

Patient Data Regulations: 2023 Reporting Requirement Changes

The Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) collects a set of data elements for hospital inpatient, emergency department, and ambulatory surgery patients, as specified by statute and defined by regulation. These data elements consist of diagnoses, procedures, and demographic information.

HCAI is proposing to amend its regulations to make reporting requirement changes that will take effect with 2023 discharges and encounters. This regulatory proposal includes the following changes:

- Enhance the current ZIP Code data element to include collection of full patient address and a housing status indicator.
- Expand definition of Other Diagnoses to include International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM) codes from Social Determinants of Health (Z55-Z65).
- Add a new data element category, Source of Admission “G” – Transfer from a Designated Disaster Alternate Care Site.
- Minor non-substantive wording changes to the Disposition of Patient data element.

Currently, HCAI collects patients’ 5-digit ZIP Codes. In a state as large as California, the usefulness of ZIP Codes in data analysis is limited. ZIP Codes cross census-designated boundaries and do not reflect a uniform geographic or population size.

California’s growing health care needs require enhancement of data collected, as well as further alignment with national standards. Under California Health and Safety Code section 128735 et seq., authority is given to HCAI to make additions or deletions to the patient level data elements to establish requirements consistent with national standards. Adding patient address to the patient level data eliminates the limitations of a 5-digit ZIP Code and will provide the type of specificity needed to better understand social determinants and health disparities in healthcare utilization, healthcare outcomes, and disease prevalence within neighborhoods, census tracts, cities, and counties.

To develop these regulations HCAI conducted various forms of stakeholder outreach over the last year, including surveys and focus groups. Additionally, HCAI contracted with the National Association of Health Data Organizations to survey 17 states that have all-payer claims databases and/or collect hospital discharge data. For more details, please see the [regulations text](#).

Beginning January 1, 2023, facilities will begin collecting patient address data. Reporting will commence April 1, 2023, for outpatient data and July 1, 2023, for inpatient data.

Time Period	Period Program Activities
March 2021 to May 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted focus group interviews with facilities • Surveyed data submitters (licensed facilities) • Surveyed 169 data users • Surveyed 17 states
June 2021 to February 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafted regulations • Internal review and approval of regulations
March 2022 to May 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Published Notice of Proposed Rulemaking • Public comment period • Office of Administrative Law approval and filing with Secretary of State
June 2022 to December 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption by HCAI • Outreach to stakeholders and facilities through email campaign and articles • Update HCAI's data collection system
January 2023 to September 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities begin collecting new data • New data reported to HCAI
October 2023 to August 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate new data elements into the dataset, perform quality control, prepare data for release
September 2024 to October 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin release of data collected in 2023

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