HB21-1198: Hospital Discounted Care Data Reporting

SMART Act Hearing - January 19, 2024

Hospitals report data the Department determines necessary to evaluate compliance across race, ethnicity, age, and primary language spoken patient groups with the screening, discounted care, payment plan, and collections practices.

Data is due annually to the Department by September 1. The first data set was due September 1, 2023 and covers September 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Subsequent data submissions will cover the previous state fiscal year, July through June. Of the 84 hospitals required to follow Hospital Discounted Care:

- 73 submitted data by mid-December and are included in this presentation;
- 7 submitted data by early January and are not included in this presentation;
- 2 have not submitted complete data; and
- 2 do not have data available.

In total, demographic information was reported to the Department for 212,913 patients by the 73 hospitals that have submitted complete data. The "Other" group includes patients whose application or screening was reported to be in process, patients with Medicare coverage, and patients whose program group was not reported.

Figure 1. Hospital Discounted Care Patients in each Program Group

*Information based on complete data available to HCPF as of December 15, 2023*
Patients in the Other group, shown in Figure 3, included patients who reported their Ethnicity as Asian, Black, Central American, Cuban, Filipino, Mexican, Multiple, Nepalese, Peruvian, Puerto Rican, and White.

Patients in the Unknown category, shown in Figure 4, include patients whose birthdates were not provided and those whose birthdays appeared to be mis-keyed, making them older than 110 or not born yet.
There were 122 different languages reported in the data, with 106 spoken by fewer than 100 patients each. Languages in the Other category, shown in Figure 5, were spoken by more than 100 patients each and include Vietnamese, Romanian, Chinese, Portuguese, Nepalese, Farsi, and Chuukese. English and Spanish made up the overwhelming majority of preferred languages, reported at 66% and 27% respectively.

Audits for Hospital Discounted Care began in December 2023 for the first year of implementation. Results will be included in the FY 2023-24 CICP Annual Report and the January 2025 SMART Hearing. Hospitals are required to submit documentation related to screenings and applications for the eligibility portion of the audit, as well as bills, payment plan, and collections information for the billing portion of the audit. Twenty hospitals have been chosen for the first round of audits which are currently being conducted and are scheduled to be completed by June 2024. Information about the implementation of Hospital Discounted Care will be included in the CICP Annual Report due to the Department’s committees of reference on February 1, 2024.

For more information, contact:
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