Quick Notes

MIRCal — Medical Information Reporting for California

OSHPD Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development

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

Issue No. 47   *July 10, 2017*

IP Inpatient Discharges   **ED** Emergency Department   **AS** Ambulatory Surgery

Coming This Summer!
Public Comment Period

An OSHPD Proposed Regulation package will be open for public comment later this summer. All MIRCal Contacts will be notified. To ensure you receive OSHPD Healthcare Data Regulation Updates, sign up on our website.

Changes in this regulatory proposal to take effect with 2019 discharges and encounters include:

- ED/AS ZIP Code: Change to match IP ZIP Code format for reporting Homeless, Foreign, and Unknown.
- IP Race: Currently 1977 OMB standard – change to match ED/AS Race reporting (1997 OMB standard).
- Race: Allow up to five race choices for each patient.
- IP Present on Admission: Exempt diagnoses or External Cause of Morbidity codes – report as blank (eliminate allowing "1" or "E").
- Other Procedures: Allow up to 24 codes to be reported (currently 20 allowed).
- External Causes of Morbidity: Allow up to 12 codes to be reported (currently 5 allowed).
- Total Charges: Increase to 8 digits (currently 7 digits).
- ED/AS Total Charges: Add to the ED/AS dataset.

We encourage participation in the regulatory process. Please share this information with anyone who may be interested.

Webpage Makeover
MIRCal Getting a New Look

The MIRCal log on page will have a different look in the near future.   It will look similar to the public site you are used to seeing on our OSHPD home page.

This change only effects the MIRCal log on page. Once you are logged onto the site, all other MIRCal pages will look and function the same.

If you are ever concerned whether you are logging on to the correct secure site, you may use the Log on to MIRCal Now! link found on the MIRCal home page.

Please contact your MIRCal analyst if you have any questions.

Correct Reporting of Homeless

Recently it was discovered through inconsistencies in data reporting that many facilities are not reporting ZZZZZ (IP) or 99999 (ED/AS) for the ZIP Code of their homeless patient population.

After inquires were made to facilities, a variety of causes were cited; these included system issues, admission practices, and the assumption that inpatients that were discharged to a home or care setting should no longer be reported as *Homeless*.

Regulation states that the ZIP Code of the **patient's usual residence** must be reported*.* In the case of homeless patients, ***Hospitals shall distinguish the "homeless" (patients who lack a residence) from other patients … by reporting the ZIP Code of homeless patients. (Section 97219)*** Using the address of the hospital, a third party payer, or a billing address do not qualify as a patient's "usual address." The intent of the regulatory language has been to report *Homeless* if the patient was homeless at admission. Part of the proposed 2019 regulatory package noted on page 1 includes more explicit language to report *Homeless* based on patient status at admission.

MIRCal analysts are contacting facilities that appear to be misreporting their homeless patient population. In cases where a facility's reporting practices conflict with regulatory requirements, a modification will be placed on the data sets affected. Please assist your analyst by answering their inquiries promptly.

Additionally, in the future a new edit will be placed on records that report a diagnosis code consistent with homelessness but do not have a *Homeless* ZIP Code reported.

If your facility's January – June 2017 inpatient data submission for ZIP Code is incorrect, approval will not be given until the ZIP Code data has been validated. Please review your collection and reporting process for your homeless patients and ensure they are being reported correctly.

OSHPD Has Moved!

OSHPD is in the process of moving to a new building. The new Patient Data Section address is:

Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development Information Services Division, Patient Data Section
2020 West El Camino Drive, Suite 11-100
Sacramento, CA 95833

Our main phone line and fax numbers will remain the same.

Phone: (916) 326-3935
Fax: (916) 327-1262.

Data Reporting From Your Perspective

Our MIRCal Analysts have visited many health facilities over the years, gaining insight and providing guidance. These opportunities are always beneficial for all involved. Have we visited your facility yet?

Outreach site visits give OSHPD a better understanding of reporting challenges that facilities encounter and provides staff an opportunity to personally share reporting best practices. It is often beneficial to have a face-to-face discussion. If your corporation schedules centralized HIM meetings with staff from various facilities, consider inviting us to speak with your team. We would welcome the opportunity. Contact your MIRCal analyst or the MIRCal main line for more information.