and prevention, M.DAnderson also was named the best cancer center in the United States by the U.S. News & World Report's "America's Best

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Hospitals" survey on three occasions. As such, it was the only hospital in Texas to be ranked number one in any of the 17 medical specialties surveyed.

Because M.D. Anderson consults with, diagnoses and treats only patients with cancer, it is important in the review of these data that key concepts about cancer and patient population are understood. Such information is vital to the accurate interpretation and comparison of data.

Cancer is not just one disease. Rather, it is a collection of 100 or more diseases that share a similar process. Some forms of the disease are serious and life threatening. A few pose little threat to the patient, while the consequences of most cancers is in between.

No two cancers respond to therapy in exactly the same way. For example, in order to effectively treat a breast cancer, it must be staged according to the size and spread of the tumor. Patients diagnosed with Stage I and Stage IV breast cancer may both receive radiation therapy as treatment, but two distinctive courses of treatment and doses are administered, dependent on the stage of the disease. Even two Stage I breast cancers can respond differently to the treatment.

M.D. Anderson treats only patients with cancer and their related diseases. As such, the population is comparable to a total patient population of a community hospital, which may deliver babies, perform general surgery, operate a trauma center and treat only a small number of cancer patients.

Congress has recognized M.D. Anderson's unique role in providing state of the art cancer care by exempting it from the DRG-based inpatient prospective payment system. Nine other freestanding NCI designated cancer centers are also exempt.

Because M.D. Anderson is a leading center for cancer research, several hundred patients may be placed on clinical trials every year, rather than -- or in addition to -- standard therapies. Highly regulated and monitored, clinical trials serve to improve conventional therapies and provide new options for patients.

Patients often come to M.D. Anderson for consultation only. With M.D. Anderson physicians consulting with their hometown oncologists, patients often choose to get treatment at home rather than in Houston.

More than half of M.D. Anderson's patients has received some form of cancer treatment before coming to the institution for subsequent advice and treatment. This proportion is far higher than in general hospitals, making it difficult to compare M.D. Anderson to community facilities.

As a public institution, M.D. Anderson welcomes inquiries from the general public, advocacy organizations, the news media and others regarding this data. Inquiries may be directed to Julie Penne in the Office of Communications at 713/792-0655.

PROVIDER: Kerrville State Hospital
THCIC ID: 000106
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Due to system limitations, note, that this is just an estimate and relates to identified source of funds, rather than actual collections from the identified source of funds.

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Admission Type = Because of system constraints, all admissions on the encounter records are reported as urgent. The data reported also includes emergency admissions.

Admission Source = Because of system constraints, all admissions sources on the encounter records are reported as court/law enforcement. The data reported also includes voluntary admissions. The Local Mental Health Authority refers the majority of admissions.

Patient Discharge Status = All patients, when discharged, are referred to the Local Mental Health Authority.

Standard Source of Payment = Because of system constraints, all payment sources on the encounter records are reported as charity. The sources of payment, by percent, are:

Standard Source of Payment	Total Percentage (%)
Self-Pay	4.90%
Worker's Comp	n/a
Medicare	2.92%
Medicaid	12.21%
Other Federal Programs	n/a
Commercial	2.95%
Blue Cross	n/a
Champus	0.00%
Other	n/a
Missing/Invalid	n/a

Non-Standard Source of Payment	Total Percentage (%)
State/Local Government	n/a
Commercial	n/a
Medicare Managed Care	n/a
Medicaid Managed Care	0.00%
Commercial HMO	n/a
Charity	77%
Missing	n/a

Severity Index = All patients admitted have been determined to be a danger to self or others and the severity of illness is determined by an acuity assessment performed by the hospital. The Severity Index on the encounter record for each patient is assigned based on the patient's APR-DRG (All Patient Refined-Diagnosis Related Groups), which does not reflect the severity of mental illness due to reporting methodology.

PROVIDER: Rusk State Hospital
THCIC ID: 000107
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Due to system limitations, note, that this is just an estimate and relates to identified source of funds, rather than actual collections from the identified source of funds.

Admission Type = Because of system constraints, all admissions on the encounter records are reported as urgent. The data reported also includes emergency admissions.

Admission Source = Because of system constraints, all admissions sources

Comments, 1Q2003

on the encounter records are reported as court/law enforcement. The data reported also includes voluntary admissions. The Local Mental Health Authority refers the majority of admissions.

Patient Discharge Status = All patients, when discharged, are referred to the Local Mental Health Authority.

Standard Source of Payment	Total Percentage (%)
Self-Pay	1.65%
Worker's Comp	n/a
Medicare	9.15%
Medicaid	5.18%
Other Federal Programs	n/a
Commercial	1.99%
Blue Cross	0.00%
Other	n/a
Missing/Invalid	n/a

Non-Standard Source of Payment	Total Percentage (%)
State/Local Government	n/a
Commercial	n/a
Medicare Managed Care	n/a
Medicaid Managed Care	0.12%
Commercial HMO	n/a
Charity	82%
Missing/Invalid	n/a

Severity Index = All patients admitted have been determined to be a danger to self or others and the severity of illness is determined by an acuity assessment performed by the hospital. The Severity Index, on the encounter record for each patient is assigned based on the patient's APR-DRG (All Patient Refined-Diagnosis Related Groups), which does not reflect the severity of mental illness due to reporting methodology.

PROVIDER: San Antonio State Hospital
 THCIC ID: 000110
 QUARTER: 1
 YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Due to system limitations, note, that this is just an estimate and relates to identified source of funds, rather than actual collections from the identified source of funds.

Admission Type = Because of system constraints, all admissions on the encounter records are reported as urgent. The data reported also includes emergency admissions.

Admission Source = Because of system constraints, all admissions sources on the encounter records are reported as court/law enforcement. The data reported also includes voluntary admissions. The Local Mental Health Authority refers the majority of admissions.

Patient Discharge Status = All patients, when discharged, are referred to the Local Mental Health Authority.

Standards Source of Payment	Total Percentage (%)
Self-Pay	0.87%
Worker's Comp	n/a

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Medicare	8.65%
Medicaid	15.43%
Other Federal Programs	n/a
Commercial	1.46%
Blue Cross	n/a
Champus	0.44%
Other	n/a
Missing/Invalid	n/a

Non-Standard Source of Payment Total Percentage (%)

State/Local Government	n/a
Commercial	n/a
Medicare Managed Care	n/a
Medicaid Managed Care	0.12%
Commercial HMO	n/a
Charity	73%
Missing/Invalid	n/a

Severity Index = All patients admitted have been determined to be a danger to self or others and the severity of illness is determined by an acuity assessment performed by the hospital. The Severity Index on the encounter record for each patient is based on the patient's APR-DRG (All Patient Refined-Diagnosis Related Groups), which does not reflect the severity of mental illness due to reporting methodology.

PROVIDER: Terrell State Hospital
 THCIC ID: 000111
 QUARTER: 1
 YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Due to the system limitations, note, that this is just an estimate and relates to identified source of funds, rather than actual collections from the identified source of funds.

Admission Type = Because of system constraints, all admissions on the encounter records are reported as urgent. The data report also includes emergency admissions.

Admission Source = Because of system constraints, all admissions sources on the encounter records, are reported as court/law enforcement. The data reported also includes voluntary admissions. The Local Mental Health Authority refers the majority of admissions.

Patient Discharge Status = All patients, when discharged, are referred to the Local Mental Health Authority.

Standard Source of Payment = Because of system constraints, all payment sources on the encounter records are reported as charity. The sources of payment, by percent, are:

Standard Source of Payment Total Percentage (%)

Self-Pay	1.29%
Worker's Comp	n/a
Medicare	11.18%
Medicaid	3.10%
Other Federal Programs	n/a
Commercial	0.36%
Blue Cross	n/a
Champus	0.00%

Comments, 1Q2003

Other n/a
 Missing/Invalid n/a

Non-Standard Source of Payment Total Percentage(%)

State/Local Government n/a
 Commercial n/a
 Medicare Managed Care n/a
 Medicaid Managed Care 0.00%
 Commercial HMO n/a
 Charity 84%
 Missing/Invalid n/a

Severity Index = All patients admitted have been determined to be a danger to self or others and the severity of illness is determined by an acuity assessment performed by the hospital. The Severity Index on the encounter record for each patient is assigned based on the patient's APR-DRG (All Patient Refined-Diagnosis Related Groups), which does not reflect the severity of mental illness due to reporting methodology.

PROVIDER: N TX State Hospital Vernon
 THCIC ID: 000113
 QUARTER: 1
 YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Due to the system limitations, note, that this is just an estimate and relates to identified source of funds, rather than actual collections from the identified source of funds.

Admission Type = Because of system constraints, all admissions on the encounter records are reported as urgent. The data report also includes emergency admissions.

Admission Source = Because of system constraints, all admissions sources on the encounter records, are reported as court/law enforcement. The data reported also includes voluntary admissions. The Local Mental Health Authority refers the majority of admissions.

Patient Discharge Status = All patients, when discharged, are referred to the Local Mental Health Authority.

Standard Source of Payment = Because of system constraints, all payment sources on the encounter records are reported as charity. The sources of payment, by percent, are:

Standard Source of Payment Total Percentage (%)

Self-Pay 1.11%
 Worker's Comp n/a
 Medicare 0.30%
 Medicaid 15.23%
 Other Federal Programs N/a
 Commercial 2.16%
 Blue Cross n/a
 Champus 0.13%
 Other n/a
 Missing/Invalid n/a

Non-Standard Source of Payment Total Percentage(%)

State/Local Government n/a

Comments, 1Q2003

Commercial	n/a
Medicare Managed Care	n/a
Medicaid Managed Care	0.05%
Commercial HMO	n/a
Charity	81%
Missing/Invalid	n/a

Severity Index = All patients admitted have been determined to be a danger to self or others and the severity of illness is determined by an acuity assessment performed by the hospital. The Severity Index on the encounter record for each patient is assigned based on the patient's APR-DRG (All Patient Refined-Diagnosis Related Groups), which does not reflect the severity of mental illness due to reporting methodology.

North Texas State Hospital actually had 615 discharges for this quarter. Due to an error on the UB-92 report North Texas State Hospital was still being divided between the Wichita Falls and Vernon campuses during the month of January 2003.

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PROVIDER: N TX State Hospital Wichita Falls
 THCIC ID: 000114
 QUARTER: 1
 YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

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Admission Type = Because of system constraints, all admissions on the encounter records are reported as urgent. The data report also includes emergency admissions.

Admission Source = Because of system constraints, all admissions sources on the encounter records, are reported as court/law enforcement. The data reported also includes voluntary admissions. The Local Mental Health Authority refers the majority of admissions.

Patient Discharge Status = All patients, when discharged, are referred to the Local Mental Health Authority.

Standard Source of Payment = Because of system constraints, all payment sources on the encounter records are reported as charity. The sources of payment, by percent, are:

Standard Source of Payment	Total Percentage (%)
Self-Pay	1.85%
Worker's Comp	n/a
Medicare	5.68%
Medicaid	8.22%
Other Federal Programs	N/a
Commercial	2.73%
Blue Cross	n/a
Champus	0.47%
Other	n/a
Missing/Invalid	n/a
 Non-Standard Source of Payment	 Total Percentage(%)
State/Local Government	n/a
Commercial	n/a

Comments, 1Q2003

Medicare Managed Care	n/a
Medicaid Managed Care	0.02%
Commercial HMO	n/a
Charity	81%
Missing/Invalid	n/a

Severity Index = All patients admitted have been determined to be a danger to self or others and the severity of illness is determined by an acuity assessment performed by the hospital. The Severity Index on the encounter record for each patient is assigned based on the patient's APR-DRG (All Patient Refined-Diagnosis Related Groups), which does not reflect the severity of mental illness due to reporting methodology.

North Texas State Hospital actually had 615 discharges for this quarter. Due to an error on the UB-92 report North Texas State Hospital was still being divided between the Wichita Falls and Vernon campuses during the month of January 2003.

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PROVIDER: Harris County Psychiatric
THCIC ID: 000115
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

1. Patient Race-One patient record was changed as a result of patient record corrections performed after the original file was submitted. The race of one patient was changed from White to Black.
2. Standard Source of Payment-Five patient records were changed as a result of patient record corrections performed after the original file was submitted. The standard source of payment was changed from Self Pay to Other for two patients, from Medicaid to Medicare on another patient, from Other to Medicare on a fourth patient, and from Other to Commercial on a fifth patient.
3. Non-Standard Source of Payment-Four patient records were changed as a result of patient record corrections performed after the original file was submitted. The non-standard source of payment was changed Missing/Invalid to Charity for one patient, Medicaid Managed Care to Missing/Invalid for another, Missing/Invalid to Commercial PPO for a third, and Charity to Missing/Invalid for a fifth patient.

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PROVIDER: Waco Center for Youth
THCIC ID: 000117
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

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Admission Source = Because of system constraints, all admissions sources on the encounter records, are reported as court/law enforcement. The data reported also includes voluntary admissions. The Local Mental Health Authority refers the majority of admissions.

Comments, 1Q2003

Patient Discharge Status = All patients, when discharged, are referred to the Local Mental Health Authority.

Standard Source of Payment = Because of system constraints, all payment sources on the encounter records are reported as charity. The sources of payment, by percent, are:

Standard Source of Payment	Total Percentage (%)
Self-Pay	2.01%
Worker's Comp	n/a
Medicare	n/a
Medicaid	1.06%
Other Federal Programs	n/a
Commercial	1.91%
Blue Cross	n/a
Champus	0.47%
Other	n/a
Missing/Invalid	n/a

Non-Standard Source of Payment	Total Percentage(%)
State/Local Government	n/a
Commercial	n/a
Medicare Managed Care	n/a
Medicaid Managed Care	0.00%
Commercial HMO	n/a
Charity	95%
Missing/Invalid	n/a

Severity Index = All patients admitted have been determined to be a danger to self or others and the severity of illness is determined by an acuity assessment performed by the hospital. The Severity Index on the encounter record for each patient is assigned based on the patient's APR-DRG (All Patient Refined-Diagnosis Related Groups), which does not reflect the severity of mental illness due to reporting methodology.

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PROVIDER: El Paso Psychiatric Center
 THCIC ID: 000118
 QUARTER: 1
 YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Due to the system limitations, note, that this is just an estimate and relates to identified source of funds, rather than actual collections from the identified source of funds.

Admission Type = Because of system constraints, all admissions on the encounter records are reported as urgent. The data report also includes emergency admissions.

Admission Source = Because of system constraints, all admissions sources on the encounter records, are reported as court/law enforcement. The data reported also includes voluntary admissions. The Local Mental Health Authority refers the majority of admissions.

Patient Discharge Status = All patients, when discharged, are referred to the Local Mental Health Authority.

Standard Source of Payment = Because of system constraints, all payment sources on the encounter records are reported as charity. The sources of payment, by percent, are:

Comments, 1Q2003

Standard Source of Payment	Total Percentage 100(%)
Self-Pay	0%
Worker's Comp	0%
Medicare	22%
Other Federal Programs	12%
Commercial	6%
Blue Cross	embedded in Commercial%
Champus	embedded in Commercial%
Other	60%
Missing/Invalid	0%

Non-Standard Source of Payment	Total Percentage 100(%)
State/Local Government	60%
Commercial PPO	0%
Medicare Managed Care	0%
Medicaid Managed Care	0%
Commercial HMO	0%
Charity	0%
Missing/Invalid	40%

Severity Index = All patients admitted have been determined to be a danger to self or others and the severity of illness is determined by an acuity assessment performed by the hospital. The Severity Index on the encounter record for each patient is assigned based on the patient's APR-DRG (All Patient Refined-Diagnosis Related Groups), which does not reflect the severity of mental illness due to reporting methodology.

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PROVIDER: St Joseph Regional Health Center
 THCIC ID: 002001
 QUARTER: 1
 YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Data Correction - One physician was incorrectly assigned as the attending physician for a patient with DRG 107. Medicare billing regulations require the consolidation of billing for services provided within 72 hours of an inpatient admission. The billing charges for outpatient services provided to one patient were properly consolidated with a subsequent inpatient admission under this regulation. However the diagnosis and procedure codes from the outpatient service were not consolidated. Accordingly, from a billing standpoint, one physician was charged as having done a procedure for a patient he/she did not perform.

Data Source - The data included in this file is administrative, not clinical research data. Administrative data may not accurately represent the clinical details of a patient visit. This data should be cautiously used to evaluate health care quality and compare outcomes.

Charity Care - This data does not accurately reflect the number of charity cases for the time period. Charity and self-pay patients are difficult to assign in the data submitted to the state. We are not able to classify a patient account as "charity" until after discharge when other potential payment sources have been exhausted. Because of this, charity care is combined with the Self Pay category. The amount of charges forgone for St. Joseph Regional Health Center charity care, based on established rates during the calendar year of 2002 was \$17,095,180.

Patient Mix - All statistics for St. Joseph Regional Health Center include patients from our Skilled Nursing, Rehabilitation, and Acute Care populations.

Comments, 1Q2003

Our Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation units are long-term care units. Because of this Mortality and Length of Stay may be skewed. This will prohibit any meaningful comparisons between St. Joseph Regional Health Center and any "acute care only" facilities.

Physicians - All physician license numbers and names have been validated as accurate but some remain unidentified in the THCIC Practitioner Reference Files. Mortalities reported may be related to physicians other than the attending Physician. The attending physician is charged with the procedures requested or performed by the consulting or specialist physicians.

Diagnosis and Procedures - Data submitted to the state may be incomplete for some patients due to the limitation on the number of diagnosis and procedures codes allowed. The data is limited to nine diagnoses codes and six procedure codes per patient visit.

Cost and Charges - The state requires that we submit revenue information including charges. It is important to note that charges do not reflect actual reimbursement received, nor do they reflect the actual cost of providing the services. Typically actual payments received are much less than the charges due to managed care-negotiated discounts, denial of payment by insurance companies, contractual allowances, as well as charity and un-collectable accounts. The relationship between cost of care, charges, and the revenue a facility receives is extremely complex. Comparing costs of care from one hospital to the next may result in unreliable results.

Severity Adjustment - THCIC is using the 3M APR-DRG grouper to assign the APR-DRG (All-Patient Refined Diagnoses Related Grouping) severity and risk of mortality scores. The assignment is made by evaluation of the patient's age, sex, diagnosis codes, procedure codes, and discharge status. This grouper can only use the limited number of procedure and diagnosis codes available in the data file (nine diagnosis and six procedure codes). If all the patient's diagnosis codes were available the APR-DRG assignment may possibly differ from the APR-DRG assigned by THCIC. The severity grouping assignment performed by the state using the APR-DRG grouper cannot be replicated by facilities unless they purchase this grouper. Additionally, the lack of education regarding how this grouper calculates the severity adjustments or how it functions can greatly impact the interpretation of the data.

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PROVIDER: Matagorda General Hospital
THCIC ID: 006000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

The data included in this file is administrative, not clinical research data. Administrative data may not accurately represent the clinical details of a patient visit. This data should be cautiously used to evaluate health care quality and compare outcomes.

There were no extramurals for this quarter.

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PROVIDER: Matagorda General Hospital
THCIC ID: 006001
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

The data included in this file is administrative, not clinical research data. Administrative data may not accurately represent the clinical details

of a patient visit. This data should be cautiously used to evaluate health care quality and compare outcomes.

PROVIDER: The womans Hospital of Texas
THCIC ID: 007000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

It is noted that there were 4 errors identified whereas the OB physician was listed as the baby's physician.

There were 2 errors that listed the emergency room physician as the attending physician.

There was one error noted whereas the wrong physician with the same last name was used.

PROVIDER: CHRISTUS St Joseph Hospital
THCIC ID: 015001
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

St. Joseph certified the data but could not account for 13 patients due to processing the patients after the data was submitted.

During this time period St. Joseph Hospital provided charity care for 266 patients with the total charges (-2,092,965.45) dollars. The system didn't identify these patients.

St. Joseph data didn't correspond to the newborn admission, according to our data we had 55 premature infants and 195 sick infants and 925 normal newborn.

PROVIDER: Baylor Medical Center-Garland
THCIC ID: 027000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Submission Timing

Baylor estimates that our data volumes for the calendar year time period submitted may include 96% to 100% of all cases for that time period. The state requires us to submit a snapshot of billed claims, extracted from our database approximately 20 days following the close of the calendar year quarter. Any discharged patient encounters not billed by this cut-off date will not be included in the quarterly submission file sent in.

Physician Identification

All physician license numbers and names have been validated as accurate against a physician reference file that is derived from information provided by the Texas Board of Medical Examiners. Those physicians not yet assigned a state license number at the time of data submission are given temporary numbers by the hospital for state reporting purposes. Due to the "lag" time between when the physician is licensed and when THCIC receives the information, some physicians may remain unidentified in the THCIC Practitioner Reference Files.

The THCIC minimum data set houses only two (2) physician fields; Attending

Comments, 1Q2003

Physician and Operating or Other Physician (if applicable) as reflected on the UB92 billing document. Mortality rates, case costs and other data calculated for this population of physicians may be misrepresentative.

Due to the complexity of most inpatient admissions many physicians provide care to patients throughout an admission. Consulting physicians may prescribe and treat patients on behalf of the physician listed as the attending physician. Analysis of this physician information should carefully consider that significant variations in case count, case cost, and mortality may not be directly related to the care provided by the attending physician, but also reflect the varied use of consultants.

while hospitals document many treating physicians (surgeons and consultants) for each case, THIC maintains only one (1) additional physician per case besides the Attending. "Other" physician case volumes, mortality, case costs and LOS, will frequently be inaccurate because of this limitation.

Surgeons and consulting physicians beyond one that may have been involved on a case will not be credited with providing care for that patient. Analysis of "other physician" information should, therefore, take into consideration that a significant portion of treating physicians are excluded from the patient cases.

Diagnosis and Procedures

The data submitted matches the state's reporting requirements but may be incomplete due to a limitation on the number of diagnoses and procedures the state allows us to include for each patient. In other words, the state's data file may not fully represent all diagnoses treated by the hospital or all procedures performed, which can alter the true picture of a patient's hospitalization, sometimes significantly.

Patient diagnoses and procedures for a particular hospital stay are coded by the hospital using a universal standard called the International Classification of Disease, or ICD-9-CM. This is mandated by the federal government and all hospitals must comply.

The codes are assigned based on documentation in the patient's chart and are used by hospitals for billing purposes. The hospital can code as many as 25 diagnoses and 25 procedures for each patient record. One limitation of using the ICD-9-CM system is that there does not exist a code for every possible diagnosis and procedure due to the continued evolution of medicine; new codes are added yearly as coding manuals are updated.

Race/Ethnicity

There are no national standards regarding patient race categorization so hospitals may not have the same designations from which patients can choose. The state has recently attempted to standardize a valid set of race codes for this project but these are not universally used by all hospitals. Each hospital must independently map their specific codes to the state's race code categories. This mapping may not be consistent across hospitals. Thus epidemiology analysis of these two data fields does not accurately describe the true population served by the hospital.

Standard/Non-Standard Source of Payment

The standard and non-standard source of payment codes are an example of data required by the state that is not contained within the standard UB92 billing record. In order to meet this requirement each payer identification must be categorized into the appropriate standard and non-standard source of payment value. It should also be noted that the primary payer associated to the patient's encounter record may change over time. With this in mind, approximately 5% of the primary payers originally categorized as "Medicaid" were recategorized as "Commercial". Also 2% of the secondary payers originally categorized as "Missing/Invalid" were recategorized as "Commercial," and 2% of "Medicaid" were recategorized as "Commercial."

Comments, 1Q2003

Additionally, those payers identified contractually as both "HMO and PPO" are categorized as "Commercial PPO". Thus any true managed care comparisons by contract type (HMO vs. PPO) may result in inaccurate analysis.

Cost/ Revenue Codes

The state requires that hospitals submit revenue information including charges. It is important to note that charges are not equal to actual payments received by the hospital or hospital cost for performing the service. Typically actual payments are much less than charges due to managed care-negotiated discounts and denial of payment by insurance companies. Charges also do not reflect the actual cost to deliver the care that each patient needs.

Certification Process

Due to the infancy of the state reporting process and the state's computer system development, the certification process is not as complete and thorough at this time, as all parties would like to see in the future. Given the current certification software, there is not an efficient mechanism to edit and correct the data. In addition, due to hospital volumes, it is not feasible to perform encounter level audits and edits. Within the constraints of the current THCIC process, the data is certified to the best of our knowledge as accurate and complete given the above comments.

PROVIDER: Kindred Hospital Dallas
THCIC ID: 028000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

We are a Long Term Acute Care Hospital so we have a much greater average length of stay. In addition, our hospital averages a higher CMI (acuity index) which does result in a higher mortality rate than short term acute care hospitals.

PROVIDER: Good Shepherd Medical Center
THCIC ID: 029000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Certifying 1st Quarter 2003 with 4635 claims submitted to THIN for a total of \$79,956,183.83 with THCIC reporting 4634 claims submitted for a total of \$76,893,117.52 which is a difference of \$63,066.31

PROVIDER: Providence Health Center
THCIC ID: 040000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Of total deaths, 30 (32%) were hospice patients.

PROVIDER: Madison St Joseph Health Center
THCIC ID: 041000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Comments, 1Q2003

Data Source - The data included in this file is administrative, not clinical research data. Administrative data may not accurately represent the clinical details of a patient visit. This data should be cautiously used to evaluate health care quality and compare outcomes.

Charity Care - This data does not accurately reflect the number of charity cases for the time period. Charity and self-pay patients are difficult to assign in the data submitted to the state. We are not able to classify a patient account as "charity" until after discharge when other potential payment sources have been exhausted. Because of this, charity care is combined with the Self Pay category. The amount of charges forgone for Madison St. Joseph Health Center charity care, based on established rates during the calendar year of 2002 was \$771,596.

Patient Mix - All statistics for Madison St. Joseph Health Center include patients from our Skilled Nursing, and Acute Care populations. Our Skilled Nursing unit is a long-term care unit. Because of this Mortality and Length of Stay may be skewed. This will prohibit any meaningful comparisons between Madison St. Joseph Health Center and any "acute care only" facilities.

Physicians - All physician license numbers and names have been validated as accurate but some remain unidentified in the THCIC Practitioner Reference Files. Mortalities reported may be related to physicians other than the attending Physician. The attending physician is charged with the procedures requested or performed by the consulting or specialist physicians.

Diagnosis and Procedures - Data submitted to the state may be incomplete for some patients due to the limitation on the number of diagnosis and procedures codes allowed. The data is limited to nine diagnoses codes and six procedure codes per patient visit.

Cost and Charges - The state requires that we submit revenue information including charges. It is important to note that charges do not reflect actual reimbursement received, nor do they reflect the actual cost of providing the services. Typically actual payments received are much less than the charges due to managed care-negotiated discounts, denial of payment by insurance companies, contractual allowances, as well as charity and un-collectable accounts. The relationship between cost of care, charges, and the revenue a facility receives is extremely complex. Comparing costs of care from one hospital to the next may result in unreliable results.

Severity Adjustment - THCIC is using the 3M APR-DRG grouper to assign the APR-DRG (All-Patient Refined Diagnoses Related Grouping) severity and risk of mortality scores. The assignment is made by evaluation of the patient's age, sex, diagnosis codes, procedure codes, and discharge status. This grouper can only use the limited number of procedure and diagnosis codes available in the data file (nine diagnosis and six procedure codes). If all the patient's diagnosis codes were available the APR-DRG assignment may possibly differ from the APR-DRG assigned by THCIC. The severity grouping assignment performed by the state using the APR-DRG grouper cannot be replicated by facilities unless they purchase this grouper. Additionally, the lack of education regarding how this grouper calculates the severity adjustments or how it functions can greatly impact the interpretation of the data.

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PROVIDER: Trinity Medical Center
THCIC ID: 042000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

DATA Content

Comments, 1Q2003

This data is administrative data, which hospitals collect for billing purposes, and not clinical data, from which you can make judgements about patient care.

The state requires us to submit inpatient claims, by quarter year, gathered from a form called a UB92, in a standard government format called HCFA 1450 EDI electronic claim format. Then the state specifications require additional data elements to be included over and above that. Adding those additional data places programming burdens on the hospital since it is "over and above" the actual hospital billing process. Errors can occur due to this additional programming, but the public should not conclude that billing data sent to our payers is inaccurate; this was a unique, untried use of this data as far as hospitals are concerned.

Submission Timing

The hospital estimates that our data volumes for the calendar year time period submitted may include 96% to 100% of all cases for that time period.

The state requires us to submit a snapshot of billed claims, extracted from our database approximately 20 days following the close of the calendar year quarter. Any discharged patient encounters not billed by this cut-off date will not be included in the quarterly submission file sent in.

Diagnosis and Procedures

The data submitted matches the state's reporting requirements but may be incomplete due to a limitation on the number of diagnoses and procedures the state allows us to include for each patient. In other words, the state's data file may not fully represent all diagnoses treated by the hospital or all procedures performed, which can alter the true picture of the patient's hospitalization, sometimes significantly.

Patient diagnoses and procedures for a particular hospital stay are coded by the hospital using a universal standard called the International Classification of Disease, or ICD-9-CM. This is mandated by the federal government and all hospitals must comply.

