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PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

**July 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 July 1 through July 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 July was 18,745, and the average daily rate in July was 605 entries per day. This is a 1% increase over the total number of entries for last month and a 5% decrease from the number of entries for 1 year ago, in July 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)		
	May 2006	June 2006	July 2006
All Children's	4	4	5
Helen Ellis	6	5	5
St. Anthony's	8	8	8
Largo Medical	29	17	11 *
St. Pete General	13	10	11
Edward White	16	13	15
Palms of Pasadena	17	15	15
Sun Coast Hospital	21	21	20 *
Northside Hospital	21	26	22 *
Bayfront Medical	28	53	60
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	16 hours	20 hours	21 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		
	May 2006	June 2006	July 2006
Edward White	0%	0%	0%
Sun Coast Hospital	0%	0%	0%
All Children's	0%	0%	0%
St. Pete General	0.3%	0.2%	0% *
Largo Medical	0%	0.06%	0.1%
Northside Hospital	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%
St. Anthony's	0.6%	1.4%	3.0%
Bayfront Medical	4.1%	5.7%	4.2% *
Palms of Pasadena	8.1%	6.9%	8.0%
Helen Ellis	11.9%	13.9%	11.3% *
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	2.2%	1.1%	2.5%

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		
	May 2006	June 2006	July 2006
Helen Ellis Memorial	93%	95%	94%
Bayfront Medical	82%	90%	93% *
Palms of Pasadena	83%	84%	81%
Edward White Hospital	81%	81%	78%
Largo Medical	55%	65%	64%
All Children's Hospital	93%	CNP**	CNP**
St. Anthony's Hospital	CNP**	CNP**	CNP**
St. Pete General Hospital	CNP**	99%	CNP**
Sun Coast Hospital	100%	100%	100%
Northside Hospital	80%	81%	76%
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	81%	85%	81%

**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		
	May 2006	June 2006	July 2006
Sun Coast Hospital	0%	0%	0%
Palms of Pasadena	1.0%	0.4%	0.2% *
St. Anthony's	0.6%	0.6%	0.5% *
Bayfront Medical	1.5%	1.0%	0.7% *
Helen Ellis	1.3%	1.9%	0.7% *
Largo Medical	1.1%	0.06%	0.8%
Northside Hospital	0.9%	0.7%	0.8%
Edward White	2.0%	1.6%	1.3% *
St. Pete General	1.1%	1.4%	1.3% *
All Children's	2.4%	2.9%	3.2%
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	1.2%	1.2%	1.0%

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 increased to 21 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 increased to 2.5%, with 6 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. Since Sun Coast has the data sent automatically, there are no No Box Checked syndromes or duplicate entries.

There was a reduction in the duplicate entry rate for 6 hospitals this month, with 7 hospitals reaching the goal of less than 1%. 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 95 flags reported by the statistical analysis program during the month of July. It was necessary to contact a hospital 9 times (13% of cases reviewed) as a result of flags and 3 contacts were made without a flag present. There were 10 unexplained deaths reported this past month, none which turned out to be an actual unexplained death. Also, there were 6 botulism-like illness syndromes reported, all 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 2 hospitals that had zero non-significant flags.

