



PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

**April 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 April 1 through April 30 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 April was 19,705, and the average daily rate in April was 657 entries per day. This is a 6.5% decrease over the total number of entries for last month and a 5.5% decrease over the number of entries for 1 year ago, in April 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

Hospital	Average Entry Time (hours)		
	Feb 2006	March 2006	April 2006
All Children's	6	5	5
St. Anthony's	8	8	8
Helen Ellis	9	10	8 *
St. Pete General	34	31	13 *
Edward White	14	15	14 *
Sun Coast Hospital	21	21	21
Palms of Pasadena	43	27	28
Largo Medical	25	24	29
Northside Hospital	29	23	32
Bayfront Medical	28	38	38
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
All Hospitals	21 hours	21 hours	20 hours

No Box Checked Rate

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

Goal: Less than 2% of records

Hospital	No Box Checked Rate		
	Feb 2006	March 2006	April 2006
Edward White	0%	0.19%	0% *
Sun Coast Hospital	0%	0%	0%
All Children's	0%	0.03%	0.1%
Largo Medical	0.08%	0.13%	0.3% *
St. Anthony's	1.8%	1.2%	0.7% *
St. Pete General	2.8%	0.37%	1.3%
Northside Hospital	0.05%	0%	1.8%
Bayfront Medical	26.9%	19.3%	8.3% *
Palms of Pasadena	5.1%	12.4%	12.0% *
Helen Ellis	11.2%	16.4%	18.6%
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
All Hospitals	6.4%	5.5%	4.0%

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

Hospital	Data Entry Rate		
	Feb 2006	March 2006	April 2006
Sun Coast Hospital	100%	100%	100%
All Children's Hospital	94%	90%	99% *
St. Pete General Hospital	86%	97%	93%
Helen Ellis Memorial	88%	94%	91%
St. Anthony's Hospital	CNP**	97%	87%
Northside Hospital	82%	87%	84%
Palms of Pasadena	77%	84%	79%
Edward White Hospital	79%	73%	75% *
Largo Medical	81%	70%	67%
Bayfront Medical	91%	89%	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
All Reporting Hospitals	87%	87%	86%

**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

Hospital	Duplicate Rate		
	Feb 2006	March 2006	April 2006
Sun Coast Hospital	0%	0%	0%
St. Anthony's	0.18%	0.5%	0.4% *
Palms of Pasadena	0.41%	0.7%	0.6% *
Helen Ellis	2.0%	1.9%	1.2% *
Edward White	1.6%	3.4%	1.3% *
Largo Medical	0.56%	0.96%	1.4%
All Children's	2.2%	1.6%	1.4% *
Northside Hospital	2.4%	1.7%	1.8%
Bayfront Medical	0.96%	1.4%	2.3%
St. Pete General	2.6%	2.6%	2.9%
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
All Hospitals	1.3%	1.4%	1.5%

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 has decreased slightly to 20 hours for all participating hospitals. 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 decreased to 4.0%, 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 3 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 87 flags reported by the statistical analysis program during the month of April. It was necessary to contact a hospital 8 times (12% of cases reviewed) as a result of flags and 1 contact was made at Sun Coast Hospital without a flag present. There were 6 unexplained deaths reported this past month, none which turned out to be an actual unexplained death. Also, there were 7 botulism-like illness syndromes reported, most from Sun Coast Hospital. There were 2 botulism-like illnesses reported from Helen Ellis Hospital which turned out to be data entry error. 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 was 1 hospital 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, April 2006

Hospital	Total Reported Flags	Non-significant Flags*	Flags Reviewed by CHD	Hospital Contacts
All Children's	6	1	5	1
Bayfront Medical	11	8	3	0
Edward White	4	0	4	0
Helen Ellis	11	4	7	7
Largo Medical	2	1	1	0
Northside	8	4	4	0
Palms of Pasadena	5	2	3	0
St. Anthony's	4	0	4	0
St. Pete General	8	2	6	0
Sun Coast	17	2	15	1**
Multiple Hospital/ Cumulative Flag	19	4	15	0
TOTAL	87	28	67	9

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

**Call was made without a flag present: Sun Coast = 1

HCA Healthcare has indicated a willingness to implement the databridge in their hospitals and talks are ongoing with the Hillsborough CHD at this time. If you have any questions about any aspect of this report, or if you have any ideas about what you would like to see included in the report, please contact Suzanne DeKay at (727) 824-6900 x11291 or email at Suzanne_DeKay@doh.state.fl.us.