The codes are assigned based on documentation in the patient's chart and are used by hospitals for billing purposes. The hospital can code as many as 25 diagnoses and 25 procedures for each patient record. One limitation of using the ICD-9-CM system is that there does not exist a code for every possible diagnosis and procedure due to the continued evolution of medicine; new codes are added yearly as coding manuals are updated.

The state is requiring us to submit ICD-9-CM data on each patient but has limited the number of diagnoses and procedures to the first nine diagnoses codes and the first six procedures codes. As a result, the data sent by us do meet state requirements but cannot reflect all the codes in an individual patient's record may have been assigned. This means also that true total volumes may not be represented by the state's data file, which therefore make percentage calculations inaccurate (i.e. mortality percentages for any given diagnosis or procedure, percentage of patients in each severity of illness category). It would be obvious, therefore, those sicker patients (more diagnoses and procedures) are less accurately reflected by the 1450 format. It then stands to reason that hospitals, which treat sicker patients, are likewise less accurately reflected.

Specialty Services

The data submitted does not have any specific data field to capture unit of service or expand in the specialty service (such as rehab) provided to a patient. Services used by patients in rehab may be very different from those used in other specialties. The data is limited in its ability to categorize patient type.

Length of Stay

Comments, 1Q2003

The length of stay data element contained in the state's certification file is only three characters long. Thus any patients discharged with a length of stay greater than 999 days will not be accurately stored within the certification database. It is rare that patients stay as long as or longer than 999 days, therefore, it is not anticipated that this limitation will affect this data. The hospital does have an inpatient rehabilitation unit whose patients stay an average of 12 days. This may skew the data when combined with other acute care patient stays.

Normal Newborns

The best way to focus on severity of illness regarding an infant would be to check the infant's diagnosis at discharge, not the admitting source code. The hospital's normal hospital registration process defaults "normal delivery" as the admission source. Other options are premature delivery, sick baby, extramural birth, or information not available. The actual experience of a newborn is captured elsewhere in the file, namely, in the ICD-9-CM diagnosis. Admission source does not give an accurate picture.

Race/Ethnicity

During the hospital's registration process, the registration clerk does routinely complete patient's race and/or ethnicity field. The race data element is sometimes subjectively captured and the ethnicity data element is derived from the race designation. There are no national standards regarding patient race categorization, and thus each hospital may designate a patient's race differently. The state has recently attempted to standardize a valid set of race codes for this project but these are not universally used by all hospitals. Each hospital must independently map their specific codes to the state's race code categories. This mapping may not be consistent across hospitals. Thus epidemiology analysis of these two data fields does not accurately describe the true population served by the hospital.

Cost/Revenue

The state requires that hospitals submit revenue information including charges. It is important to note that charges are not equal to actual payments received by the hospital or hospital cost for performing the service. Typically actual payments are much less than charges due to negotiated discounts with 3rd party payors. Charges also do not reflect the actual costs to deliver the care that each patient needs.

Certification Process

Due to the infancy of the state reporting process and the state's computer system development, the certification process is not as complete and thorough at this time, as all parties would like to see in the future. During the current certification phase, the hospital did not have an efficient mechanism to edit and correct the data. In addition, it is not feasible to perform encounter level audits at this time.

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PROVIDER: Huguley Memorial Medical Center
THCIC ID: 047000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Data Content

The following comments reflect concerns, errors, or limitations of discharge data for THCIC mandatory reporting requirements as of November 25, 2003. Under the requirements we are unable to alter our comments after November 30, 2003. If any errors are discovered in our data after this point we will be unable to communicate these due to THCIC. This data is administrative data, which hospitals collect for billing purposes, and not clinical data,

from which you can make judgements about patient care.

Submission Timing

The state requires us to submit a snapshot of billed claims, extracted from our database approximately 20 days following the close of the calendar year quarter. Any discharged patient encounters not billed by this cut-off date will not be included in the quarterly submission file sent in.

Diagnosis and Procedures

The data submitted matches the state's reporting requirements but may be incomplete due to a limitation on the number of diagnoses and procedures the state allows us to include for each patient. In other words, the state's data file may not fully represent all diagnoses treated by the hospital or all procedures performed, which can alter the true picture of a patient's hospitalization, sometimes significantly.

Patient diagnoses and procedures for a particular hospital stay are coded by the hospital using a universal standard called the International Classification of Disease, or ICD-9-CM. This is mandated by the federal government and all hospitals must comply.

The codes are assigned based on documentation in the patient's chart and are used by hospitals for billing purposes. The hospital can code as many as 25 diagnoses and 25 procedures for each patient record. One limitation of using the ICD-9-CM is that there does not exist a code for every possible diagnosis and procedure due to the continued evolution of medicine; new codes are added yearly as coding manuals are updated.

The state is requiring us to submit ICD-9-CM data on each patient but has limited the number of diagnoses and procedures to the first nine diagnoses codes and the first six procedure codes. As a result, the data sent by us do not meet state requirements but cannot reflect all the codes an individual patient's record may have been assigned. This means also that true total volumes may not be represented by the state's data file, which therefore make percentage calculations inaccurate (I.e. mortality percentages for any given diagnosis or procedure, percentage of patients in each severity of illness category). It would be obvious, therefore, those sicker patients (more diagnoses and procedures) are less accurately reflected by the 1450 format. It then stands to reason that hospitals, which treat sicker patients, are likewise less accurately reflected.

There is no mechanism provided in the reporting process to factor in DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) patients. Any mortalities occurring to a DNR patient are not recognized separately; therefore mortality ratios may be accurate for reporting standards but overstated.

All physician license numbers and names have been validated with the physician and the website recommended by the state. One physician's name was incorrectly entered on his state license. This physician had six encounters for the specified reporting quarter.

Length of Stay

The length of stay data element contained in the state's certification file is only three characters long. Thus any patients discharged with a length of stay greater than 999 days will not be accurately stored within the certification database. It is rare that patients stay longer than 999 days, therefore, it is not anticipated that this limitation will affect this data.

PROVIDER: Tomball Regional Hospital
THCIC ID: 076000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Comments, 1Q2003

Elect not to certify

The information reported in the report is misleading to the general public.

The attending physician is charged with the procedures requested or performed by the consulting or specialist physiicans due to the acuity and needs of the patient.

Physician has extremely high mortality rate because he only treats end stage cancer patients in Hospice Care.

No allowance is made for procedures by specialists, mortality, etc.

Due to a computer mapping error, the data reflected in the Patient Race and Patient Ethnicity is incorrect.

PROVIDER: CHRISTUS St Josephs Health System
THCIC ID: 095000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Two encounters were taken by THCIC's version of the grouper, and placed in MDC 14, and reported on the certification summary report as Newborn and OB. These encounters were not births, but were adult patients with obstetrically-related cases. We felt this comment was necessary, as this facility does not have an OB department.

PROVIDER: CHRISTUS St Josephs Medical Center
THCIC ID: 095001
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

This quarter represented the sixth full quarter of operations as a new facility - the North Campus of CHRISTUS St. Joseph's Health System. New facility opened on August 5th of 2001. Patient census declines can be attributed to the shifting of acute care to the South Campus of CHRISTUS St. Joseph's Health System.

PROVIDER: Northeast Medical Center
THCIC ID: 106000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Corrections to Patient Race - Certification Summary:

American Indian/Eskimo/Aleut: 0
Asian or Pacific Islander: 0
Black: 25
White: 274
Other: 1
Missing/Invalid: 1

PROVIDER: Covenant Medical Center Lakeside
THCIC ID: 109000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Comments, 1Q2003

Certified with comments

January 2001 was the last month we had a birthing center at Covenant Medical Center Lakeside.

Data does not accurately reflect the number of charity cases for the time period.

This is due to internal processing for determination of the source of payment.

4% of total discharges were charity for 1st Quarter 2003.

PROVIDER: St Lukes Episcopal Hospital
THCIC ID: 118000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

The data reports for Quarter 1, 2003 do not accurately reflect patient volume or severity.

Patient Volume

Data reflects administrative claims data (Uniform Billing data elements) that are a snapshot of claims one month following quarter-end. If the encounter has not yet been billed, data will not be reflected in this quarter.

Severity

Descriptors for newborn admissions are based on nation billing data elements (UB92) and definitions of each element can and do vary from hospital to hospital. Because of the absence of universal definitions for normal delivery, premature delivery and sick baby, this category cannot be used for comparison across hospitals. The DRG is the only somewhat meaningful description of the infant population born at a facility.

? More importantly, not all clinically significant conditions can be captured and reflected in the various billing data elements including the ICD-9-CM diagnosis coding system such as ejection fraction. As a result, the true clinical picture of the patient population cannot be adequately demonstrated using admissions and billing data.

PROVIDER: The Methodist Hospital
THCIC ID: 124000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

The Methodist Hospital data for Q1 2003 has been certified. 110 accounts are missing due to late billing, accounts billed prior to data submission, missing charges, invalid physicians and combined accounts. Physician data is correct in this data set.

PROVIDER: Providence Memorial Hospital
THCIC ID: 130000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

For the 1st Quarter 2003 THCIC Certification Summary, section "Patient

Comments, 1Q2003

Discharge Status", 46 patients that were reported under the category, discharged to "Home or Self Care", should have been reported under, discharged to "Hospice/Home", and 3 patients reported under the category, discharged to "Home or Self Care", should have been reported under, "Hospice/Medical Facility". These resulted from a mapping issue that has been addressed; data will be reported accurately for 3rd Quarter 2003.

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PROVIDER: Edinburg Regional Medical Center
THCIC ID: 140002
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

*Comments not received by THCIC.

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PROVIDER: Navarro Regional Hospital
THCIC ID: 141000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Navarro Regional Hospital is an acute general medical-surgical hospital with the additional services of a Skilled Nursing Facility and an Acute Rehabilitation Unit. The data in the public release file may or may not adequately allow separation of patients in the acute hospital from those in the other two units. Admixture of all three units can lead to increases for acute hospitals alone. It is notable that 10 of the 31 deaths in the 1st quarter of 2003 occurred in the two non-acute units, and that in at least 19 of the deaths, the patients or family members had requested that full efforts to maintain life not be pursued (Advanced Directive, Living Will or Do Not Resuscitate orders).

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PROVIDER: Margaret Jonsson Charlton Methodist Hospital
THCIC ID: 142000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

DATA CONTENT

This data is administrative data, which hospitals collect for billing purposes, and not clinical data, from which you can make judgements about patient care. The data submitted are certified to be accurate representations of the billing data recorded, to the best of our knowledge. The data is not certified to represent the complete set of data available on all inpatients but rather that data which was reported to a particular payer as required by that payer.

PHYSICIAN REVIEW OF THE DATA

Physicians admitting inpatients to Charlton, from time to time, review physician specific data that is generated from our internal computer systems. Medical Center did not attempt to have every physician individually review each patient in the actual data set returned to us by the State. We matched the State generated reports to internally generated reports to ensure data submission accuracy. We then reviewed these reports with Physician leadership who assisted us in

generating the comments contained herein.

SUBMISSION TIMING

The State requires us to submit a snapshot of billed claims, extracted from our database approximately 20 days following the close of the calendar year quarter. Any discharged patient encounters not billed by this cut-off date will not be included in the quarterly submission. Claims billed in the subsequent quarter for discharges of a previous quarter will be submitted to the State in the subsequent quarter's submission.

It should also be noted that the payer might deny all or part of a bill for which an adjustment might be made on our internal data systems. The process of appealing a denied claim or service and coming to final resolution can take as long as a year to resolve with a payer. Obviously any outcome of these processes would not be reflected in a quarter's data.

OMISSION OF OBSERVATION PATIENTS

The reported data only include inpatient status cases. For various conditions, such as chest pain, there are observation patients that are treated effectively in a short non-inpatient stay and are never admitted into an inpatient status. The ratio for Charlton Methodist Hospital is about 1 observation patient for every 10 inpatients. Thus, calculations of inpatient volumes and length of stay may not include all patients treated in our hospital.

DIAGNOSIS AND PROCEDURES

The state and billing regulations require us to submit diagnoses and procedures in ICD-9-CM standard codes. The hospital can code up to 25 diagnosis codes and 25 procedure codes. The state data submission requirements limit us to the first nine diagnosis codes and the first six procedure codes. As a result, the data sent by us do not meet state requirements but may not reflect all the codes an individual patient's record may have been assigned. Approximately 13% of Charlton Methodist Hospital's patient population have more than nine diagnoses and/or six procedures assigned.

Therefore, those patients with multiple diseases and conditions (more diagnoses and procedures) are less accurately reflected by the 1450 format. It then stands to reason that hospitals, which treat sicker patients, are likewise less accurately reflected. Further, true total volumes for a diagnosis or procedure may not be represented by the State's data file, which therefore make percentage calculations such as mortality rates or severity of illness adjustments inaccurate.

Charlton Methodist Hospital adheres to national coding standards but it should be noted that coding cannot establish cause and effect (ie. Infection coded, but does not identify whether present upon admission or developed in-house; fall coded, but does not identify

Comments, 1Q2003

whether the fall occurred prior to or during hospitalizations.). It is also difficult to distinguish between a co-morbidity and a complication.

NORMAL NEWBORNS

Admission Source or Admission Type codes are not the best way to reflect the pre-maturity or illness of an infant. Per State data submission regulation, if Admission Type is coded as a "newborn" then Admit Source is a code used to delineate the type of birth as "normal newborn" "premature delivery" "sick baby" and "extra-mural birth." Admission type is a code used to classify a baby as a newborn only if the baby was actually born in the reporting hospital. A very sick baby, transferred from another hospital or facility will be coded as an Admission Type of "Emergency" and Admission Source of "Xfer from Hospital." The actual conditions and experiences of an infant in our facility are captured elsewhere in the data file, namely, in the ICD-9-CM diagnoses and procedures codes.

RACE AND ETHNICITY CODES

We are concerned about the accuracy of the State mandated race and ethnicity codes. Some patients decline to answer our inquiries about their race or ethnic classification. We certify that the race and ethnicity codes we submit represent nothing more than the patient's own classification or our best judgment.

STANDARD/NON-STANDARD SOURCE OF PAYMENT

The standard and non-standard source of payment codes are an example of data required by the State that is not contained within the standard UB92 billing record. In order to meet this requirement each payer's identification must be categorized into the appropriate standard and non-standard source of payment value. It is important to note that sometimes, many months after billing and THIC data submission, a provider may be informed of a retroactive change in a patient's eligibility for a particular payer. This will cause the Source of Payment data to be inaccurate as reported in the quarter's snapshot of the data. The categories most effected are "Self Pay" and "Charity" shifting to "Medicaid" eligible.

REVENUE CODE AND CHARGE DATA

The charge data submitted by revenue code represents Methodist's charge structure, which may or may not be the same for a particular procedure or supply as another provider.

CAUTION ON THE USE OF DATA WITH SMALL NUMBERS OF CASES IN PERCENTAGE COMPARISONS

Besides the data limitations mentioned above, the number of cases that aggregate into a particular diagnosis, procedure or Diagnosis Related Grouping could render percentage calculations statistically non-significant if the number of cases is too small.

SEVERITY ADJUSTMENT SCORES

THIC is responsible for providing and maintaining a tool to assign an All-patient

Comments, 1Q2003

Refined

(APR) Diagnosis Related Group (DRG) severity score for each encounter at their data processing center. Charlton Methodist Hospital neither creates nor submits the APR DRG contained in the data sets.

PHYSICIAN LICENSE NUMBER ERRORS

All physician license numbers and names have been validated with the physician's paper license and the license web-site as accurate even though some remain unidentified in the THCIC

Practitioner Reference Files. This is due to the THCIC's delay in obtaining updated state license information

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PROVIDER: University Medical Center
THCIC ID: 145000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

This data represents accurate information at the time of certification. Subsequent changes may continue to occur that will not be reflected in this published dataset.

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PROVIDER: Covenant Hospital Plainview
THCIC ID: 146000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

The data reviewed by hospital staff and physicians appears, to the best of our knowledge, to be correct and accurate. It is the practice of the hospital to review all unusual occurrences or length of stay cases via the medical staff's peer review process.

Outliers seen in this quarter's data have been reviewed with appropriate medical staff.

Please consider this unaudited data. As accounts move through the billing and collection cycle, financial classification may change based on additional information obtained.

Financial data does not necessarily correlate to quality outcomes data. It is the policy of the facility to provide the highest quality possible given the medical condition and resources.

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PROVIDER: The Institute for Rehabilitation & Research
THCIC ID: 164000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

TIRR (The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research) was founded in 1959 in Houston's Texas Medical Center by William A. Spencer, M.D. Dr. Spencer articulated a rehabilitation philosophy of maximizing independence and quality of life that continues to guide the development of our programs. This guiding philosophy includes providing appropriate medical intervention, helping the patient establish realistic goals and objectives, and supporting the patient to maintain personal integrity and family and social ties.

Comments, 1Q2003

TIRR is an internationally known, fully accredited teaching hospital that specializes in medical care, education and research in the field of catastrophic injury. It has been recognized every year in a nationwide survey of physicians by U.S. News & World Report as one of the best hospitals in America.

The hospital's research into developing improved treatment procedures has substantially reduced secondary complications of catastrophic injuries as well as average lengths of stay. TIRR is one of only 16 hospitals in the country that has Model System designation by NIDRR for its Spinal Cord Injury Program.

TIRR's inpatient programs are outcome-oriented with standardized functional scales by which to measure a patient's progress. Some of these programs include:

Spinal Cord Injury. More than 3000 patients have completed their rehabilitation in the TIRR Spinal Cord Injury Program since its inception in 1962. The hospital is recognized nationally for exemplary patient care, education and research, and especially for management of wounds and ventilator-dependent patients.

Brain Injury and Stroke. The Brain Injury and Stroke Program at TIRR provides a continuum of interdisciplinary management of the physical, communicative, cognitive, and behavioral problems faced by people with brain injuries. Such injuries may be the result of trauma, stroke, anoxia, tumor, infection, or metabolic disorders.

Amputee. The Amputee Program serves patients with traumatic amputations, congenital limb deficiencies, and disease related amputations. TIRR is uniquely experienced in complex multiple limb loss associated with trauma and electrical burns and with amputations associated with diabetes mellitus and peripheral vascular disease.

Pediatric Rehabilitation. TIRR treats infants, children and adolescents with brain or spinal cord injuries, as well other types of disabling disorders and injuries.

Specialty Rehabilitation Program. This program serves those with multiple trauma, burns, complex orthopedic problems, complex medical conditions, and neuromuscular diseases, including multiple sclerosis, dystonia and post-polio.

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PROVIDER: Medical Center Hospital
THCIC ID: 181000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

The data included in this file is administrative, not clinical research data. Administrative data may not accurately represent the clinical details of a patient visit. This data should be used cautiously to evaluate health care quality and compare outcomes.=====

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PROVIDER: Harris Methodist HEB
THCIC ID: 182000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Data Content

This data is administrative data, which hospitals collect for billing purposes. Administrative data may not accurately represent the clinical details of an encounter.

The state requires us to submit inpatient claims, by quarter year, gathered from a form called an UB92, in a standard government format called HCFA 1450 EDI electronic claim format. Then the state specifications require additional data elements to be included over and above that. Adding those additional data places programming burdens on the hospital since it is "over and above" the actual hospital billing process. Errors can occur due to this additional programming, but the public should not conclude that billing data sent to our payers is inaccurate. These errors have been corrected to the best of our knowledge.

If a medical record is unavailable for coding the encounter is not billed and is not included in the data submission. This represents a rare event that is less than 1% of the encounter volume.

Diagnosis and Procedures

Patient diagnoses and procedures for a particular hospital stay are coded by the hospital using a universal standard called the International Classification of Disease, or ICD-9-CM. This is mandated by the federal government.

The hospital complies with the guidelines for assigning these diagnosis codes, however, this is often driven by physician's subjective criteria for defining a diagnosis. For example, while one physician may diagnose a patient with anemia when the patient's blood hemoglobin level falls below 9.5, another physician may not diagnose the patient with anemia until their blood hemoglobin level is below 9.0. In both situations, a diagnosis of anemia is correctly assigned, but the criteria used by the physician to determine that diagnosis was different. An "apples to apples" comparison cannot be made which makes it difficult to obtain an accurate comparison of hospital or physician performance.

The codes also do not distinguish between conditions present at the time of the patient's admission to the hospital and those occurring during hospitalization. For example, if a code indicating an infection is made, it is not always possible to determine if the patient had an infection prior to admission, or developed an infection during their hospitalization. This makes it difficult to obtain accurate information regarding things such as complication rates.

The data submitted matches the state's reporting requirements but may be incomplete due to a limitation on the number of diagnoses and procedures the state allows us to include for each patient. In other words, the state's data file may not fully represent all diagnoses treated by the hospital or all procedures performed, which can alter the true picture of a patient's hospitalization, sometimes significantly. Approximately 14% of Harris Methodist HEB's patient population have more than nine diagnoses and/ or six procedures assigned.

The codes are assigned based on documentation in the patient's chart and are used by hospitals for billing purposes. The hospital can code up to 25 diagnoses and 25 procedures for each patient record. One limitation of using the ICD-9-CM system is that there does not exist a code for every possible diagnosis and procedure due to the continued evolution of medicine; new codes are added yearly as coding manuals are updated.

The state is requiring us to submit ICD-9-CM data on each patient but has limited the number of diagnoses and procedures to the first nine diagnoses codes and the first six procedure codes. As a result, the data sent by

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us do meet state requirements but cannot reflect all the codes an individual patient's record may have been assigned. This means also that true total volumes may not be represented by the state's data file, which therefore make percentage calculations inaccurate (i.e. mortality percentages for any given diagnosis or procedure, percentage of patients in each severity of illness category). It would be obvious, therefore, those sicker patients (more diagnoses and procedures) are less accurately reflected by the 1450 format. It then stands to reason that hospitals, which treat sicker patients, are likewise less accurately reflected.

Length of Stay

The length of stay data element contained in the state's certification file is only three characters long. Thus any patients discharged with a length of stay greater than 999 days will not be accurately stored within the certification database. It is rare that patients stay longer than 999 days, therefore, it is not anticipated that this limitation will affect this data.

Admit Source data for Normal Newborn

When the Admit type is equal to "newborn", the admit source should indicate whether the baby was a normal newborn, premature delivery, sick baby, extramural birth, or information not available. The best way to focus on severity of illness regarding an infant would be to check the infant's diagnosis at discharge, not the admitting source code. Many hospital information systems and registration process defaults to "normal delivery" as the admission source. Therefore, admission source does not always give an accurate picture.

If admission source is used to examine length of stay or mortality for normal neonates using the admit source to identify the cases, the data will reflect premature and sick babies mixed in with the normal newborn data. THR recommends use of ICD9 coding data to identify neonates. This methodology will ensure correct identification of the clinical status of the newborn admission.

Race/Ethnicity

Hospitals do not routinely collect race and ethnicity as part of the admissions process, this data collection has been added to meet the THCIC requirement. The admissions staff indicate that many patients are very sensitive about providing race and ethnicity information. Beginning April 1, 2002, Harris Methodist HEB implemented the THCIC Board guidelines to more accurately collect and categorize the race/ethnicity data.

Standard/Non-Standard Source of Payment

The standard and non-standard source of payment codes are an example of data required by the state that is not contained within the standard UB92 billing record. In order to meet this requirement, each payer identification must be categorized into the appropriate standard and non-standard source of payment value. These values might not accurately reflect the hospital payer information, because those payers identified contractually as both HMO, and PPO are categorized as Commercial PPO. Thus any true managed care comparisons by contract type (HMO vs. PPO) may result in inaccurate analysis.

Cost/ Revenue Codes

The state requires that hospitals submit revenue information including

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charges. It is important to note that charges are not equal to actual payments received by the hospital or hospital cost for performing the service. Typically actual payments are much less than charges due to managed care-negotiated discounts and denial of payment by insurance companies. Charges also do not reflect the actual cost to deliver the care that each patient needs.

PROVIDER: Texoma Medical Center
THCIC ID: 191000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Data Source. The source of this data, the electronic 1450, is administrative in nature, and was collected for billing purposes. It is not clinical data and should be cautiously used to evaluate health care quality.

- * The 1450 data file limits the diagnosis codes to nine (principal plus eight secondary diagnosis codes); the admission diagnosis and an E-code field.
- * The procedure codes are limited to six (principal plus five secondary).
- * The fewer the codes the less information is available to evaluate the patient's outcomes and service utilization.
- * The Hospital can only list 4 physicians that were involved with any one patient. Other physicians who were involved in those cases will not be identified.

Payer Codes. The payer codes utilized in the THCIC data base were defined by the state. They are not utilizing the standard payer information from the claim.

Revenue Codes and Charges. Charges associated with the 1450 data do not represent actual payments or costs for services.

Severity Adjustment. THCIC is using the 3M APR-DRG system to assign the All-Patient Refined (APR) DRG, severity and risk of mortality scores. The scores represent a categorization of patient severity and mortality risk. The assignment is made by evaluation of the patient's age, sex, diagnosis codes, procedure codes, and discharge status.

- * The program can only use the codes available in the 1450 data file, e.g., nine diagnosis and six procedure codes. If all the patient's diagnosis codes were available the assignment may be different than when limited to those available in the 1450 data.

Timing of Data Collection. Hospitals must submit data to THCIC no later than 60 days after the close of the quarter.

- * Not all claims may have been billed at this time.
- * Internal data may be updated later and appear different than the data on the claim. Unless the payment is impacted, the hospitals does not rebill when a data field is changed internally. This results in differences between internal systems and the snapshot of data that was taken at the end of the quarter.

PROVIDER: Reba McEntire Center for Rehab
THCIC ID: 191001
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Data Source. The source of this data, the electronic 1450, is administrative in nature, and was collected for billing purposes. It is not clinical data and should be cautiously used to evaluate health care quality.

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- * The 1450 data file limits the diagnosis codes to nine (principal plus eight secondary diagnosis codes); the admission diagnosis and an E-code field.
- * The procedure codes are limited to six (principal plus five secondary).
- * The fewer the codes the less information is available to evaluate the patient's outcomes and service utilization.
- * The Hospital can only list 4 physicians that were involved with any one patient. Other physicians who were involved in those cases will not be identified.

Payer Codes. The payer codes utilized in the THCIC data base were defined by the state. They are not utilizing the standard payer information from the claim.

Revenue Codes and Charges. Charges associated with the 1450 data do not represent actual payments or costs for services.

Severity Adjustment. THCIC is using the 3M APR-DRG system to assign the All-Patient Refined (APR) DRG, severity and risk of mortality scores. The scores represent a categorization of patient severity and mortality risk. The assignment is made by evaluation of the patient's age, sex, diagnosis codes, procedure codes, and discharge status.

- * The program can only use the codes available in the 1450 data file, e.g., nine diagnosis and six procedure codes. If all the patient's diagnosis codes were available the assignment may be different than when limited to those available in the 1450 data.

Timing of Data Collection. Hospitals must submit data to THCIC no later than 60 days after the close of the quarter.

- * Not all claims may have been billed at this time.
- * Internal data may be updated later and appear different than the data on the claim. Unless the payment is impacted, the hospitals does not rebill when a data field is changed internally. This results in differences between internal systems and the snapshot of data that was taken at the end of the quarter.

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PROVIDER: Texoma Medical Center Behavioral Health Center
THCIC ID: 191002
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Data Source. The source of this data, the electronic 1450, is administrative in nature, and was collected for billing purposes. It is not clinical data and should be cautiously used to evaluate health care quality.

- * The 1450 data file limits the diagnosis codes to nine (principal plus eight secondary diagnosis codes); the admission diagnosis and an E-code field.
- * The procedure codes are limited to six (principal plus five secondary).
- * The fewer the codes the less information is available to evaluate the patient's outcomes and service utilization.
- * The Hospital can only list 4 physicians that were involved with any one patient. Other physicians who were involved in those cases will not be identified.

Payer Codes. The payer codes utilized in the THCIC data base were defined by the state. They are not utilizing the standard payer information from the claim.

Revenue Codes and Charges. Charges associated with the 1450 data do not represent actual payments or costs for services.

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Severity Adjustment. THCIC is using the 3M APR-DRG system to assign the All-Patient Refined (APR) DRG, severity and risk of mortality scores.

The scores represent a categorization of patient severity and mortality risk. The assignment is made by evaluation of the patient's age, sex, diagnosis codes, procedure codes, and discharge status.

* The program can only use the codes available in the 1450 data file, e.g., nine diagnosis and six procedure codes. If all the patient's diagnosis codes were available the assignment may be different than when limited to those available in the 1450 data.

Timing of Data Collection. Hospitals must submit data to THCIC no later than 60 days after the close of the quarter.

* Not all claims may have been billed at this time.

* Internal data may be updated later and appear different than the data on the claim. Unless the payment is impacted, the hospitals does not rebill when a data field is changed internally. This results in differences between internal systems and the snapshot of data that was taken at the end of the quarter.

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PROVIDER: Texoma Restorative Care SNU
THCIC ID: 191004
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Data Source. The source of this data, the electronic 1450, is administrative in nature, and was collected for billing purposes. It is not clinical data and should be cautiously used to evaluate health care quality.

* The 1450 data file limits the diagnosis codes to nine (principal plus eight secondary diagnosis codes); the admission diagnosis and an E-code field.

* The procedure codes are limited to six (principal plus five secondary).

* The fewer the codes the less information is available to evaluate the patient's outcomes and service utilization.

* The Hospital can only list 4 physicians that were involved with any one patient. Other physicians who were involved in those cases will not be identified.

