MIRCal
Medical
Information
Reporting
for California

Quick Notes

OSHPD Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development
Patient Data Section
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Main Number: (916) 326-3935
Access to Safe, Quality Healthcare Environments that Meet California's Dynamic and Diverse Needs

Issue No. 48   *September 22, 2017*

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

MIRCal Regulatory Update

2019 Proposed Regulations Comment Period Open Until October 9th!

The 45 Day Public Comment Period is currently open regarding OSHPD's proposed changes to Patient Data Reporting Requirements. Comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 9, 2017.

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.

Please visit our website for detailed information on these proposed changes, as well as how to submit public comments. You are encouraged to forward this information to anyone who may be interested in this regulatory proposal.

Forms Address Update

Due to OSHPD's recent move, OSHPD's User Account Administrator (UAA) Agreement and four less frequently used forms, all cited in regulation, needed updating. On September 8th the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) approved this non-substantive regulatory action. Forms updated due to our move have a June 2017 revision date. See our Recently Approved Regulations webpage for more detail.

As a reminder, our new address is:

Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development
Information Services Division
Patient Data Section
2020 West El Camino Avenue, Suite 1100
Sacramento, CA 95833

Our main phone line and fax numbers have not changed.

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

Reporting Newborns to OSHPD

Prior to January 1, 2017, newborns were reported as "infants" if they were less than 24 hours old. With the new Type of Admission definitions that went into place on January 1, 2017, the definition of what constitutes an infant (now referred to as a "newborn") has fundamentally changed.

According to NUBC guidelines, any person should have Type of Admission "newborn" no more than once in their lifetime, as it pertains to initial care. Note that a first hospital encounter is not necessarily for initial care, as in the case of a child who was born in a birthing center, or at home under the care of a licensed midwife. These children will never have a Type of Admission "newborn," since their initial care was already provided by the birthing center or midwife.

Another situation might be as follows: a child is born in another hospital and transferred to your facility. The Point of Origin for this newborn will be "Transfer from a Hospital (Different Facility)." If the transfer occurs the same day that the child is born, you will encounter an S084 edit. If this edit is preventing your submission from getting approved and the data is correct as reported, contact your MIRCal analyst to arrange to have the edit cleared.

An additional situation might arise in the case of a child who is born in a car that is en route to your facility. In these cases, you will report Type of Admission as "newborn" because initial care has not been provided with Point of Origin "6 – Born Outside of this Hospital."

For additional examples of how to report newborns, please see the inpatient reporting manual section on Source of Admission.

Keep Your MIRCal Account Secure

When did you last change your MIRCal password? MIRCal users have not been required to change their passwords on a regular basis by the system but we recommend that you do so any time you reasonably think someone may have knowledge of your password, if your password is simple, is used for other websites, or has not been changed in a while. We are prompting all users to change their passwords. In the future, we encourage you to consider your organization's security and password change frequency requirements in determining how often you will update your MIRCal password. For the security of your confidential data, do not share your User ID and password.

To change your password: *Click on the "Change Password" link on the left side of the MIRCal main menu.*

2017 Source of Admission Review

Beginning January 1, 2017, OSHPD implemented new Source of Admission and Type of Admission categories. Many facilities have been experiencing related reporting challenges.

For example, some facilities are reporting patients as Route = Another ED but in the wrong Point of Origin category(s). The correct Point of Origin for patients coming from another hospital, whether inpatient or outpatient, should be **4- Hospital Different Facility**.

Please review the Source of Admission and Type of Admission categories on your Data Distribution Report (DDR) and the definitions in the Inpatient Reporting Manual to determine if records are mapped to the correct categories. Because many of the categories and definitions are different from 2016, the MIRCal trend edits that normally review changes in reporting could not function. Mapping errors may go unnoticed without careful review. It is good practice to review your DDR to verify it is reasonable for your facility prior to submitting formally.