

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE ACCESS AND INFORMATION
CALIFORNIA INPATIENT DATA REPORTING MANUAL, EIGHTH EDITION

DISCHARGE DATE

Section 97224

(a) For discharges occurring on or after January 1, 2017:

(1) For online transmission of data reports as electronic data files, the patient's discharge date shall be reported in numeric form as follows: the 4-digit year, the 2-digit month, and the 2-digit day. The numeric form for days and months from 1 to 9 must have a zero as the first digit.

(2) For online entry of individual records, the patient's discharge date shall be reported in numeric form as follows: the 2-digit month, the 2-digit day, and the 4-digit year. The numeric form for days and months from 1 to 9 must have a zero as the first digit.

DISCUSSION

Reporting Requirements:

- The actual date of discharge from inpatient care or transfer to another Type of Care (TOC) must be reported, even if the length of stay is over 365 days.

Discharge/Transfer:

A separate episode of inpatient care (a discharge) is to be reported when a patient is transferred between hospitals or within a hospital between Types of Care. If the patient is transferred from one TOC to another (e.g., from acute care to skilled nursing/intermediate care), the discharge date for the first episode would be the date the patient was transferred to "the new TOC" skilled nursing/intermediate care.

One Day Stays (Same Day):

One day stays include patients admitted and discharged on the same day. Such patients are formally admitted (expected to remain overnight or longer) but are discharged on the day of admission. A discharge data record must be reported to HCAI.

Length of Stay:

This is calculated by subtracting the Admission Date from the Discharge Date. A patient admitted and discharged on the same day is calculated as one day LOS. The LOS will appear in HCAI publications for hospital utilization and outcome studies.

Bed Hold Days:

Bed hold days are **not** reported to HCAI. A patient cannot be an inpatient in two types of care or two hospitals at the same time.