Payer Codes. The payer codes utilized in the THCIC data base were defined by the state. They are not utilizing the standard payer information from the claim.

Revenue Codes and Charges. Charges associated with the 1450 data do not represent actual payments or costs for services.

Severity Adjustment. THCIC is using the 3M APR-DRG system to assign the All-Patient Refined (APR) DRG, severity and risk of mortality scores.

The scores represent a categorization of patient severity and mortality risk. The assignment is made by evaluation of the patient's age, sex, diagnosis codes, procedure codes, and discharge status.

* The program can only use the codes available in the 1450 data file, e.g., nine diagnosis and six procedure codes. If all the patient's diagnosis codes were available the assignment may be different than when limited to those available in the 1450 data.

Timing of Data Collection. Hospitals must submit data to THCIC no later than 60 days after the close of the quarter.

* Not all claims may have been billed at this time.

* Internal data may be updated later and appear different than the data on the claim. Unless the payment is impacted, the hospitals does not rebill when a data field is changed internally. This results in differences between internal systems and the snapshot of data that was taken at the

end of the quarter.

PROVIDER: The Medical Center Mesquite
THCIC ID: 198000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

The standard source of payment section of the certification data shows missing/invalid data of 1398 under Count SOP1 and 2146 under the Count SOP2. These fields should show 0 in both areas which is what they show in the files at Commonwealth. Tech support at THCIC has diagnosed the appearance of values in these 2 fields as programming errors on the hospital local PC rather than errors on the data submission side.

PROVIDER: Medical Center-Plano
THCIC ID: 214000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Patient Confidentiality:

The current data submission format does not identify individual patients, therefore, in theory protecting patient confidentiality. However, if the sample size used for analysis is small, individual patients might be identifiable. In many hospitals, the number of patients discharged in a quarter in a race category of Black, Asian or American Indian, for example; could be < 5. With such a small cell size, there may be only one black male in the community—thereby making the individual identifiable violating his right to have his medical information confidential.

Data Content:

The state requires the hospital to submit inpatient claims, by quarter year, gathered from a form called an UB92, in a standard government format called HCFA 1450 electronic claim format. The 1450 data is administrative and is collected for billing purposes. It is not clinical data and should be cautiously used to evaluate health care quality. The state specifications require additional data places programming burdens on the hospital which are above and beyond the process of billing. Although the unique data (e.g. Standard and non-standard payor codes, race and ethnicity) may have errors, the public should not conclude that billing data sent to our payers are inaccurate.

Timing of Data Collection:

Hospitals must submit data to THCIC no later than 60 days after the close of the quarter. Not all claims may have been billed at this time. The submitted data may not capture all discharged claims. Internal data may be updated later and appear different than the data on the claim (if payment is not impacted, hospitals do not usually rebill when a data field is changed internally).

Diagnosis and Procedures:

The data submitted matches the state's reporting requirements but may be incomplete due to a limitation on the number of diagnosis and procedures that the state allows us to include for each patient. The 1450 data file limits the diagnosis codes to nine, and procedures codes are limited to six. The fewer the codes, the less information is available to evaluate the patient's outcomes and service utilization. In other words, the state's data file may not fully represent all diagnoses treated by the hospital or all procedures performed, which can alter the true picture of a patient's hospitalization, sometimes significantly.

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Patient diagnoses and procedures for a particular hospital stay are coded by the hospital using a universal standard called the International Classification of Disease, or ICD-9-CM. The federal government mandates this and all hospitals must comply. The codes are assigned based on documentation in the patient's chart and are used by hospitals for billing purposes.

The hospital can code as many as 25 diagnoses and 25 procedures for each patient record. Due to the limit set by the state of nine diagnoses codes and six procedure codes, the data sent by us meets their criteria but cannot reflect all the codes an individual patient's record may have been assigned. This means also that true total volumes may not be represented by the state's data file, which therefore make percentage calculations inaccurate (i.e. Mortality percentages for any given diagnosis or procedure, percentage of patients in each severity of illness category). It would be obvious; therefore, those sicker patients (more diagnoses and procedures) are less accurately reflected by the 1450 format. It then stands to reason that hospitals which treat sicker patients are likewise less accurately reflected.

Normal Newborns:

The best way to focus on severity of illness regarding an infant would be to check the infant's diagnosis at discharge, not the admitting source code. Medical Center of Plano's registration process defaults to "Normal Delivery" as the admission source. (Other options include premature delivery, sick baby extramural birth, or information not available). Often times the true nature of the newborn's condition is not known at the time of entry into the system. The actual experience of the newborn is captured elsewhere in the file, namely, in the ICD-9-CM diagnoses. Admission source does not give an accurate picture.

Race/Ethnicity:

During the registration process, the clerk routinely inquires as to a patient's race and/or ethnicity. If the patient is able and/or willing to give this information, it is recorded as the patient states. Patients may refuse or be unable due to condition to respond to this question. There are no national standards regarding patient race categorization, and thus each hospital may designate a patient's race differently. The state has recently attempted to standardize a valid set of race codes for this project but these are not universally used by all hospitals.

Thus, epidemiology analysis of these two data fields does not accurately describe the true population served by the hospital.

Cost/Revenue Codes:

The state requires that hospitals submit revenue information including charges. It is important to note that charges are not equal to actual payments received by the hospital or hospital cost for performing the service. Typically, actual payments are much less than charges due to managed care negotiated discounts, denial of payment by insurance companies and DRG payments by Medicare. Charges also do not reflect the actual cost to deliver the care that each patient needs.

Specialty Services:

The 1450 data format does not have a specific data field to capture unit of service or to expand on the specialty service(s) provided to a patient.

Services used by and outcomes expected of patients on hospice units, rehabilitation units and skilled nursing facility beds are very different from hospital acute care services. The state is currently working to categorize patient type. Inclusion of these specialty services can significantly impact outcome and resource consumption analysis. (e.g. Lengths of stay, mortality and cost comparison). Medical Center of Plano has a skilled nursing facility whose patients are included in this data.

Payer Codes:

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The payer codes utilized in the state database were defined by the state. These definitions are not standardized. Each hospital may map differently. Charity and self-pay patients are difficult to assign in the data submitted to the state. Hospitals are often not able to determine whether or not a patient's charges will be considered "charity" until long after discharge (after the claim has been generated) and when other potential payment sources have been exhausted. This will not be reflected in the state data submission due to the timing involved.

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PROVIDER: Polly Ryon Hospital Authority
THCIC ID: 230000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Polly Ryon Memorial Hospital is an acute, general medical-surgical hospital with the additional services of a Skilled Nursing Facility . The way the PDUF mortality information is presented does not accurately reflect our case mix of patients or numbers of cases per physician. Several physicians have 70-80% nursing home patients with higher numbers of co-morbidities. Since the state limits the number of diagnoses and procedures, the data cannot reflect all the codes an individual patient's records may have been assigned. This also means that true total volumes may not be represented by the state's data file therefore making percentage calculations skewed.

Also not reflected accurately is the number of patients cared for by consulting physicians. Many consultants seldom admit patients to the inpatient setting, but consult on hundreds. This causes inaccurate mortality rates.

Since this data is taken from administrative data, it cannot accurately represent the patient's clinical picture. Polly Ryon Memorial Hospital urges caution in using this information to evaluate quality of care. We encourage patients to talk with the primary care physician or the hospital about this data. Our commitment to quality is strong and continuous.

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PROVIDER: Harris Methodist-Fort Worth
THCIC ID: 235000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

CLINICAL DATA:

The THCIC data conforms to the HCFA 1450 file specifications. The 1450 data is administrative and collected for billing purposes. It is not clinical data and has limited value in the evaluation of health care quality.

The 1450 data file limits the diagnosis codes to nine (principal plus eight secondary diagnosis codes); the admission diagnosis and an E-code field.

The procedure codes are limited to six (principal plus five secondary) procedures. The fewer the codes the less information is available to evaluate the patient's outcome and service utilization. When the patient has more codes in the medical record than allowed in the 1450 files, the hospital must select only nine diagnosis codes and six procedure codes. Hospitals populate these fields differently so there is no standardization.

Since there is this limited number of diagnosis and procedure codes used,

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there are obvious inherent problems with this data. Using this type of data to evaluate quality and outcomes cannot portray an accurate picture of quality measurements or outcomes.

Additionally, there is no standardization on how hospitals are assigning these codes. Therefore, risk adjustment based on these codes is inherently flawed.

THCIC is using the 3M-APR-DRG system to assign the "All-Patient Refined (APR) DRG", severity and risk of mortality scores. The assignment is made by evaluation of the patient's age, sex, diagnosis and procedure codes, and discharge status. This program can only use the codes available in the 1450 file (i.e. 9 diagnoses and 6 procedure codes). If all the patient's diagnoses and procedure codes were available, the assignment may be different than when it is limited to only those on the 1450 file.

The use of E-Codes (i.e. injury source) is optional in Texas and Harris Methodist Fort Worth does not collect these codes in the trauma or motor vehicle accident admissions. This can result in erroneous evaluation of injury sources if researchers do not understand the limitations of this data field.

ADMIT TYPE AND SOURCE:

Problems have been identified with the newborn source codes. The data collection source for the THCIC newborn (i.e. normal delivery, premature, sick baby or extramural birth) is an admission code assigned by the admission clerk. This does not give an accurate description of the severity of illness in the newborn. The more precise area to collect this information would be from the infant's diagnosis codes assigned on discharge.

PAYOR CODE/COSTS:

The payor codes utilized in the THCIC database were defined by the State and are not using standard payor information from the claim. The mapping process of specific payors to the THCIC payor codes was not standardized by THCIC. Therefore, each hospital may map differently which can create variances in the categorization of payors.

Few hospitals have been able to assign the "Charity" payor code in the data submitted to THCIC. Hospitals are not able to determine whether or not charges will be considered "charity" until long after dismissal when all potential payment sources have been exhausted. The actual amount of charity care provided by the hospital will not be reflected in the data.

It is important to note that charges do not reflect actual payments to the hospital to deliver care. Actual payments are substantially reduced by managed care contracts, payor denials and contractual allowances, as well as charity and uncollectable accounts.

SPECIALTY SERVICE:

The 1450 data does not have any specific field to capture unit of service or to expand on the specialty service(s) provided to a patient. THCIC is using codes from the bill type and accommodation revenue codes in an attempt to distinguish specialty services.

Services used by and outcomes expected of patients on the hospice units, in rehab, in skilled nursing areas and other specialty areas are very different. The administrative data has inherent limitations and will impact the evaluation of health care services provided.

TIMING OF DATA COLLECTION:

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Hospitals are required to submit data to THCIC no later than 60 days after the close of the quarter. Not all claims have been billed in this time period. Depending on how data is collected and the timing of the billing cycle all hospitals discharges may not be captured.

Internally the data may be updated after submission, and then it will be different from the data submitted to THCIC. This makes it difficult to evaluate the accuracy and completeness of the THCIC data file against internal systems.

PHYSICIAN DATA:

The certification files identifying physicians show conflicts in several physicians' data and THCIC's certification data. Harris Methodist Fort Worth has attempted to verify the state license number and name of physicians using the State Board of Licensing information. It appears that the physician data being submitted by Harris to THCIC matches name and number provided in the State Board of Licensing database. Therefore, these conflicts between apparently accurate physician data being submitted and THCIC's physician database make it difficult to evaluate the accuracy of the physician level data.

CERTIFICATION PROCESS:

Harris Methodist Fort Worth has policies and procedures in place to validate the accuracy of the discharge data and corrections submitted within the limitations previously stated. To the best of our knowledge, all errors and omissions currently known to the hospital have been corrected and the data is accurate and complete.=====

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PROVIDER: Dolly Vinsant Memorial Hospital
THCIC ID: 245001
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Pending Update on the Physician Database.

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PROVIDER: Henderson Memorial Hospital
THCIC ID: 248000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Elect not to certify

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PROVIDER: Methodist Medical Center
THCIC ID: 255000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

DATA CONTENT

This data is administrative data, which hospitals collect for billing purposes, and not clinical data, from which you can make judgements about patient care. The data submitted are certified to be accurate representations of the billing data recorded, to the best of our knowledge. The data is not certified to represent the complete set of data available on all

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inpatients but rather that data which was reported to a particular payer as required by that payer.

PHYSICIAN REVIEW OF THE DATA

Physicians admitting inpatients to Methodist, from time to time, review physician specific data that is generated from our internal computer systems. Medical Center did not attempt to have every physician individually review each patient in the actual data set returned to us by the State. We matched the State generated reports to internally generated reports to ensure data submission accuracy. We then reviewed these reports with Physician leadership who assisted us in generating the comments contained herein.

SUBMISSION TIMING

The State requires us to submit a snapshot of billed claims, extracted from our database approximately 20 days following the close of the calendar year quarter. Any discharged patient encounters not billed by this cut-off date will not be included in the quarterly submission. Claims billed in the subsequent quarter for discharges of a previous quarter will be submitted to the State in the subsequent quarter's submission.

It should also be noted that the payer might deny all or part of a bill for which an adjustment might be made on our internal data systems. The process of appealing a denied claim or service and coming to final resolution can take as long as a year to resolve with a payer. Obviously any outcome of these processes would not be reflected in a quarter's data.

OMISSION OF OBSERVATION PATIENTS

The reported data only include inpatient status cases. For various conditions, such as chest pain, there are observation patients that are treated effectively in a short non-inpatient stay and are never admitted into an inpatient status. The ratio for Methodist Medical Center is about 1.73 observation patients for every 10 inpatients. Thus, calculations of inpatient volumes and length of stay may not include all patients treated in our hospital.

DIAGNOSIS AND PROCEDURES

The state and billing regulations require us to submit diagnoses and procedures in ICD-9-CM standard codes. The hospital can code up to 25 diagnosis codes and 25 procedure codes. The state data submission requirements limit us to the first nine diagnosis codes and the first six procedure codes. As a result, the data sent by us do meet state requirements but may not reflect all the codes an individual patient's record may have been assigned. Approximately 20% of Methodist Medical Center's patient population have more than nine diagnoses and/or six procedures assigned.

Therefore, those patients with multiple diseases and conditions (more diagnoses and procedures)

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are less accurately reflected by the 1450 format. It then stands to reason that hospitals, which treat sicker patients, are likewise less accurately reflected. Further, true total volumes for a diagnosis or procedure may not be represented by the State's data file, which therefore make percentage calculations such as mortality rates or severity of illness adjustments inaccurate.

Methodist Medical Center adheres to national coding standards but it should be noted that coding cannot establish cause and effect (ie. Infection coded, but does not identify whether present upon admission or developed in-house; fall coded, but does not identify whether the fall occurred prior to or during hospitalizations.). It is also difficult to distinguish between a co-morbidity and a complication.

NORMAL NEWBORNS

Admission Source or Admission Type codes are not the best way to reflect the pre-maturity or illness of an infant. Per State data submission regulation, if Admission Type is coded as a "newborn" then Admit Source is a code used to delineate the type of birth as "normal newborn", "premature delivery", "sick baby" and "extra-mural birth." Admission type is a code used to classify a baby as a newborn only if the baby was actually born in the reporting hospital. A very sick baby, transferred from another hospital or facility will be coded as an Admission Type of "Emergency" and Admission Source of "Xfer from Hospital." Methodist Medical Center operates a level 3 critical care nursery, which receives transfers from other facilities. The actual conditions and experiences of an infant in our facility are captured elsewhere in the data file, namely, in the ICD-9-CM diagnoses and procedures codes.

RACE AND ETHNICITY CODES

We are concerned about the accuracy of the State mandated race and ethnicity codes. Some patients decline to answer our inquiries about their race or ethnic classification. We certify that the race and ethnicity codes we submit represent nothing more than the patient's own classification or our best judgment.

STANDARD/NON-STANDARD SOURCE OF PAYMENT

The standard and non-standard source of payment codes are an example of data required by the State that is not contained within the standard UB92 billing record. In order to meet this requirement each payer's identification must be categorized into the appropriate standard and non-standard source of payment value. It is important to note that sometimes, many months after billing and THIC data submission, a provider may be informed of a retroactive change in a patient's eligibility for a particular payer. This will cause the Source of Payment data to be inaccurate as reported in the quarter's snapshot of the data. The categories most effected are

“Self Pay” and “Charity” shifting to “Medicaid” eligible.

REVENUE CODE AND CHARGE DATA

The charge data submitted by revenue code represents Methodist’s charge structure, which may or may not be the same for a particular procedure or supply as another provider.

CAUTION ON THE USE OF DATA WITH SMALL NUMBERS OF CASES IN PERCENTAGE COMPARISONS

Besides the data limitations mentioned above, the number of cases that aggregate into a particular diagnosis, procedure or Diagnosis Related Grouping could render percentage calculations statistically non-significant if the number of cases is too small.

SEVERITY ADJUSTMENT SCORES

THCIC is responsible for providing and maintaining a tool to assign an All-patient Refined (APR) Diagnosis Related Group (DRG) severity score for each encounter at their data processing center. Methodist Medical Center neither creates nor submits the APR DRG contained in the data sets.

PHYSICIAN LICENSE NUMBER ERRORS

All physician license numbers and names have been validated with the physician's paper license and the license web-site as accurate even though some remain unidentified in the THCIC Practitioner Reference Files. This is due to the THCIC's delay in obtained updated state license information

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PROVIDER: Harris Methodist Erath County
THCIC ID: 256000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Data Content

This data is administrative data, which hospitals collect for billing purposes. Administrative data may not accurately represent the clinical details of an encounter.

The state requires us to submit inpatient claims, by quarter year, gathered from a form called an UB92, in a standard government format called HCFA 1450 EDI electronic claim format. Then the state specifications require additional data elements to be included over and above that. Adding those additional data places programming burdens on the hospital since it is "over and above" the actual hospital billing process. Errors can occur due to this additional programming, but the public should not conclude that billing data sent to our payers is inaccurate. These errors have been corrected to the best of our knowledge.

If a medical record is unavailable for coding the encounter is not billed and is not included in the data submission. This represents a rare event that is less than 1% of the encounter volume.

Diagnosis and Procedures

Patient diagnosis and procedures for a particular hospital stay are coded by the hospital using a universal standard called the International Classification of Disease, or ICD-9-CM. This is mandated by the federal government.

The hospital complies with the guidelines for assigning these diagnosis codes, however, this is often driven by physician's subjective criteria

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for defining a diagnosis. For example, while one physician may diagnose a patient with anemia when the patient's blood hemoglobin level falls below 9.5, another physician may not diagnose the patient with anemia until their blood hemoglobin level is below 9.0. In both situations, a diagnosis of anemia is correctly assigned, but the criteria used by the physician to determine that diagnosis was different. An "apples to apples" comparison cannot be made, which makes it difficult to obtain an accurate comparison of hospital or physician performance.

The codes also do not distinguish between conditions present at the time of the patient's admission to the hospital and those occurring during hospitalization. For example, if a code indicating an infection is made, it is not always possible to determine if the patient had an infection prior to admission or developed an infection during their hospitalization.

This makes it difficult to obtain accurate information regarding things such as complication rates.

The data submitted matches the state's reporting requirements but may be incomplete due to a limitation on the number of diagnoses and procedures the state allows us to include for each patient. In other words, the state's data file may not fully represent all diagnoses treated by the hospital or all procedures performed, which can alter the true picture of a patient's hospitalization, sometimes significantly.

The codes are assigned based on documentation in the patient's chart and are used by hospitals for billing purposes. The hospital can code up to 99 diagnosis and 99 procedures for each patient record. The state is requiring us to submit ICD-9-CM data on each patient but has limited the number of diagnoses and procedures to the first nine diagnoses codes and the first six procedure codes. As a result, the data sent by us do meet state requirements but cannot reflect all the codes an individual patient's record may have been assigned. This means also that true total volumes may not be represented by the state's data file, which therefore make percentage calculations inaccurate (I.e. mortality percentages for any given diagnosis or procedures, percentage of patients in each severity of illness category). It would be obvious, therefore, those sicker patients (more diagnoses and procedures) are less accurately reflected by the 1450 format. It then stands to reason that hospitals, which treat sicker patients, are likewise less accurately reflected.

Severity Index

The data submitted to THCIC is grouped by the state using the 3M APR-DRG Grouper. The output from the software produces an APR DRG, a severity of illness score and a risk mortality score. These data elements are used in the risk adjustments of data. It appears that the data has been grouped incorrectly with the 3M APR-DRG grouper based on trending from previous quarters.

Length of Stay

The length of stay data element contained in the state's certification file is only three characters long. Thus any patients discharged with a length of stay greater than 999 days will not be accurately stored within the certification database. It is rare that patients stay longer than 999 days, therefore, it is not anticipated that this limitation will effect this data.

Admit Source data for Normal Newborn

When the Admit type is equal to "newborn", the admit source should indicate whether the baby was a normal newborn, premature delivery, sick baby, extramural birth, or information not available. The best way to focus on severity of illness regarding an infant would be to check the infant's diagnosis at discharge, not the admitting source code. Many hospital

Comments, 1Q2003

information systems and registration process defaults to "normal delivery" as the admission source. Therefore, admission source does not always give an accurate picture.

If admission source is used to examine length of stay or mortality for normal neonates using the admit source to identify the cases, the data will reflect premature and sick babies mixed in with the normal newborn data. HARRIS METHODIST ERATH COUNTY HOSPITAL recommends use of ICD9 coding data to identify neonates. This methodology will ensure correct identification of the clinical status of the newborn admission.

Race/Ethnicity

Our admissions staff indicates that many patients are very sensitive about providing race and ethnicity information. Therefore, depending on the circumstances of the patient's admission, race and ethnicity data may be subjectively collected. This issue has both federal and state law implications as well as, ethical and clinical ramifications. HARRIS METHODIST ERATH COUNTY HOSPITAL is pursuing better methods for collecting this information.

Additionally, the THCIC in a recent Board meeting indicated that the THCIC would be creating guidelines for use by hospitals to assist with more accurate collection of this information.

Standard/Non-Standard Source of Payment

The standard and non-standard source of payment codes are an example of data required by the state that is not contained within the standard UB92 billing record. In order to meet this requirement, each payer identification must be categorized into the appropriate standard and non-standard source of payment value. These values might not accurately reflect the hospital payer information, because those payers identified contractually as both "HMO, and PPO" are categorized as "Commercial PPO". Thus any true managed care comparisons by contract type (HMO vs. PPO) may result in inaccurate analysis.

Cost/Revenue Codes

The state requires that hospital submit revenue information including charges. It is important to note that charges are not equal to actual payments received by the hospital or hospital cost for performing the service. Typically actual payments are much less than charges due to managed care-negotiated discounts and denial of payment by insurance companies.

Charges also do not reflect the actual cost to deliver the care that each patient needs.

Recommendations

HARRIS METHODIST ERATH COUNTY HOSPITAL recommends that THCIC have a press release making the public aware of the data being collected. The general public does not realize that this information is being collected and that state law requires it. There needs to be more education for the Texas residents as to what is being collected, problems that still exist in collection of the data, how the information will be used and the benefit they will receive. HARRIS METHODIST ERATH COUNTY HOSPITAL is committed to a quality state data reporting mechanism and is committed to assisting with resolution of the THCIC issues as they arise in the best interest of Texas residents.

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PROVIDER: R. E. Thomason General Hospital
THCIC ID: 263000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

In this database only one primary physician is allowed. This represents the physician at discharge in this institution.

Comments, 1Q2003

At an academic medical center such as Thomason, patients are cared for by teams of physicians that rotate at varying intervals. Therefore, many patients, particularly long term patients, may actually be managed by several different teams. The practice of attributing patient outcomes in the database to a single physician may result in inaccurate information.

PAYOR MIX

Mapping problems were identified in primary payer source. The following is the corrected information:

Charity = 981
Commercial = 374
Medicaid = 2734
Medicare = 419
Self Pay = 257
Total Encounter = 4765

Newborn admission data also appears to have a mapping problem.

The following is the corrected information:

Normal Delivery = 871
Premature Delivery = 101
Sick Baby = 236
Total Encounter = 1208

Thru our Performance Improvement process, we review the data and strive to make changes to result in improvement.

PROVIDER: Sierra Medical Center
THCIC ID: 266000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Admission Type: Unknown

PBAR facilities capture data for admission type Other/OB, which does not map to admission types available through THCIC reporting. Admission type Unknown reflects admissions (495) under category of Other/OB.

Newborn Admissions

THCIC Certification Summary for 1st Quarter 2003 reflects 1 encounter for category, "Information Not Available", which should be reflected under category, "Normal Delivery".

Patient Discharge Status

THCIC Certification Summary for 1st Quarter 2003 reflects 232 encounters under category missing/invalid. This is due to a PBAR "Crosswalk" conversion that does not map to the states Patient Discharge Status. The 232 encounters reflect patient discharge status to REHAB - Other Hospital, Residential Care, Jail/Prison and/or Long Term Care - Elsewhere.

PROVIDER: Baylor Medical Center-waxahachie
THCIC ID: 285000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Submission Timing

Baylor estimates that our data volumes for the calendar year time period submitted may include 96% to 100% of all cases for that time period.

Comments, 1Q2003

The state requires us to submit a snapshot of billed claims, extracted from our database approximately 20 days following the close of the calendar year quarter. Any discharged patient encounters not billed by this cut-off date will not be included in the quarterly submission file sent in.

Physician Identification

All physician license numbers and names have been validated as accurate against a physician reference file that is derived from information provided by the Texas Board of Medical Examiners. Those physicians not yet assigned a state license number at the time of data submission are given temporary numbers by the hospital for state reporting purposes. Due to the "lag" time between when the physician is licensed and when THCIC receives the information, some physicians may remain unidentified in the THCIC Practitioner Reference Files.

The THCIC minimum data set houses only two (2) physician fields; Attending Physician and Operating or Other Physician (if applicable) as reflected on the UB92 billing document. Mortality rates, case costs and other data calculated for this population of physicians may be misrepresentative.

Due to the complexity of most inpatient admissions many physicians provide care to patients throughout an admission. Consulting physicians may prescribe and treat patients on behalf of the physician listed as the attending physician. Analysis of this physician information should carefully consider that significant variations in case count, case cost, and mortality may not be directly related to the care provided by the attending physician, but also reflect the varied use of consultants.

while hospitals document many treating physicians (surgeons and consultants) for each case, THCIC maintains only one (1) additional physician per case besides the Attending. "Other" physician case volumes, mortality, case costs and LOS, will frequently be inaccurate because of this limitation.

Surgeons and consulting physicians beyond one that may have been involved on a case will not be credited with providing care for that patient. Analysis of "other physician" information should, therefore, take into consideration that a significant portion of treating physicians are excluded from the patient cases.

Diagnosis and Procedures

The data submitted matches the state's reporting requirements but may be incomplete due to a limitation on the number of diagnoses and procedures the state allows us to include for each patient. In other words, the state's data file may not fully represent all diagnoses treated by the hospital or all procedures performed, which can alter the true picture of a patient's hospitalization, sometimes significantly.

Patient diagnoses and procedures for a particular hospital stay are coded by the hospital using a universal standard called the International Classification of Disease, or ICD-9-CM. This is mandated by the federal government and all hospitals must comply.

The codes are assigned based on documentation in the patient's chart and are used by hospitals for billing purposes. The hospital can code as many as 25 diagnoses and 25 procedures for each patient record. One limitation of using the ICD-9-CM system is that there does not exist a code for every possible diagnosis and procedure due to the continued evolution of medicine; new codes are added yearly as coding manuals are updated.

Race/Ethnicity

There are no national standards regarding patient race categorization so hospitals may not have the same designations from which patients can choose. The state has recently attempted to standardize a valid set of race codes for this project but these are not universally used by all hospitals. Each hospital must independently map their specific codes

Comments, 1Q2003

to the state's race code categories. This mapping may not be consistent across hospitals. Thus epidemiology analysis of these two data fields does not accurately describe the true population served by the hospital.

Standard/Non-Standard Source of Payment

The standard and non-standard source of payment codes are an example of data required by the state that is not contained within the standard UB92 billing record. In order to meet this requirement each payer identification must be categorized into the appropriate standard and non-standard source of payment value. It should also be noted that the primary payer associated to the patient's encounter record may change over time. With this in mind, approximately 10% of the primary payers originally categorized as "Medicaid" were recategorized as "Commercial." Also, 3% of the secondary payers originally as "Missing/Invalid" and 4% of "Medicaid" were recategorized as "Commercial."

Additionally, those payers identified contractually as both "HMO and PPO" are categorized as "Commercial PPO". Thus any true managed care comparisons by contract type (HMO vs. PPO) may result in inaccurate analysis.

Cost/ Revenue Codes

The state requires that hospitals submit revenue information including charges. It is important to note that charges are not equal to actual payments received by the hospital or hospital cost for performing the service. Typically actual payments are much less than charges due to managed care-negotiated discounts and denial of payment by insurance companies. Charges also do not reflect the actual cost to deliver the care that each patient needs.

Certification Process

Due to the infancy of the state reporting process and the state's computer system development, the certification process is not as complete and thorough at this time, as all parties would like to see in the future. Given the current certification software, there is not an efficient mechanism to edit and correct the data. In addition, due to hospital volumes, it is not feasible to perform encounter level audits and edits. Within the constraints of the current THCIC process, the data is certified to the best of our knowledge as accurate and complete given the above comments.

