Ambulatory Surgery Center Data
Model Data Set (MDS) for Hospitals

Patient Demographics

Data Element	Justification (Uses)
Age in years at service	Critical for modeling current and future utilization needs. In association with other demographics, used to assess utilization and use rates for certain diseases.
Age in days	Critical for modeling current and future utilization needs. In association with other demographics, used to assess utilization and use rates for certain diseases in infants.
Patient's 5-digit ZIP Code	Used to determine access to healthcare and other services. Linked to population forecasts and variation in need for services. Used to define regional service areas.
Homelessness Indicator	This variable can be used to identify persons experiencing homelessness.
Patient County Code	Used for studying utilization patterns and forecasting demand at a macro level. Also used like zip code but with much less efficiency.
Race	Critical in understanding the community need especially related to changing racial profiles and demonstrated variation in healthcare utilization patterns. Combined with other demographics, used to assess utilization and use rates for certain diseases.
Ethnicity	As with RACE, this variable is critical in understanding the community need especially related to changing racial profiles and demonstrated variation in healthcare utilization patterns. Combined with other demographics, used to assess utilization and use rates for certain diseases.
Gender	A key variable in understanding certain variation in healthcare provision and utilization. Used with other demographics used to study utilization and use rates for certain diseases.
Principal Language Spoken	Enhancing hospital operations specific to patient communication training, staffing and monitoring of efficiency.
Expected Principal Source of Payment	Critical in understanding access/barrier issues, especially when used with diagnosis, procedure and demographic variables.
Disposition of Patient	Used to evaluate post hospitalization services.

Enhancements

Data Elements	Justification (Uses)
Record Linkage Number (RLN)	Needed to track duplicate patients.

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Facility Demographics

Data Element	Justification (Uses)
Facility ID Number	Used with patient demographics to study access to care and migration patterns, and service areas. Used with length of stay utilization, and outcome to identify best practices and establish benchmarks for quality and performance improvements.
Facility County	Used with patient demographics to study access to care and migration patterns, and service areas. Used with length of stay utilization, and outcome to identify best practices and establish benchmarks for quality and performance improvements.
Facility's 5-digit ZIP Code	Used with other patient demographics to study access to care and migration patterns. Used with length of stay utilization, and outcome to identify best practices and establish benchmarks for quality and performance improvements.
License Type	Useful in facilities planning and model development related to understanding current and future community needs.

Diagnostic/Treatment Information

Data Element	Justification (Uses)
Service Day/Month/Year	Used in modeling ER and other service utilization patterns. Used in studying seasonal variations in utilization patterns.
Principal Diagnosis	In conjunction with other variables, used to understand the change in age, gender, geographic incidence rates and utilization patterns.
Other Diagnoses	In conjunction with other variables, used to understand the change in age, gender, geographic incidence rates and utilization patterns.
External Cause of Injury	Used to study incidence and utilization for population based studies.
Principal Procedure	In conjunction with other variables, used to understand the change in age, gender, geographic incidence rates and utilization patterns. Also in conjunction with diagnoses, used to understand the utilization of current and emerging technology.
Other Procedures	In conjunction with other variables, used to understand the change in age, gender, geographic incidence rates and utilization patterns. Also in conjunction with diagnoses, used to understand the utilization of current and emerging technology.