Aberrant Flags by Hospital, July 2006

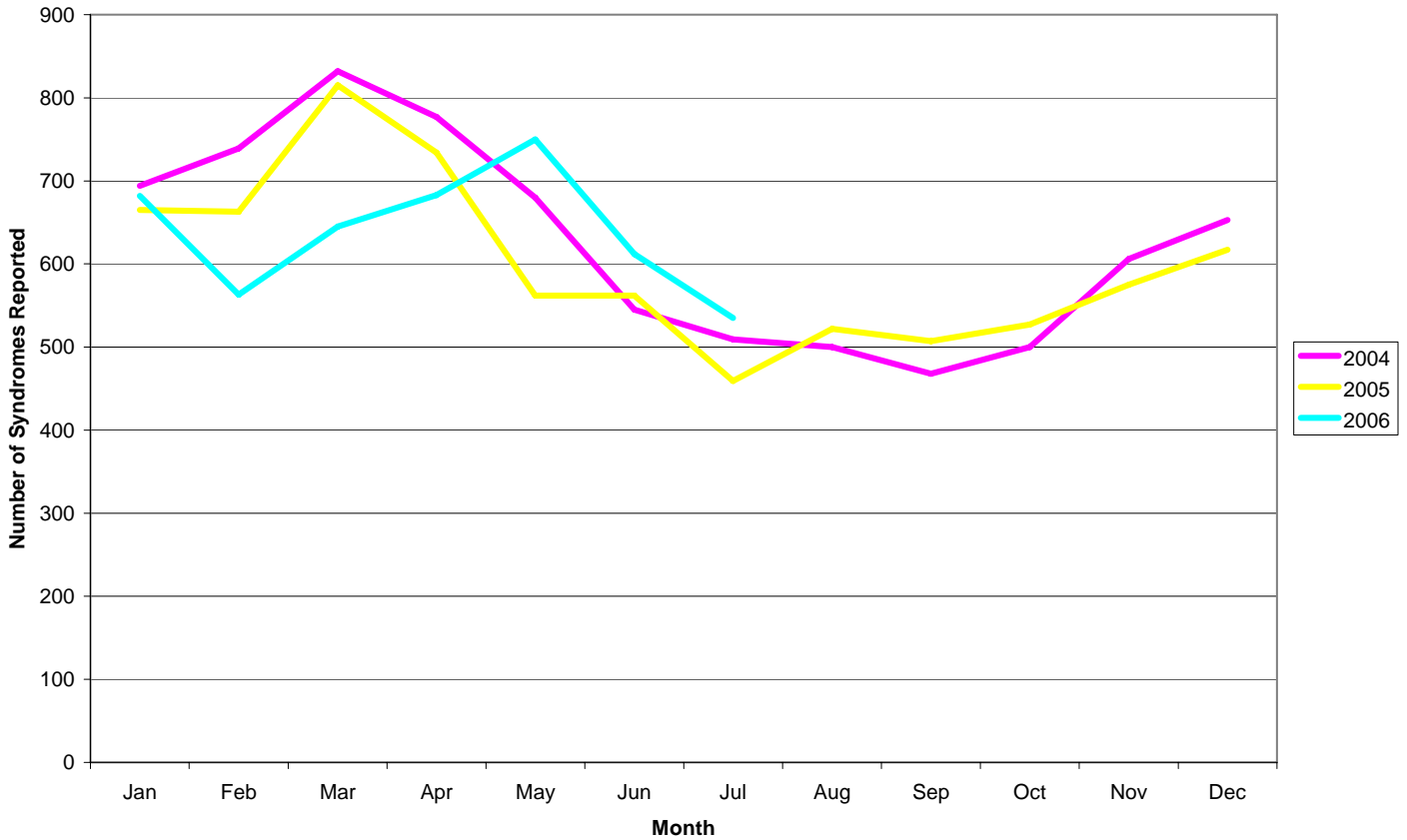
Hospital	Total Reported Flags	Non-significant Flags*	Flags Reviewed by CHD	Hospital Contacts
All Children's	6	1	5	0
Bayfront Medical	4	2	2	0
Edward White	3	0	3	0
Helen Ellis	13	3	10	7**
Largo Medical	6	1	5	0
Northside	6	1	5	0
Palms of Pasadena	12	5	7	0
St. Anthony's	16	10	6	1
St. Pete General	4	0	4	0
Sun Coast	12	1	11	4**
Multiple Hospital/ Cumulative Flag	13	3	10	0
TOTAL	95	27	68	12

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

**Call made to hospital without a flag present: Helen Ellis = 2; Sun Coast = 1

The number of Gastroenteritis-Like syndromes reported has decreased in the Pinellas County area to levels that have been seen over the past 2 years, as indicated in the graph below.

Number of Gastroenteritis-like Syndromes Reported by Month



BayCare Health Systems has begun to test data transmission for hospitals in Hillsborough County and will implement the databridge in their hospitals in Pinellas and Hillsborough during the next month. 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 the Pinellas County Health Department at (727) 824-6900 x11291 or email at Suzanne_DeKay@doh.state.fl.us.