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PROVIDER: Baylor Medical Center-Irving
THCIC ID: 300000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Submission Timing

Baylor estimates that our data volumes for the calendar year time period submitted may include 96% to 100% of all cases for that time period. The state requires us to submit a snapshot of billed claims, extracted from our database approximately 20 days following the close of the calendar year quarter. Any discharged patient encounters not billed by this cut-off date will not be included in the quarterly submission file sent in.

Physician Identification

All physician license numbers and names have been validated as accurate against a physician reference file that is derived from information provided by the Texas Board of Medical Examiners. Those physicians not yet assigned a state license number at the time of data submission are given temporary numbers by the hospital for state reporting purposes. Due to the "lag" time between when the physician is licensed and when THCIC receives the information, some physicians may remain unidentified in the THCIC Practitioner Reference Files.

Comments, 1Q2003

The THCIC minimum data set houses only two (2) physician fields; Attending Physician and Operating or Other Physician (if applicable) as reflected on the UB92 billing document. Mortality rates, case costs and other data calculated for this population of physicians may be misrepresentative.

Due to the complexity of most inpatient admissions many physicians provide care to patients throughout an admission. Consulting physicians may prescribe and treat patients on behalf of the physician listed as the attending physician. Analysis of this physician information should carefully consider that significant variations in case count, case cost, and mortality may not be directly related to the care provided by the attending physician, but also reflect the varied use of consultants.

while hospitals document many treating physicians (surgeons and consultants) for each case, THCIC maintains only one (1) additional physician per case besides the Attending. "Other" physician case volumes, mortality, case costs and LOS, will frequently be inaccurate because of this limitation.

Surgeons and consulting physicians beyond one that may have been involved on a case will not be credited with providing care for that patient. Analysis of "other physician" information should, therefore, take into consideration that a significant portion of treating physicians are excluded from the patient cases.

Diagnosis and Procedures

The data submitted matches the state's reporting requirements but may be incomplete due to a limitation on the number of diagnoses and procedures the state allows us to include for each patient. In other words, the state's data file may not fully represent all diagnoses treated by the hospital or all procedures performed, which can alter the true picture of a patient's hospitalization, sometimes significantly.

Patient diagnoses and procedures for a particular hospital stay are coded by the hospital using a universal standard called the International Classification of Disease, or ICD-9-CM. This is mandated by the federal government and all hospitals must comply.

The codes are assigned based on documentation in the patient's chart and are used by hospitals for billing purposes. The hospital can code as many as 25 diagnoses and 25 procedures for each patient record. One limitation of using the ICD-9-CM system is that there does not exist a code for every possible diagnosis and procedure due to the continued evolution of medicine; new codes are added yearly as coding manuals are updated.

Race/Ethnicity

There are no national standards regarding patient race categorization so hospitals may not have the same designations from which patients can choose. The state has recently attempted to standardize a valid set of race codes for this project but these are not universally used by all hospitals. Each hospital must independently map their specific codes to the state's race code categories. This mapping may not be consistent across hospitals. Thus epidemiology analysis of these two data fields does not accurately describe the true population served by the hospital.

Standard/Non-Standard Source of Payment

The standard and non-standard source of payment codes are an example of data required by the state that is not contained within the standard UB92 billing record. In order to meet this requirement each payer identification must be categorized into the appropriate standard and non-standard source of payment value. It should also be noted that the primary payer associated to the patient's encounter record may change over time. With this in mind, approximately 8% of the encounters originally categorized as "Blue Cross", and 13% categorized as "Medicaid" were recategorized as "Commercial".

Also, approximately 5% of the secondary payers originally categorized

as "Missing/Invalid" were recategorized as "Self Pay."

Additionally, those payers identified contractually as both "HMO and PPO" are categorized as "Commercial PPO". Thus any true managed care comparisons by contract type (HMO vs. PPO) may result in inaccurate analysis.

Cost/ Revenue Codes

The state requires that hospitals submit revenue information including charges. It is important to note that charges are not equal to actual payments received by the hospital or hospital cost for performing the service. Typically actual payments are much less than charges due to managed care-negotiated discounts and denial of payment by insurance companies. Charges also do not reflect the actual cost to deliver the care that each patient needs.

Certification Process

Due to the infancy of the state reporting process and the state's computer system development, the certification process is not as complete and thorough at this time, as all parties would like to see in the future. Given the current certification software, there is not an efficient mechanism to edit and correct the data. In addition, due to hospital volumes, it is not feasible to perform encounter level audits and edits. Within the constraints of the current THIC process, the data is certified to the best of our knowledge as accurate and complete given the above comments.

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PROVIDER: Presbyterian Hospital-Kaufman
THIC ID: 303000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Data Content

This data is administrative data, which hospitals collect for billing purposes. Administrative data may not accurately represent the clinical details of an encounter. The state requires us to submit inpatient claims, by quarter year, gathered from a form called an UB92, in a standard government format called HCFA 1450 EDI electronic claim format. Then the state specifications require additional data elements to be included over and above that. Adding those additional data places programming burdens on the hospital since it is 'over and above' the actual hospital billing process. Errors can occur due to this additional programming, but the public should not conclude that billing data sent to our payers is inaccurate. These errors have been corrected to the best of our knowledge.

If a medical record is unavailable for coding the encounter is not billed and is not included in the data submission. This represents a rare event that is less than 1% of the encounter volume.

Diagnosis and Procedures

Patient diagnoses and procedures for a particular hospital stay are coded by the hospital using a universal standard called the International Classification of Disease, or ICD-9-CM. This is mandated by the federal government. The hospital complies with the guidelines for assigning these diagnosis codes, however, this is often driven by physician's subjective criteria for defining a diagnosis. For example, while one physician may diagnose a patient with anemia when the patient's blood

hemoglobin level falls below 9.5, another physician may not diagnose the patient with anemia until their blood hemoglobin level is below 9.0. In both situations, a diagnosis of anemia is correctly assigned, but the criteria used by the physician to determine that diagnosis was different. An 'apples to apples' comparison cannot be made, which makes it difficult to obtain an accurate comparison of hospital or physician performance.

The codes also do not distinguish between conditions present at the time of the patient's admission to the hospital and those occurring during hospitalization. For example, if a code indicating an infection is made, it is not always possible to determine if the patient had an infection prior to admission, or developed an infection during their hospitalization. This makes it difficult to obtain accurate information regarding things such as complication rates.

The data submitted matches the state's reporting requirements but may be incomplete due to a limitation on the number of diagnoses and procedures the state allows us to include for each patient. In other words, the state's data file may not fully represent all diagnoses treated by the hospital or all procedures performed, which can alter the true picture of a patient's hospitalization, sometimes significantly.

The codes are assigned based on documentation in the patient's chart and are used by hospitals for billing purposes. The hospital can code up to 99 diagnoses and 99 procedures for each patient record.

The state is requiring us to submit ICD-9-CM data on each patient but has limited the number of diagnoses and procedures to the first nine diagnoses codes and the first six procedure codes. As a result, the data sent by us do meet state requirements but cannot reflect all the codes an individual

patient's record may have been assigned. This means also that true total volumes may not be represented by the state's data file, which therefore make percentage calculations inaccurate (i.e. mortality percentages for any given diagnosis or procedure, percentage of patients in each severity of illness category). It would be obvious, therefore, those sicker patients (more diagnoses and procedures) are less accurately reflected by the 1450 format. It then stands to reason that hospitals, which treat sicker patients, are likewise less accurately reflected.

Length of Stay

The length of stay data element contained in the state's certification file is only three characters long.

Thus any patients discharged with a length of stay greater than 999 days will not be accurately stored within the certification database. It is rare that patients stay longer than 999 days, therefore, it is not anticipated that this limitation will affect this data.

Admit Source data for Normal Newborn

When the Admit type is equal to 'newborn', the admit source should indicate whether the baby was a normal newborn, premature delivery, sick baby, extramural birth, or information not available. The best way to focus on severity of illness regarding an infant would be to check the infant's diagnosis at discharge, not the admitting source code. Many hospital information systems

and registration process defaults to 'normal delivery' as the admission source. Therefore, admission source does not always give an accurate picture.

If admission source is used to examine length of stay or mortality for normal neonates using the admit source to identify the cases, the data will reflect premature and sick babies mixed in with the normal newborn data. Presbyterian Hospital of Kaufman recommends use of ICD9 coding data to identify neonates. This methodology will ensure correct identification of the clinical status of the newborn admission.

Race/Ethnicity

As of the December 7, 2001, the THCIC Board indicated that they would be creating guidelines for use by hospitals. These guidelines will provide better clarity for the accurate collection of this data. Hospitals do not routinely collect race and ethnicity as part of the admission process, that this has been added to meet the THCIC requirement. Our admissions staff indicates that many patients are very sensitive about providing race and ethnicity information. Therefore, depending on the circumstances of the patient's admission, race and ethnicity data may be subjectively collected. Therefore, the race and ethnicity data may not provide an accurate representation of the patient population for a facility.

Standard/Non-Standard Source of Payment

The standard and non-standard source of payment codes are an example of data required by the state that is not contained within the standard UB92 billing record. In order to meet this requirement, each payer identification must be categorized into the appropriate standard and non-standard source of payment value. These values might not accurately reflect the hospital payer information, because those payers identified contractually as both 'HMO, and PPO' are categorized as 'Commercial PPO'. Thus any true managed care comparisons by contract type (HMO vs. PPO) may result in inaccurate analysis.

Cost/ Revenue Codes

The state requires that hospitals submit revenue information including charges. It is important to note that charges are not equal to actual payments received by the hospital or hospital cost for performing the service. Typically actual payments are much less than charges due to managed care-negotiated discounts and denial of payment by insurance companies. Charges also do not reflect the actual cost to deliver the care that each patient needs.

Discharge Disposition

We have identified a problem with our vendor (Seimens) extract that diverts some patient discharges to home as opposed to rehab. We will communicate this issue and the plan to address this issue in writing to the THCIC Executive Director.

PROVIDER: Baylor University Medical Center
THCIC ID: 331000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Comments, 1Q2003

Certified with comments

Submission Timing

Baylor estimates that our data volumes for the calendar year time period submitted may include 96% to 100% of all cases for that time period. The state requires us to submit a snapshot of billed claims, extracted from our database approximately 20 days following the close of the calendar year quarter. Any discharged patient encounters not billed by this cut-off date will not be included in the quarterly submission file sent in.

Physician Identification

All physician license numbers and names have been validated as accurate against a physician reference file that is derived from information provided by the Texas Board of Medical Examiners. Those physicians not yet assigned a state license number at the time of data submission are given temporary numbers by the hospital for state reporting purposes. Due to the "lag" time between when the physician is licensed and when THCIC receives the information, some physicians may remain unidentified in the THCIC Practitioner Reference Files.

The THCIC minimum data set houses only two (2) physician fields; Attending Physician and Operating or Other Physician (if applicable) as reflected on the UB92 billing document. Mortality rates, case costs and other data calculated for this population of physicians may be misrepresentative.

Due to the complexity of most inpatient admissions many physicians provide care to patients throughout an admission. Consulting physicians may prescribe and treat patients on behalf of the physician listed as the attending physician. Analysis of this physician information should carefully consider that significant variations in case count, case cost, and mortality may not be directly related to the care provided by the attending physician, but also reflect the varied use of consultants.

while hospitals document many treating physicians (surgeons and consultants) for each case, THCIC maintains only one (1) additional physician per case besides the Attending. "Other" physician case volumes, mortality, case costs and LOS, will frequently be inaccurate because of this limitation.

Surgeons and consulting physicians beyond one that may have been involved on a case will not be credited with providing care for that patient. Analysis of "other physician" information should, therefore, take into consideration that a significant portion of treating physicians are excluded from the patient cases.

Diagnosis and Procedures

The data submitted matches the state's reporting requirements but may be incomplete due to a limitation on the number of diagnoses and procedures the state allows us to include for each patient. In other words, the state's data file may not fully represent all diagnoses treated by the hospital or all procedures performed, which can alter the true picture of a patient's hospitalization, sometimes significantly. Approximately 20 % of Baylor's patient population have more than nine diagnoses and/or six procedures assigned.

Patient diagnoses and procedures for a particular hospital stay are coded by the hospital using a universal standard called the International Classification of Disease, or ICD-9-CM. This is mandated by the federal government and all hospitals must comply.

The codes are assigned based on documentation in the patient's chart and are used by hospitals for billing purposes. The hospital can code as many as 25 diagnoses and 25 procedures for each patient record. One limitation of using the ICD-9-CM system is that there does not exist a code for every possible diagnosis and procedure due to the continued evolution of medicine;

new codes are added yearly as coding manuals are updated.

Normal Newborns

The best way to focus on severity of illness regarding an infant would be to check the infant's diagnosis at discharge, not the admitting source code. The actual experience of a newborn is captured elsewhere in the file, namely, in the ICD-9-CM diagnosis. Admission source does not give an accurate picture.

Mortalities

Due to insurance payer requirements, organ donor patients are readmitted and expired in the system to address the issues of separate payers. This results in double counting some "expired" cases which will increase the mortality figure reported and not accurately reflect the actual number of mortalities.

Race/Ethnicity

There are no national standards regarding patient race categorization so hospitals may not have the same designations from which patients can choose. The state has recently attempted to standardize a valid set of race codes for this project but these are not universally used by all hospitals. Each hospital must independently map their specific codes to the state's race code categories. This mapping may not be consistent across hospitals. Thus epidemiology analysis of these two data fields does not accurately describe the true population served by the hospital. "Asian or Pacific Islander" encounters are not broken out separately but are included in the "Other" race category.

Standard/Non-Standard Source of Payment

The standard and non-standard source of payment codes are an example of data required by the state that is not contained within the standard UB92 billing record. In order to meet this requirement each payer identification must be categorized into the appropriate standard and non-standard source of payment value. It should also be noted that the primary payer associated to the patient's encounter record might change over time. Upon review approximately 8% of the primary payers originally categorized as "Blue Cross" and 4% categorized as "Medicaid" were recategorized as "Commercial".

Additionally, those payers identified contractually as both "HMO, and PPO" are categorized as "Commercial PPO". Thus any true managed care comparisons by contract type (HMO vs. PPO) may result in inaccurate analysis.

Cost/ Revenue Codes

The state requires that hospitals submit revenue information including charges. It is important to note that charges are not equal to actual payments received by the hospital or hospital cost for performing the service. Typically actual payments are much less than charges due to managed care-negotiated discounts and denial of payment by insurance companies. Charges also do not reflect the actual cost to deliver the care that each patient needs.

Certification Process

Due to the infancy of the state reporting process and the state's computer system development, the certification process is not as complete and thorough at this time, as all parties would like to see in the future. Given the current certification software, there is not an efficient mechanism to edit and correct the data. In addition, due to hospital volumes, it is not feasible to perform encounter level audits and edits. Within the constraints of the current THIC process, the data is certified to the best of our knowledge as accurate and complete given the above comments.

THCIC ID: 332000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Cook Children's Medical Center has submitted and certified the first quarter 2003 discharge encounter data to the Texas Health Care Information Council with the following possible data concerns based on the required submission method.

Patient charges that were accrued before admit or after discharge were systematically excluded from the database. This can happen when a patient is pre-admitted and incurs charges to their encounter before their admit date or charges are discovered and added to the patient encounter after they are discharged. Therefore, the charges for many patient encounters are under reported.

The data structure allowed by THCIC erroneously assigns surgeons to surgical procedures they did not perform. The data structure provided by THCIC allows for one attending and one operating physician assignment. However, patients frequently undergo multiple surgeries where different physicians perform multiple procedures. Assigning all of those procedures to a single 'operating physician' will frequently attribute surgeries to the wrong physician. THCIC chooses to only assign one surgeon to a patient encounter, not to each procedure.

Furthermore, the data structure established by THCIC allows for a total of nine diagnoses and six procedures. Patients with more than nine diagnoses or six procedures will be missing information from the database. This is especially true in complex cases where a patient has multiple major illnesses and multiple surgeries over an extended stay.

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PROVIDER: Daughters of Charity Brackenridge
THCIC ID: 335000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

As the public teaching hospital in Austin and Travis County, Brackenridge serves patients who are often unable to access primary care. It is more likely that these patients will present in the later more complex stage of their disease. Brackenridge has a perinatal program that serves a population that includes mothers with late or no prenatal care. Brackenridge is also a regional referral center, receiving patient transfers from hospitals not able to serve a complex mix of patients. Treatment of these very complex, seriously ill patients increases the hospital's costs of care, lengths of stay and mortality rates.

As the Regional Trauma Center, Brackenridge serves severely injured patients. Lengths of stay and mortality rates are most appropriate compared to other trauma centers.

All physician license numbers and names have been validated with the physician and the Texas State Board of Medical Examiner website as accurate but some remain unidentified in the THCIC Practitioner Reference Files.

These data are submitted by the hospital as their best effort to meet statutory requirements.

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PROVIDER: Daughters of Charity Childrens Hospital-Austin

THCIC ID: 335001
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Children's Hospital of Austin is the only children's hospital in the Central Texas Region. Children's serves severely ill and/or injured children requiring intensive resources which increases the hospital's costs of care, lengths of stay and mortality rates. In addition, the hospital includes a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) which serves very seriously ill infants, which substantially increases costs of care, lengths of stay and mortality rates.

All physician license numbers and names have been validated with the physician and the Texas State Board of Medical Examiner website as accurate but some remain unidentified in the THCIC Practitioner Reference Files. These data are submitted by the hospital as their best effort to meet statutory requirements.=====

PROVIDER: Denton Regional Medical Center
THCIC ID: 336001
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

When reviewing the data for Denton Regional Medical Center, please consider the following:

The data is administrative/claims data, not clinical research data. There may be inherent limitations to using it to compare outcomes.

The cost of care, charges, and the revenue a facility receives is extremely complex. Inferences to comparing costs of care from one hospital to another may result in unreliable results.

All statistics for Denton Regional include the acute care services as well as the Rehabilitation Department, a long-term care unit. This may preclude any meaningful comparisons between Denton Regional Medical Center and an "acute care only" provider.

Elderly individuals are more apt to use the long-term inpatient services provided by Denton Regional. This is reflected in the age breakdown.

Admission source data is not collected and grouped at Denton Regional in the same manner as displayed.

Under the Standard Source of Payment, please note that statistics in the "Commercial" category also include managed care providers.

The severity grouping assignment performed by the state using the APR-DRG grouper cannot be replicated by facilities unless they purchase this grouper. Denton Regional is unable to comment on the accuracy of this report.

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PROVIDER: West Houston Medical Center
THCIC ID: 337001
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Comments, 1Q2003

Included in the discharge encounter data are discharges from our Skilled Nursing Unit, Rehabilitation Unit, Geropsychiatric Unit and medical hospice service which may skew length of stay, deaths, and charge data.

PROVIDER: Medical City Dallas Hospital
THCIC ID: 340000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

*Comments not received by THCIC.

PROVIDER: Baylor All Saints Medical Center-Fort Worth
THCIC ID: 363000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Submission Timing

Baylor estimates that our data volumes for the calendar year time period submitted may include 96% to 100% of all cases for that time period. The state requires us to submit a snapshot of billed claims, extracted from our database approximately 20 days following the close of the calendar year quarter. Any discharged patient encounters not billed by this cut-off date will not be included in the quarterly submission file sent in.

Physician Identification

All physician license numbers and names have been validated as accurate against a physician reference file that is derived from information provided by the Texas Board of Medical Examiners. Those physicians not yet assigned a state license number at the time of data submission are given temporary numbers by the hospital for state reporting purposes. Due to the "lag" time between when the physician is licensed and when THCIC receives the information, some physicians may remain unidentified in the THCIC Practitioner Reference Files.

The THCIC minimum data set houses only two (2) physician fields; Attending Physician and Operating or Other Physician (if applicable) as reflected on the UB92 billing document. Mortality rates, case costs and other data calculated for this population of physicians may be misrepresentative.

Due to the complexity of most inpatient admissions many physicians provide care to patients throughout an admission. Consulting physicians may prescribe and treat patients on behalf of the physician listed as the attending physician. Analysis of this physician information should carefully consider that significant variations in case count, case cost, and mortality may not be directly related to the care provided by the attending physician, but also reflect the varied use of consultants.

while hospitals document many treating physicians (surgeons and consultants) for each case, THCIC maintains only one (1) additional physician per case besides the Attending. "Other" physician case volumes, mortality, case costs and LOS, will frequently be inaccurate because of this limitation.

Surgeons and consulting physicians beyond one that may have been involved on a case will not be credited with providing care for that patient. Analysis of "other physician" information should, therefore, take into consideration that a significant portion of treating physicians are excluded from the patient cases.

Diagnosis and Procedures

The data submitted matches the state's reporting requirements but may

Comments, 1Q2003

be incomplete due to a limitation on the number of diagnoses and procedures the state allows us to include for each patient. In other words, the state's data file may not fully represent all diagnoses treated by the hospital or all procedures performed, which can alter the true picture of a patient's hospitalization, sometimes significantly. Approximately 20 % of Baylor's patient population have more than nine diagnoses and/or six procedures assigned.

Patient diagnoses and procedures for a particular hospital stay are coded by the hospital using a universal standard called the International Classification of Disease, or ICD-9-CM. This is mandated by the federal government and all hospitals must comply.

The codes are assigned based on documentation in the patient's chart and are used by hospitals for billing purposes. The hospital can code as many as 25 diagnoses and 25 procedures for each patient record. One limitation of using the ICD-9-CM system is that there does not exist a code for every possible diagnosis and procedure due to the continued evolution of medicine; new codes are added yearly as coding manuals are updated.

Race/Ethnicity

There are no national standards regarding patient race categorization so hospitals may not have the same designations from which patients can choose. The state has recently attempted to standardize a valid set of race codes for this project but these are not universally used by all hospitals. Each hospital must independently map their specific codes to the state's race code categories. This mapping may not be consistent across hospitals. Thus epidemiology analysis of these two data fields does not accurately describe the true population served by the hospital.

Standard/Non-Standard Source of Payment

The standard and non-standard source of payment codes are an example of data required by the state that is not contained within the standard UB92 billing record. In order to meet this requirement each payer identification must be categorized into the appropriate standard and non-standard source of payment value. It should also be noted that the primary payer associated to the patient's encounter record might change over time. Upon review approximately 7% of the primary payers originally categorized as "Blue Cross", 4% categorized as "Medicare", and 6% categorized as "Medicaid" were recategorized as "Commercial." Also approximately 61% of the secondary payers originally categorized as "Missing/Invalid" were recategorized as "Self Pay. Also 3% categorized as "Commercial" were recategorized as "Blue Cross," and 2% categorized as "Commercial" were recategorized as "Champus."

Additionally, those payers identified contractually as both "HMO, and PPO" are categorized as "Commercial PPO". Thus any true managed care comparisons by contract type (HMO vs. PPO) may result in inaccurate analysis.

Cost/ Revenue Codes

The state requires that hospitals submit revenue information including charges. It is important to note that charges are not equal to actual payments received by the hospital or hospital cost for performing the service. Typically actual payments are much less than charges due to managed care-negotiated discounts and denial of payment by insurance companies. Charges also do not reflect the actual cost to deliver the care that each patient needs.

Certification Process

Due to the infancy of the state reporting process and the state's computer system development, the certification process is not as complete and thorough at this time, as all parties would like to see in the future. Given

Comments, 1Q2003

the current certification software, there is not an efficient mechanism to edit and correct the data. In addition, due to hospital volumes, it is not feasible to perform encounter level audits and edits. Within the constraints of the current THCIC process, the data is certified to the best of our knowledge as accurate and complete given the above comments.

PROVIDER: Palestine Regional Rehab Hospital
THCIC ID: 377001
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

*Comments not received by THCIC.

PROVIDER: Smithville Regional Hospital
THCIC ID: 385000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Certification is made with comment that first quarter of 2003 was submitted with two inpatient stays (same patient) billed as one claim initially. Data collected in computer generated.

PROVIDER: Medical Center-Lewisville
THCIC ID: 394000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

1. This data is administrative and claims data only. It is not clinical research data. There may be inherent limitations in using this data to compare clinical outcomes
 2. This data only contains a subset of the diagnoses and procedure codes. This limits the ability to access all of the diagnoses and procedures relative to each patient.
 3. The relationship between the cost of patient care, charges, and the payment that a facility receives is very complex. Inferences made in comparing the cost of patient care, charges and payments from on hospital to another may result in unreliable results.
 4. The severity grouping assignments performed by the state using the APR-DRG grouper cannot be replicated by facilities unless they purchase this grouper. Also, the lack of knowledge regarding how this grouper calculates the severity adjustments can greatly impact the interpretation of the data.
 5. There is a great uncertainty about how physician linkages will be done across hospitals.
 6. Race ethnicity classification is done systematically within, or between, facilities. Caution should be used when analyzing this data within one facility and when comparing one facility to another.
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PROVIDER: CHRISTUS Spohn Hospital Memorial
THCIC ID: 398000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

CHRISTUS Spohn Hospital Memorial is a Level III Regional Trauma Center serving a twelve county region.

Comments, 1Q2003

CHRISTUS Spohn Hospital Memorial is a teaching hospital with a Family Practice Residency Program based at the hospital.

We believe that the discharge encounter data as returned by the Texas Health Care Information Council for calendar quarter one/2003 represents the patient population of CHRISTUS Spohn Hospital Memorial and a 99.25% accuracy rate.

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PROVIDER: John Peter Smith Hospital
THCIC ID: 409000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Introduction

John Peter Smith Hospital (JPSH) is operated by the JPS Health Network under the auspices of the Tarrant County Hospital District. The JPS Health Network is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations as an integrated health network. In addition, JPSH holds JCAHO accreditation as a hospital.

JPSH was the first Texas Department of Health certified Level II Trauma Center in Tarrant County and includes the only 24-hour, seven-day a week psychiatric emergency center in the area. The hospital's special services include intensive care for adults and newborns, a special AIDS treatment center, a skilled nursing unit, a full-range of obstetrical and gynecological services, inpatient care for patients of all ages and an inpatient mental health treatment facility.

JPSH is a major teaching hospital offering or providing through co-operative arrangements postdoctoral training in family medicine, orthopedics, obstetrics and gynecology, psychiatry, surgery, oral and maxillofacial surgery and podiatry.

In addition to JPSH, the JPS Health Network operates community-based health centers located in medically underserved areas of Tarrant County, a home health agency, school-based health centers, special outpatient programs for substance abusing pregnant women and a wide range of wellness education programs. A free medical information service, InfoNurse, is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week by licensed nurses.

Data Comments

This inpatient data was submitted to meet requirements of the State of Texas for reporting first quarter 2003 inpatient hospital discharge data.

The data used by the Texas Health Care Information Council (THCIC) is administrative and collected for billing purposes, and it should be noted that the data is a "snapshot" at the time of the file production and not of the final disposition of claim data to the payor. It is not clinical data and should be cautiously used to evaluate health care quality. Also, the use of only one quarter's data to infer statistical meaning can lead to misinterpretation.

Non-Standard Source of Payment

During the admission process, patients without current insurance coverage go through a general financial screening process, checking for Medicaid or other assistance. We also try to qualify those same patients for our "in-house charity program". Previously, self pay and "coverage-pending" patients were classified as charity. Those patients are now classified as self pay.

Comments, 1Q2003

Physician Master File

A patient may have several attending physicians throughout his/her course of stay due to the rotation of physicians to accommodate teaching responsibilities. This rotation may result in an under-representation of true attending physicians.

Length of Stay

Some of our patients require increased length of stay. Reasons for increased length of stay are:

- JPSH is a major trauma center, many patients have suffered multiple system trauma.
- JPSH operates a SNF (skilled nursing facility) unit.
- JPSH operates an inpatient psychiatric unit in which many patients are court-committed and length of stay is determined by the legal system.
- Many of our patients have limited financial resources making it impossible for them to secure intermediate care. This, in turn, often limits their discharge options and they remain at JPSH longer than would otherwise be the case.

We are certifying the State data file, with comments.

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PROVIDER: United Regional Health Care System-8th St Campus
THCIC ID: 417000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

*Comments not received by THCIC.

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PROVIDER: Arlington Memorial Hospital
THCIC ID: 422000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Data Content

This data is administrative data, which hospitals collect for billing purposes. Administrative data may not accurately represent the clinical details of an encounter.

The state requires hospitals to submit inpatient claims, by quarter year, gathered from a form called a UB92, in a standard government format called HCFA 1450 EDI electronic claim format. The state specifications require additional data elements to be included over and above that. Adding those additional data items places programming and other operational burdens on the hospital since it is "over and above" the data required in the actual hospital billing process. Errors can occur because of this process, but the public should not conclude that billing data sent to our payers is inaccurate. These errors have been corrected to the best of the hospital's knowledge.

If a medical record is unavailable for coding, the encounter is not billed and is not included in the data submission. This represents a rare event that is less than 1% of the encounter volume.

Diagnosis and Procedures

Patient diagnoses and procedures for a particular hospital stay are coded by the hospital using a universal standard called the International Classification of Disease, or ICD-9-CM. This is mandated by the federal government.

Comments, 1Q2003

One limitation of using the ICD-9-CM system is that there does not exist a code for every possible diagnosis and procedure due to the continued evolution of medicine; new codes are added yearly as coding manuals are updated.

