



**PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

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## **January 2006 Syndromic Surveillance Quality Assurance Report**

The Pinellas County Health Department has reviewed the data entered by all hospitals for the Syndromic Surveillance Program for the time period January 1 through January 31 for quality assurance purposes. We would like to thank all the participating hospitals for efforts they are making to continue improving the accuracy and reliability of this important community health monitoring system.

The total number of patients entered in January was 20,695, and the average daily rate in January was 668 entries per day. This is a 7.5% increase over the total number of entries for last month and a <1% increase over the number of entries for 1 year ago, in January 2005. The performance of each hospital was compared to how it performed the previous 2 months, and an asterisk (\*) after the entry indicates an improvement.

### **Average Time from Patient Arrival to Data Entry**

*Determined by averaging the period of time from when the data is entered versus the patient arrival time*

**Goal: Average 4 hours or less**

<b>Hospital</b>	<b>Average Entry Time (hours)</b>		
	<b>Nov 2005</b>	<b>Dec 2005</b>	<b>Jan 2006</b>
All Children's	6	5	5
Helen Ellis	8	5	6
St. Anthony's	8	7	7
Edward White	12	14	13 *
Palms of Pasadena	12	15	18
Sun Coast Hospital	21	20	21
St. Pete General	17	17	22
Northside Hospital	26	26	23 *
Largo Medical	29	29	26 *
Bayfront Medical	56	40	223
Morton Plant	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mease Dunedin	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mease Countryside	N/A	N/A	N/A
VA Medical Center	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>All Hospitals</b>	<b>20 hours</b>	<b>20 hours</b>	<b>46 hours</b>

### **No Box Checked Rate**

*The number of No Box Checked entries divided by the total patients entered*

**Goal: Less than 2% of records**

<b>Hospital</b>	<b>No Box Checked Rate</b>		
	<b>Nov 2005</b>	<b>Dec 2005</b>	<b>Jan 2006</b>
Edward White	0%	0%	0%
Sun Coast Hospital	0%	0%	0%
Northside Hospital	0%	0%	0%
Largo Medical	0.03%	0.2%	0% *
All Children's	0.04%	0%	0.04%
St. Pete General	4.5%	1.1%	0.09% *
St. Anthony's	1.5%	1.9%	0.6% *
Palms of Pasadena	3.7%	5.6%	6.1%
Helen Ellis	8.4%	8.5%	10.6%
Bayfront Medical	26.0%	20.2%	23.6%
Morton Plant	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mease Dunedin	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mease Countryside	N/A	N/A	N/A
VA Medical Center	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>All Hospitals</b>	<b>5.6%</b>	<b>4.7%</b>	<b>5.0%</b>

### **Data Entry Rate**

*The number of patients entered into STARS divided by each hospital's total ER census for the month*

**Goal: At least 90% of ER visits entered into database**

<b>Hospital</b>	<b>Data Entry Rate</b>		
	<b>Nov 2005</b>	<b>Dec 2005</b>	<b>Jan 2006</b>
Sun Coast Hospital	99%	100%	100%
All Children's Hospital	79%	85%	92% *
Helen Ellis Memorial	89%	90%	91% *
St. Anthony's Hospital	90%	88%	87%
Palms of Pasadena	90%	86%	85%
Largo Medical	92%	87%	84%
Northside Hospital	82%	75%	82% *
Edward White Hospital	87%	85%	81%
Bayfront Medical	CNP**	CNP**	73%
St. Pete General Hospital	94%	99%	CNP**
Morton Plant Hospital	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mease Dunedin	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mease Countryside	N/A	N/A	N/A
VA Medical Center	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>All Reporting Hospitals</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>85%</b>

\*\*Census Not Provided

## **Duplicate Record Entries**

*The number of data entries that are considered to be duplicates divided by the total patients entered*

