

# Quick Notes

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

Issue 57

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**IP** Inpatient Discharges

**ED** Emergency Department

**AS** Ambulatory Surgery

## System Upgrades Ahead

Adhering to good governance, OSHPD will be modernizing the online platform for 2021 patient data reporting. This change will provide enhanced flexibility and functions for users and will be more fiscally prudent for OSHPD.

The California Code of Regulations (CCR) referred to OSHPD's "MIRCal" system a total of 58 times. In a recently approved regulatory update, the terminology has been revised to refer to "OSHPD's online submission system" throughout the CCR, instead of referring a specific reporting system. These changes are without regulatory effect as they do not materially alter the requirements or responsibilities imposed on reporting facilities, and they impose no new regulatory burdens. You can view the changes on our [Laws & Regulations](#) page under *Newly Adopted, Amended, or Repealed Regulations*. The reporting requirements and data file specifications are not changing.

Documents incorporated by reference in regulation were also updated to remove specific references to the MIRCal system.

OSHPD is diminishing the use of individual online system branding. Data submitted in the system will be referred to as Patient-Level Data. Our web pages reflect this change, and in 2021, references to MIRCal will be removed.

## 2020 Training Opportunities We hope to "see" you

In the upcoming months there will be several opportunities to learn from informational webinars OSHPD will be presenting.

First, we are pleased that OSHPD once again has the honor of being chosen to present at the California Health Information Association (CHIA) Conference. CHIACon 2020 will be taking place June 15 – 17 in an online format. Look for OSHPD in Track 4 on Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup>. We hope you will have the chance to hear us speak on the upcoming new submission site for patient administrative data coming in 2021, including a sneak peek of the platform. We will also be discussing the feedback OSHPD received from our 2019 stakeholder surveys and the direction that data products are taking as a result.

In the second half of 2020, we will also be providing a series of short webinars which will go over the new submission platform in greater detail. All current MIRCal users will receive notification and will have the opportunity to participate. The first will be given this summer, so watch your inbox for further information.

### Editing Changes: COVID-19

The Patient Data Section (PDS) has been monitoring the immense impact COVID-19 has had on facilities, how they do business, and the types of patients they are seeing during the health crisis.

One of the most widespread changes was the cancellation of most non-essential surgeries in Ambulatory Surgery units. In an effort to minimize the number of critical Trend flags facilities will receive related to the decline in encounters, PDS has proactively suspended the AS Trend flags which look at decreases in encounters for the first two quarters of 2020.

IP and ED data submissions are also being reviewed for areas where we can relieve the edit flag burden when it is related to COVID-19 while still ensuring data quality is preserved. If you have any concern in these areas, please contact your assigned analyst.

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### Thank You's

The Patient Data Section would like to thank all our system users for their patience during MIRCAl's recent period of technical difficulties. We appreciated your understanding as we worked towards a solution to the issue.

We also want to extend our gratitude to all our hospital partners and their staff during the COVID-19 crisis. **Thank you** for being on the front lines and providing excellent care during this unprecedented health crisis. From our staff to yours: stay safe and healthy.

### Patient Data Reporting COVID-19

The Patient Data Section has received multiple inquiries regarding how to correctly report the Source of Admission and Disposition for patients who are either coming from or being discharged to sites that have been created due to the COVID-19 crisis. To answer these questions, we have placed an FAQ and resources on our website. The FAQ discusses how to report various scenarios involving quarantine and surge capacity sites, including Designated Alternate Care Sites. **NEW** Effective July 1, 2020: The National Uniform Billing Committee released [guidance](#) that a new Point of Origin Code is being added, Point of Origin Code G --Transfer from a Designated Disaster Alternate Care Site.

Use of the new code, "G" is encouraged when appropriate for discharges on and after July 1, 2020. OSHPD will add this to the patient data reporting system and resources while work is done to formally adopt the use of this code via the formal rulemaking process. Please review the document for updated guidance.

There are also new COVID-19 related ICD-10 and CPT codes. General information about these codes has been posted on our website. The COVID-19 resources noted can be found on our [Other Resources](#) page, but OSHPD advises that our data providers refer to the applicable coding guidelines as the primary source of information when reporting patient cases related to COVID-19.

#### COVID-19 Data Reporting Guidance

- o [Source of Admission and Disposition FAQs](#)
- o [CDC Announcement – New ICD Code for Coronavirus](#)
- o [AMA Announcement – New CPT Codes for Coronavirus Testing](#)