



DELAWARE VALLEY HEALTHCARE COUNCIL
of The Hospital & Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania

DVHC Memo 10-06

June 18, 2010

TO: Chief Executive Officers of DVHC Member Hospitals and Health Systems
and Chief Financial Officers of DVHC Member Hospitals and Health Systems

FROM: Kenneth J. Braithwaite, II, Regional Executive, Delaware Valley Healthcare
Council; Senior Vice President, Hospital & Healthsystem Association of
Pennsylvania

SUBJECT: Expansion of the DVHC Utilization Reporting System - **Action Required**

Issue: In January of 2009 the Delaware Valley Healthcare Council of HAP (DVHC) implemented an on-line system for regional reporting of monthly utilization statistics. The electronic system of reporting has made it easier and more efficient for hospital staff to submit data and run reports. This year DVHC developed enhancements to the utilization reporting system that will be made available to hospitals as of June 21, 2010. The new system will allow hospitals to report re-admissions, observation, short-procedures, and psychiatric evaluations. In addition, the reporting capabilities have been expanded such that hospitals will be able to export data from the system to Microsoft Office Excel so they can manipulate the data to suit their own reporting and strategic planning purposes.

Background: Since the early 1970s, DVHC has been tracking and trending the utilization patterns across the Delaware Valley region. Initially the data was collected via a manual process, but in 2009 an electronic system for data collection and reporting was implemented. The data collected and reported includes information about hospital admissions, emergency department visits, patient days, average length of stay, census by service type, and staffed beds. The reports produced via the on-line system include summaries of the data by hospital type: community and teaching; academic medical centers; acute care, psychiatric and rehabilitation facilities. DVHC members have access to monthly and annual reports to use in financial planning. DVHC uses the data to support its advocacy initiatives on behalf of the region's hospitals.



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Enhancements to the Utilization Reporting System: DVHC established enhancements to the utilization reporting system based on input from members and an assessment of future healthcare trends. Prior to launching the new aspects of the system, DVHC had members pilot the system to ensure that it was ready to be utilized by the full membership. The following five new data elements have been added to the data collection tool:

1. Number of re-admissions within 30 days (for any reason) per month.
2. Number of observation cases per month
3. Number of observation days per month
4. Number of short procedure unit (SPU) visits per month
5. Number of crisis evaluations (psychiatric) per month

To ensure consistent reporting, attached is a document that provides definitions for each of the new data elements.

In addition, DVHC has enhanced the reporting capabilities. The system will automatically calculate a readmission rate for each hospital as well as an average length of stay for observation.

Member Action: At this point in time, hospitals should have completed the “standard” DVHC monthly utilization reporting though April of 2010. Going forward, each hospital that participates in the reporting is also required to submit data for the new data elements. In addition, we are asking hospitals to enter the additional data elements retroactive to January 2010.

Also, we hope that you will check out the new reporting features of the system as we believe that they will provide beneficial information for you and your management teams. Simply go to: <http://www.dvhc.org/reporting> and log into the system. If you or your staff have any problems entering data and/or running reports feel free to contact Jill Davis at (215) 575-3754 or via e-mail at jdavis@dvhc.org for assistance.

For More Information: If you have any questions and/or need additional information regarding DVHC’s monthly utilization reporting system in general or the submission of the additional data, feel free to contact me at (215) 575-3737 or [Pamela Clarke](#), vice president, health care finance and managed care, at (215) 575-3755.

Attachment