The hospital complies with the guidelines for assigning these diagnosis codes. However, this is often driven by physician's subjective criteria for defining a diagnosis. For example, while one physician may diagnose a patient with anemia when the patient's blood hemoglobin level falls below 9.5, another physician may not diagnose the patient with anemia until their blood hemoglobin level is below 9.0. In both situations, a diagnosis of anemia is correctly assigned, but the criteria used by the physician to determine that diagnosis was different. An "apples to apples" comparison cannot be made, making it difficult to obtain an accurate comparison of hospital or physician performance.

The codes also do not distinguish between conditions present at the time of the patient's admission to the hospital and those occurring during hospitalization. For example, if a code indicating an infection is assigned, it is not always possible to determine if the patient had an infection prior to admission, or developed an infection during their hospitalization.

This makes it difficult to obtain accurate information regarding things such as complication rates. One patient was incorrectly coded with a diagnosis of accidental operative laceration. This coding error has since been corrected.

The data submitted matches the state's reporting requirements but may be incomplete due to a limitation on the number of diagnoses and procedures the state allows hospitals to include for each patient. In other words, the state's data file may not fully represent all diagnoses treated by the hospital or all procedures performed, which can alter the true picture of a patient's hospitalization, sometimes significantly.

The hospital can code an unlimited number of diagnoses and procedures for each patient record. But, the state has limited the number of diagnoses and procedures to the first nine diagnoses codes and the first six procedure codes. As a result, the data sent by the hospital do meet state requirements but cannot reflect all the codes an individual patient's record may have been assigned. This also means that true total volumes may not be represented in the state's data file, therefore making percentage calculations inaccurate (i.e. mortality percentages for any given diagnosis or procedure, percentage of patients in each severity of illness category).

Race/Ethnicity

During the hospital's registration process, many patients refuse to answer these questions and therefore, the registration clerks are forced to use their best judgment or answer unknown to these questions.

Any assumptions based on race or ethnicity will be inaccurate.

Standard/Non-Standard Source of Payment

The standard and non-standard source of payment codes are an example of data required by the state that is not contained within the standard UB92 billing record. In order to meet this requirement, each payer identification must be categorized into the appropriate standard and non-standard source of payment value. These values might not accurately reflect the hospital payer information, because those payers identified correctly in the hospital's computer system as both "HMO, and PPO" are categorized as "Commercial PPO" in the state file. Thus any true managed care comparisons by contract type (HMO vs. PPO) may result in inaccurate analysis.

Comments, 1Q2003

Revenue

The state requires that hospitals submit revenue information including charges. It is important to note that charges are not equal to actual payments received. Typically actual payments are much less than charges due to bad debts, charity adjustments, managed care-negotiated discounts, denial of payment by insurance companies and government programs which pay less than billed charges.

Charity Care

THCIC assumes charity patients are identified in advance and reports charges in a charity financial class as the amount of charity care provided in a given period. In actuality, charity patients are usually not identified until after care has been provided and in the hospital's computer system charity care is recorded as an adjustment to the patient account, not in a separate financial class. Therefore, the THCIC database shows no charity care provided by the hospital for the quarter when in fact the hospital provided \$2,770,638.36 in charity care during this time period.

Certification Process

Due to the infancy of the state reporting process and the state's computer system development, the certification process is not as complete and as thorough as all parties would like to see in the future. Within the constraints of the current THCIC process, the data is certified to the best of our knowledge as accurate.

PROVIDER: El Campo Memorial Hospital
THCIC ID: 426000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

For the first quarter of 2003 there were 273 claims submitted. Of these 273, no claims were denied with error codes. This computes to a 0% error rate which requires no corrections. With this in mind we are certifying our first quarter of 2003 data with the above comments.

PROVIDER: CHRISTUS Spohn Hospital Beeville
THCIC ID: 429001
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Certify within a 98.67% confidence level

PROVIDER: Presbyterian Hospital-Dallas
THCIC ID: 431000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Data Content

This data is administrative data, which hospitals collect for billing purposes. Administrative data may not accurately represent the clinical details of an encounter. The state requires us to submit inpatient claims, by quarter year, gathered from a form called an UB92, in

a standard government format called HCFA 1450 EDI electronic claim format. Then the state specifications require additional data elements to be included over and above that. Adding those additional data places programming burdens on the hospital since it is 'over and above' the actual hospital billing process. Errors can occur due to this additional programming, but the public should not conclude that billing data sent to our payers is inaccurate. These errors have been corrected to the best of our knowledge.

If a medical record is unavailable for coding the encounter is not billed and is not included in the data submission. This represents a rare event that is less than 1% of the encounter volume.

Diagnosis and Procedures

Patient diagnoses and procedures for a particular hospital stay are coded by the hospital using a universal standard called the International Classification of Disease, or ICD-9-CM. This is mandated by the federal government. The hospital complies with the guidelines for assigning these diagnosis codes, however, this is often driven by physician's subjective criteria for defining a diagnosis. For example, while one physician may diagnose a patient with anemia when the patient's blood hemoglobin level falls below 9.5, another physician may not diagnose the patient with anemia until their blood hemoglobin level is below 9.0. In both situations, a diagnosis of anemia is correctly assigned, but the criteria used by the physician to determine that diagnosis was different. An 'apples to apples' comparison cannot be made, which makes it difficult to obtain an accurate comparison of hospital or physician performance.

The codes also do not distinguish between conditions present at the time of the patient's admission to the hospital and those occurring during hospitalization. For example, if a code indicating an infection is made, it is not always possible to determine if the patient had an infection prior to admission, or developed an infection during their hospitalization. This makes it difficult to obtain accurate information regarding things such as complication rates.

The data submitted matches the state's reporting requirements but may be incomplete due to a limitation on the number of diagnoses and procedures the state allows us to include for each patient. In other words, the state's data file may not fully represent all diagnoses treated by the hospital or all procedures performed, which can alter the true picture of a patient's hospitalization, sometimes significantly.

The codes are assigned based on documentation in the patient's chart and are used by hospitals for billing purposes. The hospital can code up to 99 diagnoses and 99 procedures for each patient record.

The state is requiring us to submit ICD-9-CM data on each patient but has limited the number of diagnoses and procedures to the first nine diagnoses codes and the first six procedure codes. As a result, the data sent by us do meet state requirements but cannot reflect all the codes an individual patient's record may have been assigned. This means also that true total volumes may not be

represented by the state's data file, which therefore make percentage calculations inaccurate (i.e. mortality percentages for any given diagnosis or procedure, percentage of patients in each severity of illness category). It would be obvious, therefore, those sicker patients (more diagnoses and procedures) are less accurately reflected by the 1450 format. It then stands to reason that hospitals, which treat sicker patients, are likewise less accurately reflected.

Length of Stay

The length of stay data element contained in the state's certification file is only three characters long.

Thus any patients discharged with a length of stay greater than 999 days will not be accurately stored within the certification database. It is rare that patients stay longer than 999 days, therefore, it is not anticipated that this limitation will affect this data.

Admit Source data for Normal Newborn

When the Admit type is equal to 'newborn', the admit source should indicate whether the baby was a normal newborn, premature delivery, sick baby, extramural birth, or information not available. The best way to focus on severity of illness regarding an infant would be to check the infant's diagnosis at discharge, not the admitting source code. Many hospital information systems and registration process defaults to 'normal delivery' as the admission source. Therefore, admission source does not always give an accurate picture.

If admission source is used to examine length of stay or mortality for normal neonates using the admit source to identify the cases, the data will reflect premature and sick babies mixed in with the normal newborn data. Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas recommends use of ICD9 coding data to identify neonates.

This methodology will ensure correct identification of the clinical status of the newborn admission.

Race/Ethnicity

As of the December 7, 2001, the THCIC Board indicated that they would be creating guidelines for use by hospitals. These guidelines will provide better clarity for the accurate collection of this data. Hospitals do not routinely collect race and ethnicity as part of the admission process, that this has been added to meet the THCIC requirement. Our admissions staff indicates that many patients are very sensitive about providing race and ethnicity information. Therefore, depending on the circumstances of the patient's admission, race and ethnicity data may be subjectively collected. Therefore, the race and ethnicity data may not provide an accurate representation of the patient population for a facility.

Standard/Non-Standard Source of Payment

The standard and non-standard source of payment codes are an example of data required by the state that is not contained within the standard UB92 billing record. In order to meet this requirement, each payer identification must be categorized into the appropriate standard and non-standard source of payment value. These values might not accurately reflect the hospital payer information, because those payers identified contractually as both 'HMO, and PPO' are categorized as 'Commercial

PPO'. Thus any true managed care comparisons by contract type (HMO vs. PPO) may result in inaccurate analysis.

Cost/ Revenue Codes

The state requires that hospitals submit revenue information including charges. It is important to note that charges are not equal to actual payments received by the hospital or hospital cost for performing the service. Typically actual payments are much less than charges due to managed care-negotiated discounts and denial of payment by insurance companies. Charges also do not reflect the actual cost to deliver the care that each patient needs.

Discharge Disposition

We have identified a problem with our vendor (Seimens) extract that diverts some patient discharges to home as opposed to rehab. We will communicate this issue and the plan to address this issue in writing to the THCIC Executive Director.

PROVIDER: Brazosport Memorial Hospital
THCIC ID: 436000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Notes/Comments:

1. Brazosport Memorial Hospital's length of stay statistics include its physical rehaulitation and skilled nursing units, which appropriately have longer lengths of stay.
2. Some average charges may be skewed by one or two very high charge patients and the inclusion of physical rehabilitation and skilled nursing patients.
3. Number of expired patients may be somewhat increased over expected due to inclusion of skilled nursing unit statistics.

PROVIDER: Presbyterian Hospital-Winnsboro
THCIC ID: 446000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Data Content

This data is administrative data, which hospitals collect for billing purposes. Administrative data may not accurately represent the clinical details of an encounter. The state requires us to submit inpatient claims, by quarter year, gathered from a form called an UB92, in a standard government format called HCFA 1450 EDI electronic claim format. Then the state specifications require additional data elements to be included over and above that. Adding those additional data places programming burdens on the hospital since it is 'over and above' the actual hospital billing process. Errors can occur due to this additional programming, but the public should not conclude that billing data sent to our payers is inaccurate. These errors have been corrected to the best

of our knowledge.

If a medical record is unavailable for coding the encounter is not billed and is not included in the data submission. This represents a rare event that is less than 1% of the encounter volume.

Diagnosis and Procedures

Patient diagnoses and procedures for a particular hospital stay are coded by the hospital using a universal standard called the International Classification of Disease, or ICD-9-CM. This is mandated by the federal government. The hospital complies with the guidelines for assigning these diagnosis codes, however, this is often driven by physician's subjective criteria for defining a diagnosis. For example, while one physician may diagnose a patient with anemia when the patient's blood hemoglobin level falls below 9.5, another physician may not diagnose the patient with anemia until their blood hemoglobin level is below 9.0. In both situations, a diagnosis of anemia is correctly assigned, but the criteria used by the physician to determine that diagnosis was different. An 'apples to apples' comparison cannot be made, which makes it difficult to obtain an accurate comparison of hospital or physician performance.

The codes also do not distinguish between conditions present at the time of the patient's admission to the hospital and those occurring during hospitalization. For example, if a code indicating an infection is made, it is not always possible to determine if the patient had an infection prior to admission, or developed an infection during their hospitalization. This makes it difficult to obtain accurate information regarding things such as complication rates.

The data submitted matches the state's reporting requirements but may be incomplete due to a limitation on the number of diagnoses and procedures the state allows us to include for each patient. In other words, the state's data file may not fully represent all diagnoses treated by the hospital or all procedures performed, which can alter the true picture of a patient's hospitalization, sometimes significantly.

The codes are assigned based on documentation in the patient's chart and are used by hospitals for billing purposes. The hospital can code up to 99 diagnoses and 99 procedures for each patient record.

The state is requiring us to submit ICD-9-CM data on each patient but has limited the number of diagnoses and procedures to the first nine diagnoses codes and the first six procedure codes. As a result, the data sent by us do meet state requirements but cannot reflect all the codes an individual patient's record may have been assigned. This means also that true total volumes may not be represented by the state's data file, which therefore make percentage calculations inaccurate (i.e. mortality percentages for any given diagnosis or procedure, percentage of patients in each severity of illness category). It would be obvious, therefore, those sicker patients (more diagnoses and procedures)

are less accurately reflected by the 1450 format. It then stands to reason that hospitals, which treat sicker patients, are likewise less accurately reflected.

Length of Stay

Comments, 1Q2003

The length of stay data element contained in the state's certification file is only three characters long.

Thus any patients discharged with a length of stay greater than 999 days will not be accurately stored

within the certification database. It is rare that patients stay longer than 999 days, therefore, it is not

anticipated that this limitation will affect this data.

Admit Source data for Normal Newborn

When the Admit type is equal to 'newborn', the admit source should indicate whether the baby was a

normal newborn, premature delivery, sick baby, extramural birth, or information not available. The best

way to focus on severity of illness regarding an infant would be to check the infant's diagnosis at

discharge, not the admitting source code. Many hospital information systems and registration process

defaults to 'normal delivery' as the admission source. Therefore, admission source does not always give

an accurate picture.

If admission source is used to examine length of stay or mortality for normal neonates using the admit

source to identify the cases, the data will reflect premature and sick babies mixed in with the normal

newborn data. Presbyterian Hospital of Winnsboro recommends use of ICD9 coding data to identify

neonates. This methodology will ensure correct identification of the clinical status of the newborn

admission.

Race/Ethnicity

As of the December 7, 2001, the THCIC Board indicated that they would be creating guidelines for use by

hospitals. These guidelines will provide better clarity for the accurate collection of this data. Hospitals do

not routinely collect race and ethnicity as part of the admission process, that this has been added to meet

the THCIC requirement. Our admissions staff indicates that many patients are very sensitive about

providing race and ethnicity information. Therefore, depending on the circumstances of the patient's

admission, race and ethnicity data may be subjectively collected. Therefore, the race and ethnicity data

may not provide an accurate representation of the patient population for a facility.

Standard/Non-Standard Source of Payment

The standard and non-standard source of payment codes are an example of data required by the state

that is not contained within the standard UB92 billing record. In order to meet this requirement, each

payer identification must be categorized into the appropriate standard and non-standard source of

payment value. These values might not accurately reflect the hospital payer information,

because those payers identified contractually as both 'HMO, and PPO' are categorized as 'Commercial

PPO'. Thus any true managed care comparisons by contract type (HMO vs. PPO) may result in

inaccurate analysis.

Cost/ Revenue Codes

The state requires that hospitals submit revenue information including charges. It is important to note that

charges are not equal to actual payments received by the hospital or hospital cost for performing the

service. Typically actual payments are much less than charges due to managed

care-negotiated discounts and denial of payment by insurance companies. Charges also do not reflect the actual cost to deliver the care that each patient needs.

Discharge Disposition

We have identified a problem with our vendor (Seimens) extract that diverts some patient discharges to home as opposed to rehab. We will communicate this issue and the plan to address this issue in writing to the THCIC Executive Director.

PROVIDER: St Paul University Hospital
THCIC ID: 448000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Physician Identification

The THCIC minimum data set houses only two (2) physician fields; Attending Physician and Operating or Other Physician (if applicable) as reflected on the UB92 billing document. Mortality rates, case costs and other data calculated for this population of physicians may be misrepresentative. Due to the complexity of most inpatient admissions, many physicians provide care to patients throughout an admission. Consulting physicians may prescribe and treat patients on behalf of the physician listed as the Attending Physician. Analysis of this physician information should carefully consider that significant variations in case count, case cost, and mortality may not be directly related to the care provided by the attending physician, but also reflect the varied use of consultants.

Race/Ethnicity

There are no national standards regarding patient race categorization so hospitals may not have the same designations from which patients can choose. The state has recently attempted to standardize a valid set of race codes for this project but these are not universally used by all hospitals. Each hospital must independently map their specific codes to the state's race code categories. This mapping may not be consistent across hospitals. Thus epidemiology analysis of these two data fields does not accurately describe the true population served by the hospital.

Standard/Non-Standard Source of Payment

The payer codes utilized in the THCIC database were defined by the state and are not using standard payer information from the claim. The mapping process of specific payers to the THCIC payer codes was not standardized by THCIC; therefore, each hospital may map differently which can create variances in coding. These values might not accurately reflect the hospital payer information because those payers identified contractually as both "HMO and "PPO" are categorized as "Commercial HMO". Thus any true managed care comparisons by contract type (HMO vs. PPO) may result in inaccurate analysis. The majority of charity care cases are not identified until after discharge when other potential payment sources have been processed.

Cost / Revenue Codes

The state requires that hospitals submit revenue information including charges. It is important to note that charges are not equal to actual payments received by the hospital or hospital cost for performing the service. Typically actual payments are much less than charges due to managed care-negotiated discounts and denial of payment by insurance companies. Charges also do not reflect the actual cost to deliver the care that each patient needs.

Certification Process

Comments, 1Q2003

St. Paul University Hospital has policies and procedures in place to validate and assure the accuracy of the discharge encounter data submitted. We have provided physicians a reasonable opportunity to review the discharge data of patients for which they were the attending or treating physician. To the best of our knowledge the data submitted is accurate and complete.

PROVIDER: DeTar Hospital-Navarro
THCIC ID: 453000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

The DeTar Healthcare System includes two hospital campuses: the newly renovated DeTar Hospital Navarro located at Navarro and Rio Grande and DeTar Hospital North located at 101 Medical Drive, both in Victoria, Texas. In addition to the services provided by full service acute care hospitals, this system also includes: a Skilled Nursing Unit, two Urgent Care Centers, an Emergency Department, Rural Health Clinics in surrounding communities, DeTar Health & Wellness Center, DeTar Medworks Occupational Medicine Center, DeTar Outpatient Rehabilitation Center, DeTar Inpatient Rehabilitation Center, DeTar SeniorCare Center, The DeTar Chapter of the National Association of Senior Friends, DeTar Sleep Disorder Center, Lyster Reference Laboratory, Community Mother & Child Health Center, Day Surgery Centers at both DeTar Hospital Navarro and DeTar Hospital North and a free physician referral service by dialing 361-788-6113. To find out more, check out DeTar's website at www.detar.com.

PROVIDER: Covenant Medical Center
THCIC ID: 465000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Data does not accurately reflect the hospital's newborn population.
Total Births = 661
Live = 532
Premature = 129

Data does not accurately reflect the number of charity cases for the time period.
This is due to internal processing for determination of the source of payment.
4% of total discharges were charity for 1st Quarter 2003.

PROVIDER: Harris Methodist-Northwest
THCIC ID: 469000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Data Content
This data is administrative data, which hospitals collect for billing purposes. Administrative data may not accurately represent the clinical details of an encounter.

The state requires us to submit inpatient claims, by quarter year, gathered from a form called an UB92, in a standard government format called HCFA 1450 EDI electronic claim format. Then the state specifications require additional data elements to be included over and above that. Adding those additional data places programming burdens on the hospital since it is

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"over and above" the actual hospital billing process. Errors can occur due to this additional programming, but the public should not conclude that billing data sent to our payers is inaccurate. These errors have been corrected to the best of our knowledge.

If a medical record is unavailable for coding the encounter is not billed and is not included in the data submission. This represents a rare event that is less than 1% of the encounter volume.

Diagnosis and Procedures

Patient diagnoses and procedures for a particular hospital stay are coded by the hospital using a universal standard called the International Classification of Disease, or ICD-9-CM. This is mandated by the federal government.

The hospital complies with the guidelines for assigning these diagnosis codes, however, this is often driven by physician's subjective criteria for defining a diagnosis. For example, while one physician may diagnose a patient with anemia when the patient's blood hemoglobin level falls below 9.5, another physician may not diagnose the patient with anemia until their blood hemoglobin level is below 9.0. In both situations, a diagnosis of anemia is correctly assigned, but the criteria used by the physician to determine that diagnosis was different. An "apples to apples" comparison cannot be made which makes it difficult to obtain an accurate comparison of hospital or physician performance.

The codes also do not distinguish between conditions present at the time of the patient's admission to the hospital and those occurring during hospitalization. For example, if a code indicating an infection is made, it is not always possible to determine if the patient had an infection prior to admission, or developed an infection during their hospitalization. This makes it difficult to obtain accurate information regarding things such as complication rates.

Patient diagnoses and procedures for a particular hospital stay are coded by the hospital using a universal standard called the International Classification of Disease, or ICD-9-CM. This is mandated by the federal government and all hospitals must comply.

The state is requiring us to submit ICD-9-CM data on each patient but has limited the number of diagnoses and procedures to the first nine diagnoses codes and the first six procedure codes. As a result, the data sent by us do meet state requirements but cannot reflect all the codes an individual patient's record may have been assigned. This means also that true total volumes may not be represented by the state's data file, which therefore make percentage calculations inaccurate (i.e. mortality percentages for any given diagnosis or procedure, percentage of patients in each severity of illness category). It would be obvious, therefore, those sicker patients (more diagnoses and procedures) are less accurately reflected by the 1450 format. It then stands to reason that hospitals, which treat sicker patients, are likewise less accurately reflected.

Length of Stay

The length of stay data element contained in the state's certification file is only three characters long. Thus any patients discharged with a length of stay greater than 999 days will not be accurately stored within the certification database. It is rare that patients stay longer than 999 days, therefore, it is not anticipated that this limitation will affect this data.

Race/Ethnicity

During the hospital's registration process, the registration clerk does not routinely inquire as to a patient's race and/or ethnicity. The race and ethnicity data elements are subjectively captured. There are no national

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standards regarding patient race categorization, and thus each hospital may designate a patient's race differently. The state has recently attempted to standardize a valid set of race codes for this project but these are not universally used by all hospitals. Each hospital must independently map their specific codes to the state's race code categories. This mapping may not be consistent across hospitals. Thus epidemiology analysis of these two data fields does not accurately describe the true population served by the hospital.

Standard/Non-Standard Source of Payment

The standard and non-standard source of payment codes are an example of data required by the state that is not contained within the standard UB92 billing record. In order to meet this requirement, each payer identification must be categorized into the appropriate standard and non-standard source of payment value. These values might not accurately reflect the hospital payer information, because those payers identified contractually as both "HMO, and PPO" are categorized as "Commercial PPO". Thus any true managed care comparisons by contract type (HMO vs. PPO) may result in inaccurate analysis.

Cost/ Revenue Codes

The state requires that hospitals submit revenue information including charges. It is important to note that charges are not equal to actual payments received by the hospital or hospital cost for performing the service. Typically actual payments are much less than charges due to managed care-negotiated discounts and denial of payment by insurance companies. Charges also do not reflect the actual cost to deliver the care that each patient needs.

Certification Process

Due to the infancy of the state reporting process and the state's computer system development, the certification process is not as complete and as thorough as all parties would like to see in the future. Within the constraints of the current THCIC process the data is certified to the best of our knowledge as accurate.

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PROVIDER: Parkland Memorial Hospital
THCIC ID: 474000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Parkland Health & Hospital System comprises a network of neighborhood-based health centers and Parkland Memorial Hospital, which was established in 1894 to care for the city's poor. Today, the hospital is often ranked among the 25 best hospitals in the United States - public or private. Due to Parkland's affiliation with the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, the finest in medical care is now available to all Dallas County residents.

The Parkland System is a \$800 million enterprise that is licensed for 990 beds and employs approximately 8,224 staff. Its Trauma Center is internationally renowned for excellence and many other medical services are equally state of the art including: burn treatment, epilepsy, kidney/pancreas transplants, cardiovascular services, diabetes treatment, gastroenterology, radiology, neonatal intensive care, and high-risk pregnancy.

The hospital delivers more babies than any other hospital in the US - 15,354 babies during the 12 month period ending March 2003. The hospital's Burn Center was established in 1962, and since then has treated more burn patients than any other civilian burn center in the world. In 1964, the

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hospital performed the first kidney transplant in Texas. Since then, its transplant success among African-Americans is the nation's best.

Parkland's network of neighborhood-based health centers is based in low-income areas to ensure the poor have access to preventive health care. The network, called "Community Oriented Primary Care," was established in 1989; there are now 9 neighborhood health centers. In addition to the health care professionals who staff the clinics, many of the locations also have social service agencies located under the same roof - providing a one-stop-shopping approach to health services.

Parkland's innovative approach to providing community responsive health care in Dallas County has resulted in many service honors including: the Foster G. McGraw Award for Excellence in Community Service, the John P. McGovern Humanitarian Medicine Award, and a Public Service Excellence Award from the Public Employees Roundtable.

Specific Concerns

There is a concern at Parkland, as with other reporting hospitals, that no ethnicity category for Hispanics exists. A significant number of Parkland's patients are Hispanic, yet according to the data set they are classified as either white-Hispanic or Black-Hispanic. The reporting data set needs to provide a category for this ethnicity to accurately reflect the hospital's demographics.

Another concern is the convention by which patients are assigned to primary physicians. In this database only one primary physician is allowed and in our institution this represents the physician at the time of discharge. In the reality of an academic medical center such as Parkland, teams of physicians rotating at varying intervals care for patients. Therefore, many patients, particularly long-term patients such as those in the neonatal nursery, are actually managed by as many as three to four different teams. Thus, the practice of attributing patient outcomes to the report card of a single physician results in misleading information.

PROVIDER: Nacogdoches Memorial Hospital
THCIC ID: 478000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Data is generally acceptable.

PROVIDER: Knapp Medical Center
THCIC ID: 480000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

DISCLAIMER STATEMENT

Knapp Medical Center has compiled the information set forth above in compliance with the procedures for THCIC certification process. All information that is being submitted has been obtained from Knapp Medical Center's records. The information being provided by Knapp Medical Center is believed to be true and accurate at the time of this submission. The information being submitted has been taken from other records kept by Knapp Medical Center and the codes typically used in those records do not conform to the codes required in THCIC certification process. Knapp Medical Center has used its best efforts and submits this information in good faith compliance with THCIC certification process. Any variances or discrepancies in the information provided is the result of Knapp Medical Center's good faith effort to

conform the information regularly compiled with the information sought by THCIC.

CHARITY COMMENT

Knapp Medical Center has a long tradition of providing charity care for the population it serves. Prior to designation as charity, program qualification attempts are exhausted. This results in designation of charity being made after the patient is discharged, sometimes many months. Patient specific charity amounts are not available, therefore, at the time of submission of data to THCIC. Due to the impracticality at this time of identifying specific patients designated as charity and submitting corrections, the aggregate amount of charity provided during the First Quarter 2003 was \$1,188,655.84 for 49 patients.

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PROVIDER: Woodland Heights Medical Center
THCIC ID: 481000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

DRG 089 with 61 discharges.
DRG 089 Woodland Heights with 64 discharges

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PROVIDER: Daughters of Charity Seton Medical Center
THCIC ID: 497000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Seton Medical Center has a transplant program and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Hospitals with transplant programs generally serve a more seriously ill patient, increasing costs, and mortality rates. Neonatal Intensive Care Units serve very seriously ill infants substantially increasing costs, lengths of stay and mortality rates. As a regional referral center and tertiary care hospital for cardiac and critical care services, Seton Medical Center receives numerous transfers from hospitals not able to serve a more complex mix of patients. The increased patient complexity may lead to longer lengths of stay, higher costs and increased mortality.

All physician license numbers and names have been validated with the Physician and the Texas State Board of Medical Examiner website as accurate but some remain unidentified in the THCIC Practitioner Reference Files.

These data are submitted by the hospital as their best effort to meet statutory requirements.=====

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PROVIDER: Daughters of Charity Seton Southwest
THCIC ID: 497001
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

All physician license numbers and names have been validated with the Physician and the Texas State Board of Medical Examiner website as accurate but some remain unidentified in the THCIC Practitioner Reference Files.

These data are submitted by the hospital as their best effort to meet statutory requirements.=====

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PROVIDER: Daughters of Charity Seton Northwest
THCIC ID: 497002
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

All physician license numbers and names have been validated with the physician and the Texas State Board of Medical Examiner web-site as accurate but some remain unidentified in the THCIC Practitioner Reference Files.

These data are submitted by the hospital as their best effort to meet statutory requirements.=====

PROVIDER: Conroe Regional Medical Center
THCIC ID: 508001
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

This data is administrative/claim data, not clinical research data. There may be inherent limitations to using it to compare outcomes.

The public data will only contain a subset of the diagnosis and procedure codes related to each patient.

The relationship between cost of care, charges, and the revenue that a facility receives is extremely complex. Inferences to comparing costs of care from one hospital to the next may result in unreliable results.

Race/Ethnicity classification is not done systematically within or between facilities. Caution should be used when analyzing this data within one facility and between facilities.

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PROVIDER: Baylor Medical Center-Grapevine
THCIC ID: 513000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Submission Timing

Baylor estimates that our data volumes for the calendar year time period submitted may include 96% to 100% of all cases for that time period. The state requires us to submit a snapshot of billed claims, extracted from our database approximately 20 days following the close of the calendar year quarter. Any discharged patient encounters not billed by this cut-off date will not be included in the quarterly submission file sent in.

Physician Identification

All physician license numbers and names have been validated as accurate against a physician reference file that is derived from information provided by the Texas Board of Medical Examiners. Those physicians not yet assigned a state license number at the time of data submission are given temporary numbers by the hospital for state reporting purposes. Due to the "lag" time between when the physician is licensed and when THCIC receives the information, some physicians may remain unidentified in the THCIC Practitioner Reference Files.

The THCIC minimum data set houses only two (2) physician fields; Attending Physician and Operating or Other Physician (if applicable) as reflected

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on the UB92 billing document. Mortality rates, case costs and other data calculated for this population of physicians may be misrepresentative.