**Goal: Less than 1% of records duplicated**

<b>Hospital</b>	<b>Duplicate Rate</b>		
	<b>Nov 2005</b>	<b>Dec 2005</b>	<b>Jan 2006</b>
Sun Coast Hospital	0%	0%	0%
St. Anthony's	0.4%	0.3%	0.2% *
Bayfront Medical	0.9%	1.8%	0.2% *
Palms of Pasadena	1.1%	0.9%	0.7% *
Largo Medical	0.8%	0.5%	0.8%
Northside Hospital	1.3%	1.0%	1.2%
Helen Ellis	0.8%	1.4%	1.5%
Edward White	1.7%	1.5%	1.7%
All Children's	2.5%	2.6%	1.8% *
St. Pete General	3.2%	2.3%	1.9% *
Morton Plant	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mease Dunedin	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mease Countryside	N/A	N/A	N/A
VA Medical Center	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>All Hospitals</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>1.0%</b>

## **Discussion**

The average amount of time it takes to enter the patient information into the STARS website after the patient has arrived at the facility was 46 hours when all hospitals were included. When Bayfront Medical Center is removed from the average, the amount of time reduces to 16 hours. This unusually long time lapse occurred at Bayfront Medical when data was not entered for approximately 2 weeks. The data entry since then has been within a more reasonable amount of time. Sun Coast Hospital has the data automatically sent to the STARS website once per day, and is therefore unable to control the entry time.

Entering the correct date and time of patient arrival is important for linking patients during an epidemiologic investigation. Each hospital may check its own data through the "Reports" tab on the STARS website. Some hospitals use the triage time as the time of patient arrival and others use the time of disposition, which could make the time lapse appear to be smaller.

The overall No Box Checked rate increased to 5.0%, with 7 hospitals below 2% for the month, which is the goal for the No Box Checked category. Having the majority of the forms filled out when the patient first arrives, usually in the triage area, will help to reduce the number left blank.

There was a reduction in the duplicate entry rate for 5 hospitals this month, with 5 hospitals reaching the goal of less than 1%. Since Sun Coast Hospital has the data sent automatically, there are no duplicates. One way to reduce the number of duplicate entries is to use the "CORR" function when entering corrected records. Please remind all data entry personnel to type "CORR" before the MRN of the corrected entries to prevent them from being counted as duplicates.

There were 78 flags reported by the statistical analysis program during the month of January. It was necessary to contact a hospital 16 times (26% of cases reviewed) as a result of flags and 2 contacts were made without a flag present. There were 6 unexplained deaths reported this past month, none of which turned out to be an unexplained death. Also, there were 6 botulism-like illness syndromes reported, most from Sun Coast Hospital. None of the cases were ever suspected to be botulism.

Non-significant flags are a sign of incomplete data collection or inconsistent data entry and there were 7 hospitals that had zero non-significant flags. The ongoing data review will help to identify areas that can be improved upon and the health department will work together with each hospital to implement these improvements.

### Aberrant Flags by Hospital, January 2006

Hospital	Total Reported Flags	Non-significant Flags*	Flags Reviewed by CHD	Hospital Contacts
All Children's	6	0	6	2
Bayfront Medical	0	0	0	0
Edward White	5	0	5	0
Helen Ellis	10	5	5	4
Largo Medical	5	0	5	1
Northside	3	0	3	0
Palms of Pasadena	8	4	4	2
St. Anthony's	10	5	5	1
St. Pete General	4	0	4	2
Sun Coast	8	0	8	5**
Multiple Hospital/ Cumulative Flag	19	3	16	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>18</b>

\*Refers to "None of the Following" and "No Box Checked" flags

\*\*Contact was made at this hospital without a flag present: Sun Coast = 2

A proposal has been submitted through the Urban Area Security Initiative grant requesting funds to complete the databridge project. If you have any questions about any aspect of this report, please contact Suzanne DeKay at (727) 824-6900 x11291 or email at [Suzanne\\_DeKay@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Suzanne_DeKay@doh.state.fl.us).