

## Definitions for Additional Utilization Data Collection Points

June 18, 2010

Effective for reporting months beginning in January 2010, the following data elements will be added to the DVHC Monthly Utilization Data Collection. Hospitals are expected to include these data elements in their reporting as applicable for their institution. If a hospital does not provide the service, no data is expected from the facility.

- **Readmissions**: Total number of patients that were admitted back to the same hospital within thirty days after being discharged from an earlier hospital stay. A readmission is defined as any time a patient is admitted to a hospital within 30 days of the previous admission to that same hospital. Do not include patients transferred to another hospital for longer-term care in the readmission statistics. For each service area, report the total number of readmissions that occurred each month.

**Note:** For reporting purposes, the system will automatically calculate a hospital's readmission rate by dividing the total number of patients readmitted within thirty days of a previous discharge by the total number of hospital admissions within the month:

$$\frac{\text{Number of readmissions reported for the month}}{\text{Number of admissions reported for the month}}$$

- **Observation Cases**: The number of total admissions to the observation level of care regardless of where they are housed. According to the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual "Observation care is a well-defined set of specific, clinically appropriate services, which include *ongoing short term treatment, assessment, and reassessment* before a decision can be made regarding whether a patient will require further treatment as hospital inpatient or if they are able to be discharged from the hospital. Observation status is commonly assigned to patients who present to the emergency department and who then require a significant period of treatment or monitoring before a decision is made concerning their admission or discharge".
- **Observation Days**: One day would be 24 hours or less of service. If a patient is admitted to observation and remains in treatment for 24 hours or more it would be one day plus a day for each 24 hour period thereafter. (For example, if a patient is admitted to observation on January 1, 2010 and discharged from observation on January 2, 2010, this would count as one observation case. If the same patient was treated for more than 24 hours it would be counted as 2 observation days whereas if it was less than 24 hours it would be one observation day even though the patient was in observation over two calendar days.)
- **Short Procedure Unit (SPU) visits**: The total number of short procedure unit (SPU) visits during the month.
- **Crisis Evaluations (Psych)**: The total number of psychiatric crisis evaluations performed in one month. **Note:** This includes only evaluations that are conducted outside the purview of the hospital emergency department.