Due to the complexity of most inpatient admissions many physicians provide care to patients throughout an admission. Consulting physicians may prescribe and treat patients on behalf of the physician listed as the attending physician. Analysis of this physician information should carefully consider that significant variations in case count, case cost, and mortality may not be directly related to the care provided by the attending physician, but also reflect the varied use of consultants.

while hospitals document many treating physicians (surgeons and consultants) for each case, THIC maintains only one (1) additional physician per case besides the Attending. "Other" physician case volumes, mortality, case costs and LOS, will frequently be inaccurate because of this limitation.

Surgeons and consulting physicians beyond one that may have been involved on a case will not be credited with providing care for that patient. Analysis of "other physician" information should, therefore, take into consideration that a significant portion of treating physicians are excluded from the patient cases.

Diagnosis and Procedures

The data submitted matches the state's reporting requirements but may be incomplete due to a limitation on the number of diagnoses and procedures the state allows us to include for each patient. In other words, the state's data file may not fully represent all diagnoses treated by the hospital or all procedures performed, which can alter the true picture of a patient's hospitalization, sometimes significantly.

Patient diagnoses and procedures for a particular hospital stay are coded by the hospital using a universal standard called the International Classification of Disease, or ICD-9-CM. This is mandated by the federal government and all hospitals must comply.

The codes are assigned based on documentation in the patient's chart and are used by hospitals for billing purposes. The hospital can code as many as 25 diagnoses and 25 procedures for each patient record. One limitation of using the ICD-9-CM system is that there does not exist a code for every possible diagnosis and procedure due to the continued evolution of medicine; new codes are added yearly as coding manuals are updated.

Race/Ethnicity

There are no national standards regarding patient race categorization so hospitals may not have the same designations from which patients can choose. The state has recently attempted to standardize a valid set of race codes for this project but these are not universally used by all hospitals. Each hospital must independently map their specific codes to the state's race code categories. This mapping may not be consistent across hospitals. Thus epidemiology analysis of these two data fields does not accurately describe the true population served by the hospital.

Standard/Non-Standard Source of Payment

The standard and non-standard source of payment codes are an example of data required by the state that is not contained within the standard UB92 billing record. In order to meet this requirement each payer identification must be categorized into the appropriate standard and non-standard source of payment value. It should also be noted that the primary payer associated to the patient's encounter record may change over time.

Additionally, those payers identified contractually as both "HMO and PPO" are categorized as "Commercial PPO". Thus any true managed care comparisons by contract type (HMO vs. PPO) may result in inaccurate analysis.

Cost/ Revenue Codes

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The state requires that hospitals submit revenue information including charges. It is important to note that charges are not equal to actual payments received by the hospital or hospital cost for performing the service. Typically actual payments are much less than charges due to managed care-negotiated discounts and denial of payment by insurance companies. Charges also do not reflect the actual cost to deliver the care that each patient needs.

Certification Process

Due to the infancy of the state reporting process and the state's computer system development, the certification process is not as complete and thorough at this time, as all parties would like to see in the future. Given the current certification software, there is not an efficient mechanism to edit and correct the data. In addition, due to hospital volumes, it is not feasible to perform encounter level audits and edits. Within the constraints of the current THCIC process, the data is certified to the best of our knowledge as accurate and complete given the above comments.

PROVIDER: Fort Duncan Medical Center
THCIC ID: 547001
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Standard Source of Payment data is incorrect
Commercial dischs indicates 203 but should be 56
Self-pay dischs indicates 0, but should be 139
Medicare dischs indicates 511, but should be 519

There are a total of 42 discharges which were not transmitted with the 2qt03 data.

PROVIDER: Baylor/Richardson Medical Center
THCIC ID: 549000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

RICHARDSON REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
TEXAS HEALTH CARE INFORMATION COUNCIL STATE DATE REPORTING COMMENTS
Quarter 1, 2003
THCIC ID 549000 - RPMC

Diagnosis and Procedures

The UB92 claims data format which the state is requiring hospitals to submit, only accepts the first 9 diagnosis codes and the first 6 procedure codes. As a result, the data from the UB92 will not reflect every code from an individual patient record that was assigned. Thus the state's data file may not fully represent all diagnoses treated, or all procedures performed, by the hospital. Therefore total volumes and severity of illness indicators represented by the state required UB92 data file, may not be accurate, making percentage calculations inaccurate.

Race/Ethnicity

Although race/ethnicity is an admission field, the hospital does sometimes encounter difficulties in obtaining race/ethnicity information. These difficulties are due to a variety of reasons, including information not supplied by the patient. Thus analysis of these two data fields may not accurately describe the true population served by the hospital. The hospital does not discriminate based on race, color, ethnicity, gender or national origin.

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Cost/ Revenue Codes

The state data files will include charge information. It is important to understand that charges do not equal payments received by the hospital. Payments due to managed care-negotiated discounts and denial of payment by insurance companies, will always be much less than charges. Also, charges do not reflect the actual cost for care that each patient receives.

Quality and Validity of the process

Processes are in place to verify the integrity and validity of the claims data. For this reason, steps are taken to ensure that the information sent to the state mirrors what is contained within the hospitals source system. On rare occasions, if a case was not billed prior to data submission, that patient will not be included in the current submission, nor will it be included in any future data submissions. An example of why this would occur, is the patient is discharged on the last day of the calendar quarter, and not allowing adequate time to issue a bill or the case was extremely complex requiring extra time for coding.

PROVIDER: Palacios Community Medical Center
THCIC ID: 574001
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

*Comments not received by THCIC.

PROVIDER: Baylor Specialty Hospital
THCIC ID: 586000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Submission Timing

Baylor Specialty Hospital (BSH) estimates that our data volumes for the calendar year time period submitted may include 85% to 100% of all cases for that time period. The state requires us to submit a snapshot of billed claims, extracted from our database approximately 20 days following the close of the calendar year quarter. Any discharged patient encounters not billed by this cut-off date will not be included in the quarterly submission file sent in.

Physician Identification

All physician license numbers and names have been validated as accurate against a physician reference file that is derived from information provided by the Texas Board of Medical Examiners. Those physicians not yet assigned a state license number at the time of data submission are given temporary numbers by the hospital for state reporting purposes. Due to the "lag" time between when the physician is licensed and when THCIC receives the information, some physicians may remain unidentified in the THCIC Practitioner Reference Files.

The THCIC minimum data set houses only two (2) physician fields; Attending Physician and Operating or Other Physician (if applicable) as reflected on the UB92 billing document. Mortality rates, case costs and other data calculated for this population of physicians may be misrepresentative.

Due to the complexity of most inpatient admissions many physicians provide care to patients throughout an admission. Consulting physicians may prescribe and treat patients on behalf of the physician listed as the attending physician. Analysis of this physician information should carefully consider that significant variations in case count, case cost, and mortality may

not be directly related to the care provided by the attending physician, but also reflect the varied use of consultants.

while hospitals document many treating physicians (surgeons and consultants) for each case, THIC maintains only one (1) additional physician per case besides the Attending. "Other" physician case volumes, mortality, case costs and LOS, will frequently be inaccurate because of this limitation.

Surgeons and consulting physicians beyond one that may have been involved on a case will not be credited with providing care for that patient. Analysis of "other physician" information should, therefore, take into consideration that a significant portion of treating physicians are excluded from the patient cases.

Diagnosis and Procedures

BSH is different from most hospitals submitting data to the state. We provide complex medical services to patients who have experienced a catastrophic illness and/or complex body system failure that requires coordinated, intensive treatment and care. Many of the patients have received emergency care and stabilizing treatment at another acute care hospital. They are admitted to BSH to continue their recovery and focus on improving their medical condition and/or functional ability in order to improve their quality of life to the fullest extent possible.

The data submitted matches the state's reporting requirements but may be incomplete due to a limitation on the number of diagnoses and procedures the state allows us to include for each patient. In other words, the state's data file may not fully represent all diagnoses treated by the hospital or all procedures performed, which can alter the true picture of a patient's hospitalization, sometimes significantly.

Patient diagnoses and procedures for a particular hospital stay are coded by the hospital using a universal standard called the International Classification of Disease, or ICD-9-CM. This is mandated by the federal government and all hospitals must comply.

The codes are assigned based on documentation in the patient's chart and are used by hospitals for billing purposes. The hospital can code as many as 25 diagnoses and 25 procedures for each patient record. One limitation of using the ICD-9-CM system is that there does not exist a code for every possible diagnosis and procedure due to the continued evolution of medicine; new codes are added yearly as coding manuals are updated.

Patient diagnoses and procedures for a particular hospital stay at BSH are assigned ICD-9-CM codes according to standard coding practices. Because of our unique patient population, however, comparisons against all other hospitals in the database would not be accurate. It is unclear whether coding practice across all long term acute care hospitals is consistent, so caution should be used when making comparisons and/or drawing conclusions from the data.

Length of Stay

Medical recovery at BSH can be a long, arduous process depending on the severity of illness or injury. Due to the unique nature of medically complex patients, length of stay data cannot accurately be compared with data from hospitals that primarily treat an acute or emergent episode of illness or injury.

Race/Ethnicity

There are no national standards regarding patient race categorization so hospitals may not have the same designations from which patients can choose. The state has recently attempted to standardize a valid set of race codes for this project but these are not universally used by all hospitals. Each hospital must independently map their specific codes

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to the state's race code categories. This mapping may not be consistent across hospitals. Thus epidemiology analysis of these two data fields does not accurately describe the true population served by the hospital.

"Asian or Pacific Islander" encounters are not broken out separately but are included in the "Other" race category.

Standard/Non-Standard Source of Payment

The standard and non-standard source of payment codes are an example of data required by the state that is not contained within the standard UB92 billing record. In order to meet this requirement each payer identification must be categorized into the appropriate standard and non-standard source of payment value. It should also be noted that the primary payer associated to the patient's encounter record might change over time. With this in mind, approximately 2% of the primary payers originally categorized as "Blue Cross" were recategorized as "Commercial". Approximately 2% of the secondary payers originally categorized as "Blue Cross" were recategorized as "Medicare", 4% categorized as "Blue Cross" were recategorized as "Commercial" and 2% categorized as "Blue Cross" were recategorized as "Champus."

Additionally, those payers identified contractually as both "HMO and PPO" are categorized as "Commercial PPO". Thus any true managed care comparisons by contract type (HMO vs. PPO) may result in inaccurate analysis.

Cost/ Revenue Codes

The state requires that hospitals submit revenue information including charges. It is important to note that charges are not equal to actual payments received by the hospital or hospital cost for performing the service. Typically actual payments are much less than charges due to managed care-negotiated discounts and denial of payment by insurance companies. Charges also do not reflect the actual cost to deliver the care that each patient needs.

Certification Process

Due to the infancy of the state reporting process and the state's computer system development, the certification process is not as complete and thorough at this time, as all parties would like to see in the future. Given the current certification software, there is not an efficient mechanism to edit and correct the data. In addition, due to hospital volumes, it is not feasible to perform encounter level audits and edits. Within the constraints of the current THCIC process, the data is certified to the best of our knowledge as accurate and complete given the above comments.

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PROVIDER: Baylor Specialty Hospital
THCIC ID: 586001
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Submission Timing

Baylor Specialty Hospital-Garland (BSH) estimates that our data volumes for the calendar year time period submitted may include 89% to 100% of all cases for that time period. The state requires us to submit a snapshot of billed claims, extracted from our database approximately 20 days following the close of the calendar year quarter. Any discharged patient encounters not billed by this cut-off date will not be included in the quarterly submission file sent in.

Physician Identification

All physician license numbers and names have been validated as accurate against a physician reference file that is derived from information provided by the Texas Board of Medical Examiners. Those physicians not yet assigned a state license number at the time of data submission are given temporary

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numbers by the hospital for state reporting purposes. Due to the "lag" time between when the physician is licensed and when THCIC receives the information, some physicians may remain unidentified in the THCIC Practitioner Reference Files.

The THCIC minimum data set houses only two (2) physician fields; Attending Physician and Operating or Other Physician (if applicable) as reflected on the UB92 billing document. Mortality rates, case costs and other data calculated for this population of physicians may be misrepresentative.

Due to the complexity of most inpatient admissions many physicians provide care to patients throughout an admission. Consulting physicians may prescribe and treat patients on behalf of the physician listed as the attending physician. Analysis of this physician information should carefully consider that significant variations in case count, case cost, and mortality may not be directly related to the care provided by the attending physician, but also reflect the varied use of consultants.

while hospitals document many treating physicians (surgeons and consultants) for each case, THCIC maintains only one (1) additional physician per case besides the Attending. "Other" physician case volumes, mortality, case costs and LOS, will frequently be inaccurate because of this limitation.

Surgeons and consulting physicians beyond one that may have been involved on a case will not be credited with providing care for that patient. Analysis of "other physician" information should, therefore, take into consideration that a significant portion of treating physicians are excluded from the patient cases.

Diagnosis and Procedures

BSH is different from most hospitals submitting data to the state. We provide complex medical services to patients who have experienced a catastrophic illness and/or complex body system failure that requires coordinated, intensive treatment and care. Many of the patients have received emergency care and stabilizing treatment at another acute care hospital. They are admitted to BSH to continue their recovery and focus on improving their medical condition and/or functional ability in order to improve their quality of life to the fullest extent possible.

The data submitted matches the state's reporting requirements but may be incomplete due to a limitation on the number of diagnoses and procedures the state allows us to include for each patient. In other words, the state's data file may not fully represent all diagnoses treated by the hospital or all procedures performed, which can alter the true picture of a patient's hospitalization, sometimes significantly.

Patient diagnoses and procedures for a particular hospital stay are coded by the hospital using a universal standard called the International Classification of Disease, or ICD-9-CM. This is mandated by the federal government and all hospitals must comply.

The codes are assigned based on documentation in the patient's chart and are used by hospitals for billing purposes. The hospital can code as many as 25 diagnoses and 25 procedures for each patient record. One limitation of using the ICD-9-CM system is that there does not exist a code for every possible diagnosis and procedure due to the continued evolution of medicine; new codes are added yearly as coding manuals are updated.

Patient diagnoses and procedures for a particular hospital stay at BSH are assigned ICD-9-CM codes according to standard coding practices. Because of our unique patient population, however, comparisons against all other hospitals in the database would not be accurate. It is unclear whether coding practice across all long term acute care hospitals is consistent, so caution should be used when making comparisons and/or drawing conclusions from the data.

Length of Stay

Medical recovery at BSH can be a long, arduous process depending on the severity of illness or injury. Due to the unique nature of medically complex patients, length of stay data cannot accurately be compared with data from hospitals that primarily treat an acute or emergent episode of illness or injury.

Race/Ethnicity

There are no national standards regarding patient race categorization so hospitals may not have the same designations from which patients can choose. The state has recently attempted to standardize a valid set of race codes for this project but these are not universally used by all hospitals. Each hospital must independently map their specific codes to the state's race code categories. This mapping may not be consistent across hospitals. Thus epidemiology analysis of these two data fields does not accurately describe the true population served by the hospital. "Asian or Pacific Islander" encounters are not broken out separately but are included in the "Other" race category.

Standard/Non-Standard Source of Payment

The standard and non-standard source of payment codes are an example of data required by the state that is not contained within the standard UB92 billing record. In order to meet this requirement each payer identification must be categorized into the appropriate standard and non-standard source of payment value. It should also be noted that the primary payer associated to the patient's encounter record might change over time. With this in mind, approximately 3% of the primary payers originally categorized as "Blue Cross" were recategorized as "Commercial", 2% categorized as "Blue Cross" were recategorized as "Medicare", and 5% categorized as "Blue Cross" were recategorized as "Self-Pay.". Also approximately 8% of the secondary payers originally categorized as "Blue Cross" were recategorized as "Commercial."

Additionally, those payers identified contractually as both "HMO and PPO" are categorized as "Commercial PPO". Thus any true managed care comparisons by contract type (HMO vs. PPO) may result in inaccurate analysis.

Cost/ Revenue Codes

The state requires that hospitals submit revenue information including charges. It is important to note that charges are not equal to actual payments received by the hospital or hospital cost for performing the service. Typically actual payments are much less than charges due to managed care-negotiated discounts and denial of payment by insurance companies. Charges also do not reflect the actual cost to deliver the care that each patient needs.

Certification Process

Due to the infancy of the state reporting process and the state's computer system development, the certification process is not as complete and thorough at this time, as all parties would like to see in the future. Given the current certification software, there is not an efficient mechanism to edit and correct the data. In addition, due to hospital volumes, it is not feasible to perform encounter level audits and edits. Within the constraints of the current THCIC process, the data is certified to the best of our knowledge as accurate and complete given the above comments.

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PROVIDER: CHRISTUS St John Hospital
THCIC ID: 600001
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Comments, 1Q2003

St. John Hospital certified the data, but could account for 17 patients whose account were processed after the date of the original data submission.

During this interval, St. John Hospital provided charity care for 52 patients with total charges (-\$640,378.73) dollars. The system did not identify these patient as recipients of charity care.

St. John data didn't correspond to the newborn admission, according to our data we had 22 premature infants, 20 sick infants and 255 normal newborns.

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PROVIDER: South Austin Hospital
THCIC ID: 602000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

THCIC DATA RELEASE COMMENTS

Data Comments:

- . Inpatient discharge data has been collected from information that is used for billing purposes and, is not clinical data. Due to the differences in health care organizations and data collecting practices throughout Texas, there can be limitations with comparing outcomes.
- . The public data file does not contain all the diagnosis and procedure codes. It contains only 9 diagnosis codes and 6 procedure codes. This may affect the volume of procedures, the severity adjustment and the mortality rate.
- . The data reflects only those patients admitted to a hospital during the year 2000 (18-30 months ago) and is not trended over time. Data over time is needed for a more accurate and current picture of the health care facilities' performance. In addition, many medical treatments, surgical procedures, and even the physicians have changed since the data was collected.
- . THCIC has excluded data when five or fewer patients had a procedure and did not perform statistical analysis when there were fewer than 30 patients.
- . Race / Ethnicity classification is not done the same at all facilities. Caution should be used when comparing this data between facilities.

General Comments:

1. South Austin Hospital supports the effort of the THCIC to provide publically released hospital data. We have been tracking similar data and developing improvements through our ongoing quality improvement efforts for years.
2. Although the risk-adjusting software helps in making the data more comparable among facilities, it too is an approximation that may not truly represent the mix of patients. This is particularly true for mortalities in patients admitted for end of life care. End of life care has a very high expected mortality and this is not accounted for in the methodology.
3. Since medical mortalities are relatively infrequent events and occur at irregular intervals, the data can and does vary considerably over time. We have noticed considerable variation in mortality rates, in all of our facilities over the past years, depending upon the time period that the data was measured.

Comments, 1Q2003

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PROVIDER: Triad Denton Community Hospital
THCIC ID: 624001
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Conclusions drawn from the data are subject to errors caused by the inability of the hospital to communicate complete data due to reporting form constraints, subjectivity in the assignment of codes, system mapping, and normal clerical error. The data are submitted by hospitals as their best effort to meet statutory requirements.

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PROVIDER: Harris Methodist Southwest
THCIC ID: 627000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

This data is administrative data, which hospitals collect for billing purposes, and not clinical data, from which you can make judgements about patient care.

The State requires us to submit inpatient claims, by quarter/year, gathered from a form called a UB92, in a standard government format called HCFA 1450 EDI electronic claim format. The state specifications require additional data elements to be included over and above that. Adding those additional data places programming burdens on the hospital since it is "over and above" the actual hospital billing process. Errors can occur due to this additional programming but the public should not conclude that billing data sent to your payers is inaccurate; this was a unique, untried use of this data as far as the hospitals are concerned.

Several issues might affect the accuracy of any data gathered in this manner:

1. The State requires us to submit a "snapshot" of billed claims, extracted from our database approximately 20 days following the close of the quarter. Any discharged patient encounters not billed by this cut-off date will not be included in the quarterly submission file sent in.

2. The data submitted matches the State's reporting requirements but may be incomplete due to a limitation on the number of diagnoses and procedures the State allows us to include for each patient. In other words, the State's data file may not fully represent all diagnoses treated by the hospital or all procedures performed, which can alter the true picture of a patient's hospitalization, sometimes significantly. Approximately 20% of HMSW patient population have more than nine diagnoses and/or six procedures assigned.

The State is requiring us to submit ICD9 data on each patient but has limited the number of diagnoses and procedures to the first nine diagnoses and the first six procedure codes. As a result, the data sent by us do meet state requirements but cannot reflect all the codes an individual patient's record may have been assigned. This means also that true total volumes may not be represented by the State's data file, which therefore make percentage calculations inaccurate (i.e. mortality percentages for any given diagnosis or procedure, percentage of patients in each severity of illness category). It would be obvious, therefore, those sicker patients (more diagnoses and procedures) are less accurately reflected by the 1450 format. It then stands to reason that hospitals, which treat sicker patients, are likewise less accurately reflected.

3. The length of stay data element contained in the State's certification file is

Comments, 1Q2003

only three characters long. Thus any patients discharged with a length of stay greater than 999 days will not be accurately stored within the certification database. It is rare that patients stay longer than 999 days, therefore, it is not anticipated that this limitation will affect this data.

4. The best way to focus on severity of illness regarding an infant would be to check the infant's diagnosis at discharge, not the admitting source code. HMSW's normal hospital registration process defaults to "normal delivery" as the admission source. Other options are premature delivery, sick baby, extramural birth, or information not available. The actual experience of a newborn is captured elsewhere in the file, namely, in the ICD9 diagnoses. Admission source does not give an accurate picture.

5. Our Admissions staff indicates that many patients are very sensitive about providing race and ethnicity information. Therefore, depending on the circumstances of the patient's admission, race and ethnicity data may be subjectively collected. This issue has both federal and state law implications, as well as ethical and clinical ramifications. HMSW is pursuing better methods for collecting this data.

6. The standard and non-standard sources of payment codes are an example of data required by the state that is not contained within the standard UB92 billing record. In order to meet this requirement each payer identification must be categorized into the appropriate standard and non-standard source of payment value. These values might not accurately reflect the hospital payer information, because those payers identified contractually as both "HMO and PPO" are categorized as "Commercial PPO". Thus any true managed care comparisons by contract type (HMO vs. PPO) may result in inaccurate analysis. Once again, due to continued "mapping" problems, HMSW appears to have no Charity patients which is incorrect.

7. The State requires that hospitals submit revenue information including charges. It is important to note that charges are not equal to actual payments received by the hospital or hospital cost for performing the service. Typically actual payments are much less than charges due to managed care-negotiated discounts and denial of payment by insurance companies. Charges also do not reflect the actual cost to deliver the care that each patient needs.

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PROVIDER: Baylor All Saints Medical Center-Cityview
THCIC ID: 628000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Submission Timing

Baylor estimates that our data volumes for the calendar year time period submitted may include 96% to 100% of all cases for that time period. The state requires us to submit a snapshot of billed claims, extracted from our database approximately 20 days following the close of the calendar year quarter. Any discharged patient encounters not billed by this cut-off date will not be included in the quarterly submission file sent in.

Physician Identification

All physician license numbers and names have been validated as accurate against a physician reference file that is derived from information provided by the Texas Board of Medical Examiners. Those physicians not yet assigned a state license number at the time of data submission are given temporary numbers by the hospital for state reporting purposes. Due to the "lag" time between when the physician is licensed and when THCIC receives the information, some physicians may remain unidentified in the THCIC Practitioner Reference Files.

Comments, 1Q2003

The THCIC minimum data set houses only two (2) physician fields; Attending Physician and Operating or Other Physician (if applicable) as reflected on the UB92 billing document. Mortality rates, case costs and other data calculated for this population of physicians may be misrepresentative.

Due to the complexity of most inpatient admissions many physicians provide care to patients throughout an admission. Consulting physicians may prescribe and treat patients on behalf of the physician listed as the attending physician. Analysis of this physician information should carefully consider that significant variations in case count, case cost, and mortality may not be directly related to the care provided by the attending physician, but also reflect the varied use of consultants.

while hospitals document many treating physicians (surgeons and consultants) for each case, THCIC maintains only one (1) additional physician per case besides the Attending. "Other" physician case volumes, mortality, case costs and LOS, will frequently be inaccurate because of this limitation.

Surgeons and consulting physicians beyond one that may have been involved on a case will not be credited with providing care for that patient. Analysis of "other physician" information should, therefore, take into consideration that a significant portion of treating physicians are excluded from the patient cases.

Diagnosis and Procedures

The data submitted matches the state's reporting requirements but may be incomplete due to a limitation on the number of diagnoses and procedures the state allows us to include for each patient. In other words, the state's data file may not fully represent all diagnoses treated by the hospital or all procedures performed, which can alter the true picture of a patient's hospitalization, sometimes significantly. Approximately 20 % of Baylor's patient population have more than nine diagnoses and/or six procedures assigned.

Patient diagnoses and procedures for a particular hospital stay are coded by the hospital using a universal standard called the International Classification of Disease, or ICD-9-CM. This is mandated by the federal government and all hospitals must comply.

The codes are assigned based on documentation in the patient's chart and are used by hospitals for billing purposes. The hospital can code as many as 25 diagnoses and 25 procedures for each patient record. One limitation of using the ICD-9-CM system is that there does not exist a code for every possible diagnosis and procedure due to the continued evolution of medicine; new codes are added yearly as coding manuals are updated.

Race/Ethnicity

There are no national standards regarding patient race categorization so hospitals may not have the same designations from which patients can choose. The state has recently attempted to standardize a valid set of race codes for this project but these are not universally used by all hospitals. Each hospital must independently map their specific codes to the state's race code categories. This mapping may not be consistent across hospitals. Thus epidemiology analysis of these two data fields does not accurately describe the true population served by the hospital.

Standard/Non-Standard Source of Payment

The standard and non-standard source of payment codes are an example of data required by the state that is not contained within the standard UB92 billing record. In order to meet this requirement each payer identification must be categorized into the appropriate standard and non-standard source of payment value. It should also be noted that the primary payer associated to the patient's encounter record might change over time. Upon review approximately 8% of the primary payers originally categorized as "Blue

Comments, 1Q2003

Cross", 3% categorized as "Self-pay" and 18% categorized as "Medicaid" were recategorized as "Commercial". Also approximately 77% of the secondary payers originally categorized as "Missing/Invalid" were recategorized as "Self Pay".

Additionally, those payers identified contractually as both "HMO, and PPO" are categorized as "Commercial PPO". Thus any true managed care comparisons by contract type (HMO vs. PPO) may result in inaccurate analysis.

Cost/ Revenue Codes

The state requires that hospitals submit revenue information including charges. It is important to note that charges are not equal to actual payments received by the hospital or hospital cost for performing the service. Typically actual payments are much less than charges due to managed care-negotiated discounts and denial of payment by insurance companies. Charges also do not reflect the actual cost to deliver the care that each patient needs.

Certification Process

Due to the infancy of the state reporting process and the state's computer system development, the certification process is not as complete and thorough at this time, as all parties would like to see in the future. Given the current certification software, there is not an efficient mechanism to edit and correct the data. In addition, due to hospital volumes, it is not feasible to perform encounter level audits and edits. Within the constraints of the current THCIC process, the data is certified to the best of our knowledge as accurate and complete given the above comments.

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PROVIDER: Doctors Hospital
THCIC ID: 632000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Elect not to certify

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PROVIDER: North Dallas Rehab Hospital
THCIC ID: 635000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

*Comments not received by THCIC.

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PROVIDER: Rio Vista Rehab Hospital
THCIC ID: 638000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Elect not to certify

November 24, 2003

Texas Health Care Information Council
206 East 9th St. Suite 100.19
Austin, Texas 78701

Re: Hospital Discharge Data Certification
638000: Rio Vista Physical Rehabilitation Hospital

To Whom It May Concern:

As Chief Operating Officer of the above named hospital, we elect not to

Comments, 1Q2003

certify the discharge encounter data as returned by the Texas Health Care Information Council for Calendar Quarter 1 2003.

The data returned does not accurately represent the hospital's inpatient data due to a discrepancy in the total number of encounters presented for quarter 1 ending March 2003.

It has been discovered that no Medicare cases were included in our encounter data and this has been addressed/corrected by our intermediary as of June 20, 2003. Because , we will be unable to retroactively correct the problem, we will be unable to certify our data until Quarter Three 2003.

Sincerely,

Gene Miller
Sr. Vice President/Chief Operating Officer
Rio Vista Physical Rehabilitation Hospital

PROVIDER: Baylor Institute for Rehab@Gaston Episcopal Hosp
THCIC ID: 642000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Submission Timing

Baylor Institute for Rehabilitation (BIR) estimates that our data volumes for the calendar year time period submitted may include 93% to 100% of all cases for that time period. The state requires us to submit a snapshot of billed claims, extracted from our database approximately 20 days following the close of the calendar year quarter. Any discharged patient encounters not billed by this cut-off date will not be included in the quarterly submission file sent in. BIR has a 10-day billing cycle; therefore we will have a higher percentage of incomplete encounters than hospitals with a 30-day billing cycle.

Physician Identification

All physician license numbers and names have been validated as accurate against a physician reference file that is derived from information provided by the Texas Board of Medical Examiners. Those physicians not yet assigned a state license number at the time of data submission are given temporary numbers by the hospital for state reporting purposes. Due to the "lag" time between when the physician is licensed and when THCIC receives the information, some physicians may remain unidentified in the THCIC Practitioner Reference Files.

