HCAi Department of Health Care Access and Information

Patient Data Section
www.hcai.ca.gov
(916)326-3935

Quick Notes

Issue 62   November 10, 2021

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

Public Comment Period Open Soon!

An HCAI proposed regulation package will be open for a public comment period in the upcoming weeks. Once open, public comments will be accepted for 45 calendar days. All patient-level data SIERA system users and interested parties who have subscribed to notifications will be notified via email. The notice will include instructions on how to submit a public comment.

This regulatory proposal includes the following changes to take effect with 2023 discharges:

- **IP & ED/AS Patient Address** – Enhance current ZIP Code data element to include collection of full Patient Address, including the following components: Address number and street name, City, State, ZIP Code, Country Code (for non-U.S. residents) and a housing status indicator
- **IP & ED/AS Other Diagnoses** – Expand definition of Other Diagnoses to include ICD-10-CM codes from Social Determinants of Health (Z55-Z65).
- **IP & ED/AS Patient Disposition** – Minor wording changes to existing disposition codes
- **IP Source of Admission** – New Route of Admission - 'G' Transfer from a Designated Disaster Alternate Care Site

Additionally, a Section 100 (changes without regulatory effect) was recently approved. It removed obsolete terms and references to the previous reporting system.

You may view all recent and proposed regulatory changes on our Laws & Regulations page.

We Have a New Name!

Department of Health Care Access and Information

The former Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) recently announced a new chapter in our history. After more than 40 years of service to the people of California as OSHPD, we embark on an exciting new era as our list of programs grows to provide more services. Upon Governor Gavin Newsom approving the 2021-2022 budget, OSHPD became the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI).

HCAi
Department of Health Care
Access and Information

Some important things to note:

Web pages are now updated to reflect HCAI.ca.gov, including the SIERA log in page https://siera.hcai.ca.gov. Please update your bookmarks with the new links.

Patient Data Section (PDS) emails will now come from PatientLevel@hcai.ca.gov. Please have your IT update any spam filters to ensure you do not miss any important emails from PDS or your analyst.

The office has begun the year-long process of transitioning from OSHPD to HCAI. You may continue to see OSHPD references on our website and documents as we gradually transition our headers and documentation to reflect the new department name.

Click here for more information about the change.

Changes to Homelessness Coding

As of October 1, 2021, the ICD-10 code for reporting Homelessness has been expanded to require a fifth digit. The new codes are provided below for reference:

Homelessness
- Z59.00 Homelessness unspecified is used for a problem with or related to homelessness. It is applicable when homelessness influences a person's health status but the nature of the homelessness (sheltered or unsheltered) has not been specified.
- Z59.01 Sheltered Homelessness is used when someone is living in a motel, homeless shelter, temporary or transitional living.
- Z59.02 Unsheltered Homelessness is used when someone is living on the street or other locations not appropriate for someone to live (abandoned building, a car, under a bridge, etc.).

Reporting requirements

ZIP Code ZZZZZ (Homelessness) should always be reported when the patient has indicated they are homeless even when the diagnosis codes above are not coded on the record. Please review this requirement with your admissions department to ensure all cases of homelessness are being accurately captured.

In cases when the codes are present on the record but ZIP Code ZZZZZ is not reported, edit S142 or S143 will flag on the record. Similarly, you may receive a warning flag of CW11 if all cases of ZZZZZ are reported with a Z59 code as this may indicate you are not collecting homeless status upon admission. Please see the [Inpatient Data Reporting Manual](#) for more information.

File Format Testing

Previously in MIRCal, there was an option to test your file format. This was a necessary function because data could not be submitted in MIRCal prior to the end of the report period.

SIERA does not have a separate file format tool because report periods are open to accept records or files at the beginning of the active report period. As long as you do not have manually entered records saved in the system, you may submit a file at any point during the report period to test the file format. Never submit a file if there is data saved on the system you wish to keep. A file submission will always override any saved data or manually applied corrections.

As a reminder, data cannot be approved until the report period is complete and data goes through a final validation check. Contact your assigned analyst if you need further assistance.

Variant Action Requests

The Variant Action Request (VAR) process allows facilities to verify that data which has been flagged by the edit programs are accurate as reported. When emailing a VAR to your analyst, a concise but thorough justification should be included and contain the following:

1. Describe why the data are accurate
2. Provide any applicable causes
3. Explain the steps taken to validate the data

Because facilities have the ability to run their own custom reports and data queries in SIERA, it is important to note any SIERA reports that were queried and reviewed as part of the verification in step #3.

Please provide all requested information to avoid delays in processing. The process may take up to five business days so submit your requests as early as possible.