The THCIC minimum data set houses only two (2) physician fields; Attending Physician and Operating or Other Physician (if applicable) as reflected on the UB92 billing document. Mortality rates, case costs and other data calculated for this population of physicians may be misrepresentative.

Due to the complexity of most inpatient admissions many physicians provide care to patients throughout an admission. Consulting physicians may prescribe and treat patients on behalf of the physician listed as the attending physician. Analysis of this physician information should carefully consider that significant variations in case count, case cost, and mortality may not be directly related to the care provided by the attending physician, but also reflect the varied use of consultants.

while hospitals document many treating physicians (surgeons and consultants) for each case, THCIC maintains only one (1) additional physician per case besides the Attending. "Other" physician case volumes, mortality, case costs and LOS, will frequently be inaccurate because of this limitation.

Comments, 1Q2003

Surgeons and consulting physicians beyond one that may have been involved on a case will not be credited with providing care for that patient. Analysis of "other physician" information should, therefore, take into consideration that a significant portion of treating physicians are excluded from the patient cases.

Diagnosis and Procedures

BIR is different from most hospitals submitting data to the state. We provide comprehensive medical rehabilitation services to patients who have lost physical or mental functioning as a result of illness or injury. Many of these patients have already received emergency care and stabilizing treatment at an acute care hospital. They are admitted to BIR to continue their recovery and focus on improving their functional ability in order to improve their quality of life to the fullest extent possible.

The data submitted matches the state's reporting requirements but may be incomplete due to a limitation on the number of diagnoses and procedures the state allows us to include for each patient. In other words, the state's data file may not fully represent all diagnoses treated by the hospital or all procedures performed, which can alter the true picture of a patient's hospitalization, sometimes significantly.

Patient diagnoses and procedures for a particular hospital stay are coded by the hospital using a universal standard called the International Classification of Disease, or ICD-9-CM. This is mandated by the federal government and all hospitals must comply.

The codes are assigned based on documentation in the patient's chart and are used by hospitals for billing purposes. The hospital can code as many as 25 diagnoses and 25 procedures for each patient record. One limitation of using the ICD-9-CM system is that there does not exist a code for every possible diagnosis and procedure due to the continued evolution of medicine; new codes are added yearly as coding manuals are updated.

Patient diagnoses and procedures for a particular hospital stay at BIR are assigned ICD-9-CM codes according to standard coding practices. Because of our unique patient population, however, comparisons against all other hospitals in the database would not be accurate. It is unclear whether coding practice across all comprehensive medical rehabilitation facilities is consistent, so caution should be used when making comparisons and/or drawing conclusions from the data.

Length of Stay

Medical rehabilitation at BIR can be a long, arduous process depending on the severity of illness or injury. Due to the unique nature of rehabilitation services, length of stay data cannot accurately be compared with data from hospitals that primarily treat an acute or emergent episode of illness or injury.

Race/Ethnicity

There are no national standards regarding patient race categorization so hospitals may not have the same designations from which patients can choose. The state has recently attempted to standardize a valid set of race codes for this project, but these are not universally used by all hospitals. Each hospital must independently map their specific codes to the state's race code categories. This mapping may not be consistent across hospitals. Thus epidemiology analysis of these two data fields does not accurately describe the true population served by the hospital.

Standard/Non-Standard Source of Payment

The standard and non-standard source of payment codes are an example of data required by the state that is not contained within the standard UB92 billing record. In order to meet this requirement, each payer identification

Comments, 1Q2003

must be categorized into the appropriate standard and non-standard source of payment value.

Additionally, those payers identified contractually as both "HMO and PPO" are categorized as "Commercial PPO". Thus any true managed care comparisons by contract type (HMO vs. PPO) may result in inaccurate analysis.

Cost/Revenue Codes

The state requires that hospitals submit revenue information including charges. It is important to note that charges are not equal to actual payments received by the hospital or hospital cost for performing the service. Typically actual payments are much less than charges due to managed care-negotiated discounts and denial of payment by insurance companies. Charges also do not reflect the actual cost to deliver the care that each patient needs.

Certification Process

Due to the infancy of the state reporting process and the state's computer system development, the certification process is not as complete and thorough at this time, as all parties would like to see in the future. Given the current certification software, there is not an efficient mechanism to edit and correct the data. In addition, due to hospital volumes, it is not feasible to perform encounter level audits and edits. Within the constraints of the current THCIC process, the data is certified to the best of our knowledge as accurate and complete given the above comments.

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PROVIDER: Zale Lipshy University Hospital
THCIC ID: 653000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certification with Comments

Zale Lipshy University Hospital
5151 Harry Hines Blvd.
Dallas, TX 75235-7786

- 1. Zale Lipshy University Hospital is an academic teaching hospital.
2. Zale Lipshy University Hospital is a private, adult referral hospital located adjacent to the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center.
3. Zale Lipshy University Hospital does not routinely provide for the following types of medical services: Obstetrics and Pediatrics. Emergency Services are provided through another campus facility.
4. Zale Lipshy University Hospital does not have the APR-DRG codes to check our risk stratification at this time.
5. Zale Lipshy University Hospital charity care cases that are determined at time of admission are in the commercial insurance category. Additional charity care cases identified after final billing are not quantified in this report.
6. Identification of clinic and physician referral admission sources are used interchangeably.
7. Zale Lipshy University Hospital codes for admission source use correctional facility code (UC) and court ordered admission code (TB) as one code (8).

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PROVIDER: Presbyterian Hospital-Plano
THCIC ID: 664000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Data Content

This data is administrative data, which hospitals collect for billing

purposes. Administrative data may not accurately represent the clinical details of an encounter. The state requires us to submit inpatient claims, by quarter year, gathered from a form called an UB92, in a standard government format called HCFA 1450 EDI electronic claim format. Then the state specifications require additional data elements to be included over and above that. Adding those additional data places programming burdens on the hospital since it is 'over and above' the actual hospital billing process. Errors can occur due to this additional programming, but the public should not conclude that billing data sent to our payers is inaccurate. These errors have been corrected to the best of our knowledge. If a medical record is unavailable for coding the encounter is not billed and is not included in the data submission. This represents a rare event that is less than 1% of the encounter volume.

Diagnosis and Procedures

Patient diagnoses and procedures for a particular hospital stay are coded by the hospital using a universal standard called the International Classification of Disease, or ICD-9-CM. This is mandated by the federal government. The hospital complies with the guidelines for assigning these diagnosis codes, however, this is often driven by physician's subjective criteria for defining a diagnosis. For example, while one physician may diagnose a patient with anemia when the patient's blood hemoglobin level falls below 9.5, another physician may not diagnose the patient with anemia until their blood hemoglobin level is below 9.0. In both situations, a diagnosis of anemia is correctly assigned, but the criteria used by the physician to determine that diagnosis was different. An 'apples to apples' comparison cannot be made, which makes it difficult to obtain an accurate comparison of hospital or physician performance.

The codes also do not distinguish between conditions present at the time of the patient's admission to the hospital and those occurring during hospitalization. For example, if a code indicating an infection is made, it is not always possible to determine if the patient had an infection prior to admission, or developed an infection during their hospitalization. This makes it difficult to obtain accurate information regarding things such as complication rates.

The data submitted matches the state's reporting requirements but may be incomplete due to a limitation on the number of diagnoses and procedures the state allows us to include for each patient. In other words, the state's data file may not fully represent all diagnoses treated by the hospital or all procedures performed, which can alter the true picture of a patient's hospitalization, sometimes significantly.

The codes are assigned based on documentation in the patient's chart and are used by hospitals for billing purposes. The hospital can code up to 99 diagnoses and 99 procedures for each patient record.

The state is requiring us to submit ICD-9-CM data on each patient but has limited the number of diagnoses and procedures to the first nine diagnoses codes and the first six procedure codes. As a

Comments, 1Q2003

result, the data sent by us do meet state requirements but cannot reflect all the codes an individual patient's record may have been assigned. This means also that true total volumes may not be represented by the state's data file, which therefore make percentage calculations inaccurate (i.e. mortality percentages for any given diagnosis or procedure, percentage of patients in each severity of illness category). It would be obvious, therefore, those sicker patients (more diagnoses and procedures) are less accurately reflected by the 1450 format. It then stands to reason that hospitals, which treat sicker patients, are likewise less accurately reflected.

Length of Stay

The length of stay data element contained in the state's certification file is only three characters long.

Thus any patients discharged with a length of stay greater than 999 days will not be accurately stored

within the certification database. It is rare that patients stay longer than 999 days, therefore, it is not anticipated that this limitation will affect this data.

Admit Source data for Normal Newborn

When the Admit type is equal to 'newborn', the admit source should indicate whether the baby was a

normal newborn, premature delivery, sick baby, extramural birth, or information not available. The best

way to focus on severity of illness regarding an infant would be to check the infant's diagnosis at

discharge, not the admitting source code. Many hospital information systems and registration process

defaults to 'normal delivery' as the admission source. Therefore, admission source does not always give

an accurate picture.

If admission source is used to examine length of stay or mortality for normal neonates using the admit

source to identify the cases, the data will reflect premature and sick babies mixed in with the normal

newborn data. Presbyterian Hospital of Plano recommends use of ICD9 coding data to identify neonates.

This methodology will ensure correct identification of the clinical status of the newborn admission.

Race/Ethnicity

As of the December 7, 2001, the THCIC Board indicated that they would be creating guidelines for use by

hospitals. These guidelines will provide better clarity for the accurate collection of this data. Hospitals do

not routinely collect race and ethnicity as part of the admission process, that this has been added to meet

the THCIC requirement. Our admissions staff indicates that many patients are very sensitive about

providing race and ethnicity information. Therefore, depending on the circumstances of the patient's

admission, race and ethnicity data may be subjectively collected. Therefore, the race and ethnicity data

may not provide an accurate representation of the patient population for a facility.

Standard/Non-Standard Source of Payment

The standard and non-standard source of payment codes are an example of data required by the state

that is not contained within the standard UB92 billing record. In order to meet this requirement, each

payer identification must be categorized into the appropriate standard and non-standard source of

Comments, 1Q2003

payment value. These values might not accurately reflect the hospital payer information, because those payers identified contractually as both 'HMO, and PPO' are categorized as 'Commercial PPO'. Thus any true managed care comparisons by contract type (HMO vs. PPO) may result in inaccurate analysis.

Cost/ Revenue Codes

The state requires that hospitals submit revenue information including charges. It is important to note that charges are not equal to actual payments received by the hospital or hospital cost for performing the service. Typically actual payments are much less than charges due to managed care-negotiated discounts and denial of payment by insurance companies. Charges also do not reflect the actual cost to deliver the care that each patient needs.

Discharge Disposition

We have identified a problem with our vendor (Seimens) extract that diverts some patient discharges to home as opposed to rehab. We will communicate this issue and the plan to address this issue in writing to the THCIC Executive Director.

PROVIDER: Kingwood Medical Center
THCIC ID: 675000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

The data for Kingwood Medical Center includes acute, rehabilitation, and hospice patients.

PROVIDER: Burluson St Joseph Health Center-Caldwell
THCIC ID: 679000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Data Source - The data included in this file is administrative, not clinical research data. Administrative data may not accurately represent the clinical details of a patient visit. This data should be cautiously used to evaluate health care quality and compare outcomes.

Charity Care - This data does not accurately reflect the number of charity cases for the time period. Charity and self-pay patients are difficult to assign in the data submitted to the state. We are not able to classify a patient account as "charity" until after discharge when other potential payment sources have been exhausted. Because of this, charity care is combined with the Self Pay category. The amount of charges forgone for Burluson St. Joseph Health Center charity care, based on established rates during the calendar year of 2002 was \$601,069.

Patient Mix - All statistics for Burluson St. Joseph Health Center include patients from our Skilled Nursing, and Acute Care populations. Our Skilled Nursing unit is a long-term care unit. Because of this Mortality and Length of Stay may be skewed. This will prohibit any meaningful comparisons between Burluson St. Joseph Health Center and any "acute care only" facilities.

Physicians - All physician license numbers and names have been validated as accurate but some remain unidentified in the THCIC Practitioner Reference

Comments, 1Q2003

Files. Mortalities reported may be related to physicians other than the attending Physician. The attending physician is charged with the procedures requested or performed by the consulting or specialist physicians.

Diagnosis and Procedures - Data submitted to the state may be incomplete for some patients due to the limitation on the number of diagnosis and procedures codes allowed. The data is limited to nine diagnoses codes and six procedure codes per patient visit.

Cost and Charges - The state requires that we submit revenue information including charges. It is important to note that charges do not reflect actual reimbursement received, nor do they reflect the actual cost of providing the services. Typically actual payments received are much less than the charges due to managed care-negotiated discounts, denial of payment by insurance companies, contractual allowances, as well as charity and un-collectable accounts. The relationship between cost of care, charges, and the revenue a facility receives is extremely complex. Comparing costs of care from one hospital to the next may result in unreliable results.

Severity Adjustment - THCIC is using the 3M APR-DRG grouper to assign the APR-DRG (All-Patient Refined Diagnoses Related Grouping) severity and risk of mortality scores. The assignment is made by evaluation of the patient's age, sex, diagnosis codes, procedure codes, and discharge status. This grouper can only use the limited number of procedure and diagnosis codes available in the data file (nine diagnosis and six procedure codes). If all the patient's diagnosis codes were available the APR-DRG assignment may possibly differ from the APR-DRG assigned by THCIC. The severity grouping assignment performed by the state using the APR-DRG grouper cannot be replicated by facilities unless they purchase this grouper.

Additionally, the lack of education regarding how this grouper calculates the severity adjustments or how it functions can greatly impact the interpretation of the data.

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PROVIDER: Covenant Childrens Hospital
THCIC ID: 686000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Data does not accurately reflect the number of charity cases for the time period. This is due to internal processing for determination of the source of payment.
4% of total discharges were charity for 1st Quarter 2003.

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PROVIDER: Kindred Hospital Tarrant County Arlington Campus
THCIC ID: 690000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Mortality rates in an LTAC facility in comparison to STAC hospitals are not meaningful. Kindred Hospital Arlington is an LTAC facility. ID 690000.

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PROVIDER: HEALTHSOUTH Rehab Hospital-Tyler
THCIC ID: 692000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Results may or may not reflect 100% accuracy.
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Comments, 1Q2003

PROVIDER: Vista Medical Center Hospital
THCIC ID: 694100
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

One DRG 500 has an incorrect operating physician.

Two DRG 297's should be DRG 288. The procedure code did not cross.

One DRG 288 has an incorrect attending physician.

One DRG 176 has an incorrect attending physician.

PROVIDER: The Specialty Hospital Austin
THCIC ID: 700000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Elect not to certify

PROVIDER: The Specialty Hospital Austin-North Austin Med Ctr
THCIC ID: 700001
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Elect not to certify

PROVIDER: The Specialty Hospital Austin-St Davids Med Ctr
THCIC ID: 700002
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Elect not to certify

PROVIDER: The Corpus Christi Medical Center-Bay Area
THCIC ID: 703000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

The summary numbers under the caption "Severity Index" are not calculated using the same system used by the Corpus Christi Medical Center, therefore, the accuracy of these numbers cannot be verified.

Corpus Christi Medical Center maintains that under Non-Standard source of payment, accounts that are summarized as missing/invalid are neither missing nor invalid, but are accounts that are not required to be additionally categorized and should be listed as "blank" or "not-applicable".

PROVIDER: The Corpus Christi Medical Center-Doctors Regional
THCIC ID: 703002
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

The summary numbers under the caption "Severity Index" are not calculated using the same system used by the Corpus Christi Medical Center, therefore, the accuracy of these numbers cannot be verified.

Comments, 1Q2003

Corpus Christi Medical Center maintains that under Non-Standard source of payment, accounts that are summarized as missing/invalid are neither missing nor invalid, but are accounts that are not required to be additionally categorized and should be listed as "blank" or "not-applicable".

PROVIDER: The Corpus Christi Medical Center-Heart Hospital
THCIC ID: 703003
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

The summary numbers under the caption "Severity Index" are not calculated using the same system used by the Corpus Christi Medical Center, therefore, the accuracy of these numbers cannot be verified.

Corpus Christi Medical Center maintains that under Non-Standard source of payment, accounts that are summarized as missing/invalid are neither missing nor invalid, but are accounts that are not required to be additionally categorized and should be listed as "blank" or "not-applicable".

PROVIDER: Texoma Medical Center Restorative Care Hospital
THCIC ID: 705000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Data Source. The source of this data, the electronic 1450, is administrative in nature, and was collected for billing purposes. It is not clinical data and should be cautiously used to evaluate health care quality.

- * The 1450 data file limits the diagnosis codes to nine (principal plus eight secondary diagnosis codes); the admission diagnosis and an E-code field.
- * The procedure codes are limited to six (principal plus five secondary).
- * The fewer the codes the less information is available to evaluate the patient's outcomes and service utilization.
- * The Hospital can only list 4 physicians that were involved with any one patient. Other physicians who were involved in those cases will not be identified.

Payer Codes. The payer codes utilized in the THCIC data base were defined by the state. They are not utilizing the standard payer information from the claim.

Revenue Codes and Charges. Charges associated with the 1450 data do not represent actual payments or costs for services.

Severity Adjustment. THCIC is using the 3M APR-DRG system to assign the All-Patient Refined (APR) DRG, severity and risk of mortality scores. The scores represent a categorization of patient severity and mortality risk. The assignment is made by evaluation of the patient's age, sex, diagnosis codes, procedure codes, and discharge status.

- * The program can only use the codes available in the 1450 data file, e.g., nine diagnosis and six procedure codes. If all the patient's diagnosis codes were available the assignment may be different than when limited to those available in the 1450 data.

Timing of Data Collection. Hospitals must submit data to THCIC no later than 60 days after the close of the quarter.

- * Not all claims may have been billed at this time.
- * Internal data may be updated later and appear different than the data

Comments, 1Q2003

on the claim. Unless the payment is impacted, the hospitals does not rebill when a data field is changed internally. This results in differences between internal systems and the snapshot of data that was taken at the end of the quarter.

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PROVIDER: Dubuis Hospital-Beaumont
THCIC ID: 708000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Dubuis Hospital is a Long Term Acute Care Hospital. This designation of Long Term Acute separates Dubuis Hospital from Short Term Acute Hospitals in many aspects. Therefore relevant comparisons should be made with only other Long Term Acute Hospitals. Only acutely ill patients requiring an average length of stay of approximately 25 days are admitted to Dubuis Hospital per our designation as Long Term Acute. Therefore our length of stay is much longer than a regular Short Term Hospital. In addition, our patient mix is predominately elderly as they most often have more serious illnesses with more frequent secondary problems. Subsequently they require a longer hospital stay than the younger population.

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PROVIDER: Dubuis Hospital-Port Arthur
THCIC ID: 708001
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Dubuis Hospital is a Long Term Acute Care Hospital. This designation of Long Term Acute separates Dubuis Hospital from Short Term Acute Hospitals in many aspects. Therefore relevant comparisons should be made with only other Long Term Acute Hospitals. Only acutely ill patients requiring an average length of stay of approximately 25 days are admitted to Dubuis Hospital per our designation as Long Term Acute. Therefore our length of stay is much longer than a regular Short Term Hospital. In addition, our patient mix is predominately elderly as they most often have more serious illnesses with more frequent secondary problems. Subsequently they require a longer hospital stay than the younger population.

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PROVIDER: Red River Hospital
THCIC ID: 709000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

*Comments not received by THCIC.

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PROVIDER: Our Childrens House Baylor
THCIC ID: 710000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Submission Timing
Our Children's House at Baylor (OCH) estimates that our data volumes for the calendar year time period submitted may include 93% to 100% of all cases for that time period. The state requires us to submit a snapshot of billed claims, extracted from our database approximately 20 days following

Comments, 1Q2003

the close of the calendar year quarter. Any discharged patient encounters not billed by this cut-off date will not be included in the quarterly submission file sent in.

Physician Identification

All physician license numbers and names have been validated as accurate against a physician reference file that is derived from information provided by the Texas Board of Medical Examiners. Those physicians not yet assigned a state license number at the time of data submission are given temporary numbers by the hospital for state reporting purposes. Due to the "lag" time between when the physician is licensed and when THCIC receives the information, some physicians may remain unidentified in the THCIC Practitioner Reference Files.

The THCIC minimum data set houses only two (2) physician fields; Attending Physician and Operating or Other Physician (if applicable) as reflected on the UB92 billing document. Mortality rates, case costs and other data calculated for this population of physicians may be misrepresentative.

Due to the complexity of most inpatient admissions many physicians provide care to patients throughout an admission. Consulting physicians may prescribe and treat patients on behalf of the physician listed as the attending physician. Analysis of this physician information should carefully consider that significant variations in case count, case cost, and mortality may not be directly related to the care provided by the attending physician, but also reflect the varied use of consultants.

While hospitals document many treating physicians (surgeons and consultants) for each case, THCIC maintains only one (1) additional physician per case besides the Attending. "Other" physician case volumes, mortality, case costs and LOS, will frequently be inaccurate because of this limitation.

Surgeons and consulting physicians beyond one that may have been involved on a case will not be credited with providing care for that patient. Analysis of "other physician" information should, therefore, take into consideration that a significant portion of treating physicians are excluded from the patient cases.

Diagnosis and Procedures

OCH is different from most hospitals submitting data to the state. We provide complex medical services to patients who have experienced a catastrophic illness, congenital anomalies and/or complex body system failure that requires coordinated, intensive treatment and care. Many of the patients have received emergency care and stabilizing treatment at another acute care hospital or another children's acute care hospital. They are admitted to OCH to continue their recovery and focus on improving their medical condition.

The data submitted matches the state's reporting requirements but may be incomplete due to a limitation on the number of diagnoses and procedures the state allows us to include for each patient. In other words, the state's data file may not fully represent all diagnoses treated by the hospital or all procedures performed, which can alter the true picture of a patient's hospitalization, sometimes significantly.

Patient diagnoses and procedures for a particular hospital stay are coded by the hospital using a universal standard called the International Classification of Disease, or ICD-9-CM. This is mandated by the federal government and all hospitals must comply.

The codes are assigned based on documentation in the patient's chart and are used by hospitals for billing purposes. The hospital can code as many as 25 diagnoses and 25 procedures for each patient record. One limitation of using the ICD-9-CM system is that there does not exist a code for every possible diagnosis and procedure due to the continued evolution of medicine;

new codes are added yearly as coding manuals are updated.

Patient diagnoses and procedures for a particular hospital stay at OCH are assigned ICD-9-CM codes according to standard coding practices. Because of our unique patient population, however, comparisons against all other hospitals in the database would not be accurate. It is unclear whether coding practice across all children's hospitals is consistent, so caution should be used when making comparisons and/or drawing conclusions from the data.

Length of Stay

Medical recovery at OCH can be a long, arduous process depending on the severity of illness or injury. Due to the unique nature of medically complex patients, length of stay data cannot accurately be compared with data from hospitals that primarily treat an acute or emergent episode of illness or injury.

Race/Ethnicity

There are no national standards regarding patient race categorization so hospitals may not have the same designations from which patients can choose. The state has recently attempted to standardize a valid set of race codes for this project but these are not universally used by all hospitals. Each hospital must independently map their specific codes to the state's race code categories. This mapping may not be consistent across hospitals. Thus epidemiology analysis of these two data fields does not accurately describe the true population served by the hospital. "Asian or Pacific Islander" encounters are not broken out separately but are included in the "Other" race category.

Standard/Non-Standard Source of Payment

The standard and non-standard source of payment codes are an example of data required by the state that is not contained within the standard UB92 billing record. In order to meet this requirement each payer identification must be categorized into the appropriate standard and non-standard source of payment value. It should also be noted that the primary payer associated to the patient's encounter record might change over time. Upon review approximately 20% of the primary payers originally categorized as "Medicaid", and 7% of "BlueCross" were recategorized as "Commercial."

Additionally, those payers identified contractually as both "HMO and PPO" are categorized as "Commercial PPO". Thus any true managed care comparisons by contract type (HMO vs. PPO) may result in inaccurate analysis.

Cost/ Revenue Codes

The state requires that hospitals submit revenue information including charges. It is important to note that charges are not equal to actual payments received by the hospital or hospital cost for performing the service. Typically actual payments are much less than charges due to managed care-negotiated discounts and denial of payment by insurance companies. Charges also do not reflect the actual cost to deliver the care that each patient needs.

Certification Process

Due to the infancy of the state reporting process and the state's computer system development, the certification process is not as complete and thorough at this time, as all parties would like to see in the future. Given the current certification software, there is not an efficient mechanism to edit and correct the data. In addition, due to hospital volumes, it is not feasible to perform encounter level audits and edits. Within the constraints of the current THIC process, the data is certified to the best of our knowledge as accurate and complete given the above comments.

Comments, 1Q2003

THCIC ID: 713001
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Accurate to the best of my knowledge
Claudia Eisenmann CEO

PROVIDER: CHRISTUS St Catherine Health & wellness Center
THCIC ID: 715901
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

During this time period Christus St. Catherine Hospital provided Charity
Care with total charges of \$995.663.

PROVIDER: Padre Behavioral Hospital
THCIC ID: 716500
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

*Comments not received by THCIC.

PROVIDER: LifeCare Hospital-Dallas
THCIC ID: 717000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

"Unable to verify payer source and severity index due to lack of compatible
data bases."

Pam Sutton
Director, Health Information Management
LifeCare Hospital of Dallas

PROVIDER: The Physicians Centre
THCIC ID: 717500
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified without comments

PROVIDER: Kindred Hospital-white Rock
THCIC ID: 719400
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

*Comments not received by THCIC.

PROVIDER: Seay Behavioral Health Center
THCIC ID: 720000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Data Content

This data is administrative data, which hospitals collect for billing purposes. Administrative data may not accurately represent the clinical details of an encounter. The state requires us to submit inpatient claims, by quarter year, gathered from a form called an UB92, in a standard government format called HCFA 1450 EDI electronic claim format. Then the state specifications require additional data elements to be included over and above that. Adding those additional data places programming burdens on the hospital since it is 'over and above' the actual hospital billing process. Errors can occur due to this additional programming, but the public should not conclude that billing data sent to our payers is inaccurate. These errors have been corrected to the best of our knowledge.

If a medical record is unavailable for coding the encounter is not billed and is not included in the data submission. This represents a rare event that is less than 1% of the encounter volume.

Diagnosis and Procedures

Patient diagnoses and procedures for a particular hospital stay are coded by the hospital using a universal standard called the International Classification of Disease, or ICD-9-CM. This is mandated by the federal government. The hospital complies with the guidelines for assigning these diagnosis codes, however, this is often driven by physician's subjective criteria for defining a diagnosis. For example, while one physician may diagnose a patient with anemia when the patient's blood hemoglobin level falls below 9.5, another physician may not diagnose the patient with anemia until their blood hemoglobin level is below 9.0. In both situations, a diagnosis of anemia is correctly assigned, but the criteria used by the physician to determine that diagnosis was different. An 'apples to apples' comparison cannot be made, which makes it difficult to obtain an accurate comparison of hospital or physician performance.

The codes also do not distinguish between conditions present at the time of the patient's admission to the hospital and those occurring during hospitalization. For example, if a code indicating an infection is made, it is not always possible to determine if the patient had an infection prior to admission, or developed an infection during their hospitalization. This makes it difficult to obtain accurate information regarding things such as complication rates.

The data submitted matches the state's reporting requirements but may be incomplete due to a limitation on the number of diagnoses and procedures the state allows us to include for each patient. In other words, the state's data file may not fully represent all diagnoses treated by the hospital or all procedures performed, which can alter the true picture of a patient's hospitalization, sometimes significantly.

The codes are assigned based on documentation in the patient's chart and are used by hospitals for billing purposes. The hospital can code up to 99 diagnoses and 99 procedures for each patient record.

Comments, 1Q2003

The state is requiring us to submit ICD-9-CM data on each patient but has limited the number of diagnoses and procedures to the first nine diagnoses codes and the first six procedure codes. As a result, the data sent by us do meet state requirements but cannot reflect all the codes an individual patient's record may have been assigned. This means also that true total volumes may not be represented by the state's data file, which therefore make percentage calculations inaccurate (i.e. mortality percentages for any given diagnosis or procedure, percentage of patients in each severity of illness category). It would be obvious, therefore, those sicker patients (more diagnoses and procedures) are less accurately reflected by the 1450 format. It then stands to reason that hospitals, which treat sicker patients, are likewise less accurately reflected.

Length of Stay

The length of stay data element contained in the state's certification file is only three characters long.

Thus any patients discharged with a length of stay greater than 999 days will not be accurately stored within the certification database. It is rare that patients stay longer than 999 days, therefore, it is not anticipated that this limitation will affect this data.

Admit Source data for Normal Newborn

When the Admit type is equal to 'newborn', the admit source should indicate whether the baby was a normal newborn, premature delivery, sick baby, extramural birth, or information not available. The best way to focus on severity of illness regarding an infant would be to check the infant's diagnosis at discharge, not the admitting source code. Many hospital information systems and registration process defaults to 'normal delivery' as the admission source. Therefore, admission source does not always give an accurate picture.

If admission source is used to examine length of stay or mortality for normal neonates using the admit source to identify the cases, the data will reflect premature and sick babies mixed in with the normal newborn data. Seay Behavioral Center recommends use of ICD9 coding data to identify neonates. This methodology will ensure correct identification of the clinical status of the newborn admission.

Race/Ethnicity

As of the December 7, 2001, the THCIC Board indicated that they would be creating guidelines for use by hospitals. These guidelines will provide better clarity for the accurate collection of this data. Hospitals do not routinely collect race and ethnicity as part of the admission process, that this has been added to meet the THCIC requirement. Our admissions staff indicates that many patients are very sensitive about providing race and ethnicity information. Therefore, depending on the circumstances of the patient's admission, race and ethnicity data may be subjectively collected. Therefore, the race and ethnicity data may not provide an accurate representation of the patient population for a facility.

Standard/Non-Standard Source of Payment

The standard and non-standard source of payment codes are an example of data required by the state

that is not contained within the standard UB92 billing record. In order to meet this requirement, each payer identification must be categorized into the appropriate standard and non-standard source of payment value. These values might not accurately reflect the hospital payer information, because those payers identified contractually as both 'HMO, and PPO' are categorized as 'Commercial PPO'. Thus any true managed care comparisons by contract type (HMO vs. PPO) may result in inaccurate analysis.

Cost/ Revenue Codes

The state requires that hospitals submit revenue information including charges. It is important to note that charges are not equal to actual payments received by the hospital or hospital cost for performing the service. Typically actual payments are much less than charges due to managed care-negotiated discounts and denial of payment by insurance companies. Charges also do not reflect the actual cost to deliver the care that each patient needs.

Discharge Disposition

We have identified a problem with our vendor (Seimens) extract that diverts some patient discharges to home as opposed to rehab. We will communicate this issue and the plan to address this issue in writing to the THCIC Executive Director

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PROVIDER: Presbyterian Hospital-Allen
THCIC ID: 724200
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Data Content

This data is administrative data, which hospitals collect for billing purposes. Administrative data may not accurately represent the clinical details of an encounter. The state requires us to submit inpatient claims, by quarter year, gathered from a form called an UB92, in a standard government format called HCFA 1450 EDI electronic claim format. Then the state specifications require additional data elements to be included over and above that. Adding those additional data places programming burdens on the hospital since it is 'over and above' the actual hospital billing process. Errors can occur due to this additional programming, but the public should not conclude that billing data sent to our payers is inaccurate. These errors have been corrected to the best of our knowledge.

If a medical record is unavailable for coding the encounter is not billed and is not included in the data submission. This represents a rare event that is less than 1% of the encounter volume.

Diagnosis and Procedures

Patient diagnoses and procedures for a particular hospital stay are coded by the hospital using a universal standard called the International Classification of Disease, or ICD-9-CM. This is mandated by the federal government. The hospital complies with the guidelines for assigning these diagnosis codes,

however, this is often driven by physician's subjective criteria for defining a diagnosis. For example, while one physician may diagnose a patient with anemia when the patient's blood hemoglobin level falls below 9.5, another physician may not diagnose the patient with anemia until their blood hemoglobin level is below 9.0. In both situations, a diagnosis of anemia is correctly assigned, but the criteria used by the physician to determine that diagnosis was different. An 'apples to apples' comparison cannot be made, which makes it difficult to obtain an accurate comparison of hospital or physician performance.

The codes also do not distinguish between conditions present at the time of the patient's admission to the hospital and those occurring during hospitalization. For example, if a code indicating an infection is made, it is not always possible to determine if the patient had an infection prior to admission, or developed an infection during their hospitalization. This makes it difficult to obtain accurate information regarding things such as complication rates.

The data submitted matches the state's reporting requirements but may be incomplete due to a limitation on the number of diagnoses and procedures the state allows us to include for each patient. In other words, the state's data file may not fully represent all diagnoses treated by the hospital or all procedures performed, which can alter the true picture of a patient's hospitalization, sometimes significantly.

The codes are assigned based on documentation in the patient's chart and are used by hospitals for billing purposes. The hospital can code up to 99 diagnoses and 99 procedures for each patient record.

The state is requiring us to submit ICD-9-CM data on each patient but has limited the number of diagnoses and procedures to the first nine diagnoses codes and the first six procedure codes. As a result, the data sent by us do meet state requirements but cannot reflect all the codes an individual patient's record may have been assigned. This means also that true total volumes may not be represented by the state's data file, which therefore make percentage calculations inaccurate (i.e.

mortality percentages for any given diagnosis or procedure, percentage of patients in each severity of illness category). It would be obvious, therefore, those sicker patients (more diagnoses and procedures) are less accurately reflected by the 1450 format. It then stands to reason that hospitals, which treat sicker patients, are likewise less accurately reflected.

Length of Stay

The length of stay data element contained in the state's certification file is only three characters long. Thus any patients discharged with a length of stay greater than 999 days will not be accurately stored within the certification database. It is rare that patients stay longer than 999 days, therefore, it is not anticipated that this limitation will affect this data.

Admit Source data for Normal Newborn

When the Admit type is equal to 'newborn', the admit source should indicate whether the baby was a normal newborn, premature delivery, sick baby, extramural birth, or information not available. The best

way to focus on severity of illness regarding an infant would be to check the infant's diagnosis at discharge, not the admitting source code. Many hospital information systems and registration process defaults to 'normal delivery' as the admission source. Therefore, admission source does not always give an accurate picture.

If admission source is used to examine length of stay or mortality for normal neonates using the admit source to identify the cases, the data will reflect premature and sick babies mixed in with the normal newborn data. Presbyterian Hospital of Allen recommends use of ICD9 coding data to identify neonates.

This methodology will ensure correct identification of the clinical status of the newborn admission.

Race/Ethnicity

As of the December 7, 2001, the THCIC Board indicated that they would be creating guidelines for use by hospitals. These guidelines will provide better clarity for the accurate collection of this data. Hospitals do not routinely collect race and ethnicity as part of the admission process, that this has been added to meet the THCIC requirement. Our admissions staff indicates that many patients are very sensitive about providing race and ethnicity information. Therefore, depending on the circumstances of the patient's admission, race and ethnicity data may be subjectively collected. Therefore, the race and ethnicity data may not provide an accurate representation of the patient population for a facility.

Standard/Non-Standard Source of Payment

The standard and non-standard source of payment codes are an example of data required by the state that is not contained within the standard UB92 billing record. In order to meet this requirement, each payer identification must be categorized into the appropriate standard and non-standard source of payment value. These values might not accurately reflect the hospital payer information, because those payers identified contractually as both 'HMO, and PPO' are categorized as 'Commercial PPO'. Thus any true managed care comparisons by contract type (HMO vs. PPO) may result in inaccurate analysis.

Cost/ Revenue Codes

The state requires that hospitals submit revenue information including charges. It is important to note that charges are not equal to actual payments received by the hospital or hospital cost for performing the service. Typically actual payments are much less than charges due to managed care-negotiated discounts and denial of payment by insurance companies. Charges also do not reflect the actual cost to deliver the care that each patient needs.

Discharge Disposition

We have identified a problem with our vendor (Seimens) extract that diverts some patient discharges to home as opposed to rehab. We will communicate this issue and the plan to address this issue in writing to the THCIC Executive Director.

PROVIDER: Grimes St Joseph Health Center
THCIC ID: 728800

QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified without comments

Data Source - The data included in this file is administrative, not clinical research data. Administrative data may not accurately represent the clinical details of a patient visit. This data should be cautiously used to evaluate health care quality and compare outcomes.

Charity Care - This data does not accurately reflect the number of charity cases for the time period. Charity and self-pay patients are difficult to assign in the data submitted to the state. We are not able to classify a patient account as "charity" until after discharge when other potential payment sources have been exhausted. Because of this, charity care is combined with the Self Pay category. The amount of charges forgone for Grimes St. Joseph Health Center charity care, based on established rates during the calendar year of 2002 was \$602,201.

Patient Mix - Grimes St. Joseph Health Center is a "Critical Access Hospital". Because of this Mortality and Length of Stay may be skewed. This will prohibit any meaningful comparisons between Grimes St. Joseph Health Center and other acute care facilities.

Physicians - All physician license numbers and names have been validated as accurate but some remain unidentified in the THCIC Practitioner Reference Files. Mortalities reported may be related to physicians other than the attending Physician. The attending physician is charged with the procedures requested or performed by the consulting or specialist physicians.

Diagnosis and Procedures - Data submitted to the state may be incomplete for some patients due to the limitation on the number of diagnosis and procedure codes allowed. The data is limited to nine diagnoses codes and six procedure codes per patient visit.

Cost and Charges - The state requires that we submit revenue information including charges. It is important to note that charges do not reflect actual reimbursement received, nor do they reflect the actual cost of providing the services. Typically actual payments received are much less than the charges due to managed care-negotiated discounts, denial of payment by insurance companies, contractual allowances, as well as charity and un-collectable accounts. The relationship between cost of care, charges, and the revenue a facility receives is extremely complex. Comparing costs of care from one hospital to the next may result in unreliable results.

Severity Adjustment - THCIC is using the 3M APR-DRG grouper to assign the APR-DRG (All-Patient Refined Diagnoses Related Grouping) severity and risk of mortality scores. The assignment is made by evaluation of the patient's age, sex, diagnosis codes, procedure codes, and discharge status. This grouper can only use the limited number of procedure and diagnosis codes available in the data file (nine diagnosis and six procedure codes). If all the patient's diagnosis codes were available the APR-DRG assignment may possibly differ from the APR-DRG assigned by THCIC. The severity grouping assignment performed by the state using the APR-DRG grouper cannot be replicated by facilities unless they purchase this grouper. Additionally, the lack of education regarding how this grouper calculates the severity adjustments or how it functions can greatly impact the interpretation of the data.

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PROVIDER: Cypress Creek Hospital
THCIC ID: 744001
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Elect not to certify

PROVIDER: Harris Methodist-Springwood
THCIC ID: 778000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Data Content

This data is administrative data, which hospitals collect for billing purposes. Administrative data may not accurately represent the clinical details of an encounter.

The state requires us to submit inpatient claims, by quarter year, gathered from a form called an UB92, in a standard government format called HCFA 1450 EDI electronic claim format. Then the state specifications require additional data elements to be included over and above that. Adding those additional data places programming burdens on the hospital since it is "over and above" the actual hospital billing process. Errors can occur due to this additional programming, but the public should not conclude that billing data sent to our payers is inaccurate. These errors have been corrected to the best of our knowledge.

If a medical record is unavailable for coding the encounter is not billed and is not included in the data submission. This represents a rare event that is less than 1% of the encounter volume.

Diagnosis and Procedures

Patient diagnoses and procedures for a particular hospital stay are coded by the hospital using a universal standard called the International Classification of Disease, or ICD-9-CM. This is mandated by the federal government.

The hospital complies with the guidelines for assigning these diagnosis codes, however, this is often driven by physician's subjective criteria for defining a diagnosis. For example, while one physician may diagnose a patient with anemia when the patient's blood hemoglobin level falls below 9.5, another physician may not diagnose the patient with anemia until their blood hemoglobin level is below 9.0. In both situations, a diagnosis of anemia is correctly assigned, but the criteria used by the physician to determine that diagnosis was different. An "apples to apples" comparison cannot be made which makes it difficult to obtain an accurate comparison of hospital or physician performance.

The codes also do not distinguish between conditions present at the time of the patient's admission to the hospital and those occurring during hospitalization. For example, if a code indicating an infection is made, it is not always possible to determine if the patient had an infection prior to admission, or developed an infection during their hospitalization. This makes it difficult to obtain accurate information regarding things such as complication rates.

The data submitted matches the state's reporting requirements but may be incomplete due to a limitation on the number of diagnoses and procedures the state allows us to include for each patient. In other words, the state's data file may not fully represent all diagnoses treated by the hospital or all procedures performed, which can alter the true picture of a patient's hospitalization, sometimes significantly. Approximately 3% of Harris Methodist HEB's patient population have more than nine diagnoses and/ or six procedures assigned.

Comments, 1Q2003

The codes are assigned based on documentation in the patient's chart and are used by hospitals for billing purposes. The hospital can code up to 25 diagnoses and 25 procedures for each patient record. One limitation of using the ICD-9-CM system is that there does not exist a code for every possible diagnosis and procedure due to the continued evolution of medicine; new codes are added yearly as coding manuals are updated.

The state is requiring us to submit ICD-9-CM data on each patient but has limited the number of diagnoses and procedures to the first nine diagnoses codes and the first six procedure codes. As a result, the data sent by us do meet state requirements but cannot reflect all the codes an individual patient's record may have been assigned. This means also that true total volumes may not be represented by the state's data file, which therefore make percentage calculations inaccurate (i.e. mortality percentages for any given diagnosis or procedure, percentage of patients in each severity of illness category). It would be obvious, therefore, those sicker patients (more diagnoses and procedures) are less accurately reflected by the 1450 format. It then stands to reason that hospitals, which treat sicker patients, are likewise less accurately reflected.

Length of Stay

The length of stay data element contained in the state's certification file is only three characters long. Thus any patients discharged with a length of stay greater than 999 days will not be accurately stored within the certification database. It is rare that patients stay longer than 999 days, therefore, it is not anticipated that this limitation will affect this data.

Admit Source data for Normal Newborn

When the Admit type is equal to "newborn", the admit source should indicate whether the baby was a normal newborn, premature delivery, sick baby, extramural birth, or information not available. The best way to focus on severity of illness regarding an infant would be to check the infant's diagnosis at discharge, not the admitting source code. Many hospital information systems and registration process defaults to "normal delivery" as the admission source. Therefore, admission source does not always give an accurate picture.

If admission source is used to examine length of stay or mortality for normal neonates using the admit source to identify the cases, the data will reflect premature and sick babies mixed in with the normal newborn data. THR recommends use of ICD9 coding data to identify neonates. This methodology will ensure correct identification of the clinical status of the newborn admission.

Race/Ethnicity

Hospitals do not routinely collect race and ethnicity as part of the admissions process, this data collection has been added to meet the THCIC requirement. The admissions staff indicate that many patients are very sensitive about providing race and ethnicity information. Beginning April 1, 2002, Harris Methodist HEB implemented the THCIC Board guidelines to more accurately collect and categorize the race/ ethnicity data.

Standard/Non-Standard Source of Payment

The standard and non-standard source of payment codes are an example of data required by the state that is not contained within the standard UB92 billing record. In order to meet this requirement, each payer identification

Comments, 1Q2003

must be categorized into the appropriate standard and non-standard source of payment value. These values might not accurately reflect the hospital payer information, because those payers identified contractually as both HMO, and PPO are categorized as Commercial PPO. Thus any true managed care comparisons by contract type (HMO vs. PPO) may result in inaccurate analysis.

Cost/ Revenue Codes

The state requires that hospitals submit revenue information including charges. It is important to note that charges are not equal to actual payments received by the hospital or hospital cost for performing the service. Typically actual payments are much less than charges due to managed care-negotiated discounts and denial of payment by insurance companies. Charges also do not reflect the actual cost to deliver the care that each patient needs.

PROVIDER: Baylor Heart & Vascular Center
THCIC ID: 784400
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Submission Timing

Baylor estimates that our data volumes for the calendar year time period submitted may include 96% to 100% of all cases for that time period. The state requires us to submit a snapshot of billed claims, extracted from our database approximately 20 days following the close of the calendar year quarter. Any discharged patient encounters not billed by this cut-off date will not be included in the quarterly submission file sent in.

Physician Identification

All physician license numbers and names have been validated as accurate against a physician reference file that is derived from information provided by the Texas Board of Medical Examiners. Those physicians not yet assigned a state license number at the time of data submission are given temporary numbers by the hospital for state reporting purposes. Due to the "lag" time between when the physician is licensed and when THCIC receives the information, some physicians may remain unidentified in the THCIC Practitioner Reference Files.

The THCIC minimum data set houses only two (2) physician fields; Attending Physician and Operating or Other Physician (if applicable) as reflected on the UB92 billing document. Mortality rates, case costs and other data calculated for this population of physicians may be misrepresentative. Due to the complexity of most inpatient admissions many physicians provide care to patients throughout an admission. Consulting physicians may prescribe and treat patients on behalf of the physician listed as the attending physician. Analysis of this physician information should carefully consider that significant variations in case count, case cost, and mortality may not be directly related to the care provided by the attending physician, but also reflect the varied use of consultants.

while hospitals document many treating physicians (surgeons and consultants) for each case, THCIC maintains only one (1) additional physician per case besides the Attending. "Other" physician case volumes, mortality, case costs and LOS, will frequently be inaccurate because of this limitation. Surgeons and consulting physicians beyond one that may have been involved on a case will not be credited with providing care for that patient. Analysis of "other physician" information should, therefore, take into consideration that a significant portion of treating physicians are excluded from the patient cases.

Diagnosis and Procedures

The data submitted matches the state's reporting requirements but may be incomplete due to a limitation on the number of diagnoses and procedures the state allows us to include for each patient. In other words, the state's data file may not fully represent all diagnoses treated by the hospital or all procedures performed, which can alter the true picture of a patient's hospitalization, sometimes significantly. Approximately 20 % of Baylor's patient population have more than nine diagnoses and/or six procedures assigned.

Patient diagnoses and procedures for a particular hospital stay are coded by the hospital using a universal standard called the International Classification of Disease, or ICD-9-CM. This is mandated by the federal government and all hospitals must comply.

The codes are assigned based on documentation in the patient's chart and are used by hospitals for billing purposes. The hospital can code as many as 25 diagnoses and 25 procedures for each patient record. One limitation of using the ICD-9-CM system is that there does not exist a code for every possible diagnosis and procedure due to the continued evolution of medicine; new codes are added yearly as coding manuals are updated.

Race/Ethnicity

There are no national standards regarding patient race categorization so hospitals may not have the same designations from which patients can choose. The state has recently attempted to standardize a valid set of race codes for this project but these are not universally used by all hospitals. Each hospital must independently map their specific codes to the state's race code categories. This mapping may not be consistent across hospitals. Thus epidemiology analysis of these two data fields does not accurately describe the true population served by the hospital.

Standard/Non-Standard Source of Payment

The standard and non-standard source of payment codes are an example of data required by the state that is not contained within the standard UB92 billing record. In order to meet this requirement each payer identification must be categorized into the appropriate standard and non-standard source of payment value. It should also be noted that the primary payer associated to the patient's encounter record might change over time. Upon review approximately 2% of the primary payers originally categorized as "Blue Cross" and 47% categorized as "Medicare" were recategorized as "Commercial", and 13% categorized as "Medicare" were recategorized as "Worker's Comp."

Also approximately 37% of the secondary payers originally categorized as "Commercial" were recategorized as "Missing/Invalid", and 2% categorized as "Medicare" and 4% categorized as "Medicaid" were recategorized as "Blue Cross."

Additionally, those payers identified contractually as both "HMO, and PPO" are categorized as "Commercial PPO". Thus any true managed care comparisons by contract type (HMO vs. PPO) may result in inaccurate analysis.

Cost/ Revenue Codes

The state requires that hospitals submit revenue information including charges. It is important to note that charges are not equal to actual payments received by the hospital or hospital cost for performing the service. Typically actual payments are much less than charges due to managed care-negotiated discounts and denial of payment by insurance companies. Charges also do not reflect the actual cost to deliver the care that each patient needs.

Certification Process

Due to the infancy of the state reporting process and the state's computer

Comments, 1Q2003

system development, the certification process is not as complete and thorough at this time, as all parties would like to see in the future. Given the current certification software, there is not an efficient mechanism to edit and correct the data. In addition, due to hospital volumes, it is not feasible to perform encounter level audits and edits. Within the constraints of the current THCIC process, the data is certified to the best of our knowledge as accurate and complete given the above comments.

PROVIDER: FRISCO MEDICAL CENTER
THCIC ID: 787400
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments:

Data Content:

Due to system limitations, note, that this is just an estimate and relates to identified sources of funds, rather than actual collections from identified sources. This data is administrative data, which hospitals collect for billing and reimbursement purposes, and not clinical data in the medical records from which judgments concerning medical care can be made. The state requires us to submit inpatient claims by quarter end, our data is gathered from a form called a UB92, then formatted to fit the HCFA 1450 EDI electronic claim format.

Submission Timing:

The hospital estimates that our data volumes for the calendar year time period submitted may include approximately 80% of all cases for that period. The state requires us to submit a snapshot of billed claims, extracted from our discharge database approximately 20 days following the close of the calendar year quarter. Any discharged patient encounter not billed by the cut off date will not be included in the quarterly submission file. Frisco Medical Center has submitted its second quarter of data, this was the first quarter 2003. We had approximately 100 inpatient claims, 92 were submitted to THCIC.

Cost and Charges:

The state requires that the hospital submit revenue information including charges. It is important to note that charges do not reflect the actual cost of providing the service, and typically actual payments received are much less than the charges due to managed care contracts, negotiated discounts, and even denial of claims by insurance companies. Frisco Medical Center has also done charity work as well as un-collectable accounts which were not included in the data.

Physicians:

All physicians on staff at Frisco Medical Center go thru the credentialing process where their license number and names are validated as accurate. The THCIC practitioner reference files are not updated timely enough to capture all the new physicians. Because of this some of our physicians are unidentified in the data, or consulting physicians are credited with assisting in the procedure.

Diagnosis and Procedures:

The data submitted matches the states reporting requirements but may be incomplete due to limitations with the TXACE software for reporting procedures and diagnosis. Several of the new procedures provided at our facility could not be reported because the software would not accept them as valid procedure numbers. We are still looking at other means of capturing the data for submission. The data submitted may not fully represent all diagnosis or procedures performed at our facility, which could alter the true picture of a patient's hospitalization. Frisco Medical Center utilizes the 3M Coding Software to assign a universal standard set of codes recognized by the world Health Organization

Comments, 1Q2003

called the ICD-9CM or International Classification of Disease Index. We receive quarterly updates of new codes, reference material and HCFA regulation changes.

Race and Ethnicity:

The hospital admission staff is responsible for capturing demographic data on all our patients during the registration process. This is a sensitive area and information is gathered from the patient's driver's license, or questionnaire. Since there is no national standard for determining race or ethnicity the data may be subjective and may not fully represent all the patients treated at our facility.

Bill Keaton
CEO Frisco Medical Center

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PROVIDER: Dubuis Hospital-Paris
THCIC ID: 787500
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Dubuis Hospital is a Long Term Acute Care Hospital. This designation of Long Term Acute separates Dubuis Hospital from Short Term Acute Hospitals in many aspects. Therefore relevant comparisons should be made with only other Long Term Acute Hospitals. Only acutely ill patients requiring an average length of stay of approximately 25 days are admitted to Dubuis Hospital per our designation as Long Term Acute. Therefore our length of stay is much longer than a regular Short Term Hospital. In addition, our patient mix is predominately elderly as they most often have more serious illnesses with more frequent secondary problems. Subsequently they require a longer hospital stay than the younger population.

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PROVIDER: CHRISTUS St Michael Health System
THCIC ID: 788001
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Accurate to the best of my knowledge
Chris Karem CEO

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PROVIDER: LifeCare Hospital-Plano
THCIC ID: 789800
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Cheryl Carse, RN, MSN
Director, Quality Risk Management
LifeCare Hospital of Plano

CERTIFICATION COMMENTS

Quarter 1, 2003: Certified with comments: unable to comment on payment source and severity index as internal database can not replicate this data due to aging accounts.

Patient age: internal reports differ in the following age groups: 18-44 yeas (1 patient); 65-74 years (26 patients); > 74 years (44 patients) as our database figures age on the date which you build the report.

Comments, 1Q2003

Length of stay: internal reports differ in the following LOS ranges: 2-9 days (13 patients); 30-59 days (13 patients) as we are PPS now, and have interrupted stays which affects the LOS ranges.

PROVIDER: Texas Spine and Joint Hospital
THCIC ID: 790200
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

*Comments not received by THCIC.

PROVIDER: Texas Orthopedic Hospital
THCIC ID: 792000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Elect not to certify

November 26, 2003

Texas Health Care Information Council
4900 N. Lamar Blvd., #3407
Austin, TX 78751-2399

Dear Sir or Madam:

I elect not to certify first quarter 2003 data for Texas Orthopedic Hospital due to the fact Texas Orthopedic Hospital is licensed as a 49 bed acute care hospital which operates as an ambulatory specialty orthopedic facility. Approximately 80% of all surgical procedures are performed on an outpatient basis. Because of the specialty nature and the high percentage of outpatient surgeries, Texas Orthopedic Hospital has a uniqueness that would limit the general population's ability to form an accurate opinion or decision on the quality of services provided.

The data enclosed does not reflect the actual practice of the individual surgeons and the care given to the inpatient population. Texas Orthopedic Hospital, as a top 100 orthopedic hospital ranked by HCIA, is a referral center and the individual physicians accept referrals from other physicians for patient's which may have had a malfunction of an internal orthopedic device or an infection, which needs to be surgically corrected. It is imperative that individuals looking at the data be aware of these facts so that frequently listed diagnoses of 996.4 and/or 996.66 be interpreted as a result of the patient's primary surgery, as performed by the treating physician. These may well be referred cases for which the original treating physician is not comfortable correcting through surgical means. They do not reflect the practice of the individual Texas Orthopedic Hospital surgeon, i.e., complication of his work. Therefore, the data presented by THCIC to the public could be misinterpreted and not truly reflect the high quality outcomes and superb care our patients receive.

Sincerely,

Beryl O. Ramsey
Chief Executive Officer

PROVIDER: Mainland Medical Center

Comments, 1Q2003

THCIC ID: 793000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

*Comments not received by THCIC.

PROVIDER: North Austin Medical Center
THCIC ID: 797000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Data Comments:

Inpatient discharge data have been collected from claims data. The data are used for billing purposes and are not clinical data. Due to the diversity of healthcare organizations and data collecting practices throughout Texas, there are inherent limitations on comparing outcomes.

The public data file does not contain all the diagnosis and procedure codes. It contains only 9 diagnosis codes and 6 procedure codes per encounter. This will affect the volume of procedures, the severity adjustment and mortality rates.

The data reflect only those patients admitted to a hospital during the year and are aggregated, not trended. Data over time are needed for a more accurate assessment of the health care facilities' performance.

THCIC has excluded data when five or fewer patients had a procedure and did not perform statistical analysis when there were fewer than 30 patients.

Race / Ethnicity classification is not done systematically within or between facilities. Caution should be used when analyzing this data within one facility and between facilities.

General Comments:

North Austin Medical Center is a member of the St. David's Healthcare Partnership and supports the effort of the THCIC to provide publically released hospital data as an integral part of our ongoing organizational quality improvement process. We have been tracking similar data and developing improvement measures as applicable over the past three years.

Although the risk-adjusting software helps in making the data more comparable among facilities, it too is an approximation that may not truly represent the mix of patients. This is particularly true for mortalities in patients admitted for terminal care. Terminal care has a very high expected mortality, and this is not accounted for in the methodology.

Since medical mortalities are relatively infrequent events and occur at irregular intervals, the data can and do vary considerably over time. We have noticed considerable fluctuation and variation in all of our facilities over the past three years, depending upon the time period that the data were measured.

PROVIDER: Cornerstone Hospital of Central Texas
THCIC ID: 798000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Elect not to certify

Comments, 1Q2003

PROVIDER: Kindred Hospital Tarrant County
THCIC ID: 800000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

The mortality rates in a Long Term Acute Care facility are not meaningful in comparison to a Short Term Acute Care facility. Please note: ID 800000 Kindred Hospital Tarrant County Ft. Worth Southwest is a Long Term Acute Care facility.

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PROVIDER: McAllen Medical Center
THCIC ID: 802001
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

*Comments not received by THCIC.

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PROVIDER: Plano Specialty Hospital
THCIC ID: 805000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

*Comments not received by THCIC.

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PROVIDER: Dubuis Hospital-Houston
THCIC ID: 807000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Dubuis Hospital is a Long Term Acute Care Hospital. This designation of Long Term Acute separates Dubuis Hospital from Short Term Acute Hospitals in many aspects. Therefore relevant comparisons should be made with only other Long Term Acute Hospitals. Only acutely ill patients requiring an average length of stay of approximately 25 days are admitted to Dubuis Hospital per our designation as Long Term Acute. Therefore our length of stay is much longer than a regular Short Term Hospital. In addition, our patient mix is predominately elderly as they most often have more serious illnesses with more frequent secondary problems. Subsequently they require a longer hospital stay than the younger population.

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PROVIDER: Las Colinas Medical Center
THCIC ID: 814000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Las Colinas Medical Center Newborn Admissions should be reported as:

Normal Delivery	400
Premature Delivery	0
Sick Baby	1
Extramural Birth	0
Info Not Available	0

end

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PROVIDER: Dubuis Hospital-Texarkana
THCIC ID: 822000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

Dubuis Hospital is a Long Term Acute Care Hospital. This designation of Long Term Acute separates Dubuis Hospital from Short Term Acute Hospitals in many aspects. Therefore relevant comparisons should be made with only other Long Term Acute Hospitals. Only acutely ill patients requiring an average length of stay of approximately 25 days are admitted to Dubuis Hospital per our designation as Long Term Acute. Therefore our length of stay is much longer than a regular Short Term Hospital. In addition, our patient mix is predominately elderly as they most often have more serious illnesses with more frequent secondary problems. Subsequently they require a longer hospital stay than the younger population.

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PROVIDER: HEALTHSOUTH Integrated medical Plaza-Pecan Valley
THCIC ID: 824000
QUARTER: 1
YEAR: 2003

Certified with comments

*Comments not received by THCIC.