



PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

**August 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 August 1 through August 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 August was 18,307, and the average daily rate in August was 590 entries per day. This is a 2% decrease over the total number of entries for last month and a 10% decrease from the number of entries for 1 year ago, in August 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)		
	June 2006	July 2006	August 2006
Helen Ellis	5	5	4 *
All Children's	4	5	5
St. Anthony's	8	8	7 *
St. Pete General	10	11	12
Largo Medical	17	11	17
Edward White	13	15	13 *
Palms of Pasadena	15	15	13 *
Sun Coast Hospital	21	20	20
Northside Hospital	26	22	31
Bayfront Medical	53	60	42 *
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	20 hours	21 hours	18 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		
	June 2006	July 2006	August 2006
Edward White	0%	0%	0%
Sun Coast Hospital	0%	0%	0%
Northside Hospital	0.1%	0.2%	0% *
St. Pete General	0.2%	0%	0%
Largo Medical	0.06%	0.1%	0.1%
All Children's	0%	0%	0.1%
St. Anthony's	1.4%	3.0%	0.6% *
Bayfront Medical	5.7%	4.2%	1.7% *
Palms of Pasadena	6.9%	8.0%	4.3% *
Helen Ellis	13.9%	11.3%	6.6% *
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	1.1%	2.5%	1.2%

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		
	June 2006	July 2006	August 2006
Sun Coast Hospital	100%	100%	100%
Helen Ellis Memorial	95%	94%	95% *
All Children's Hospital	CNP**	CNP**	95% *
Bayfront Medical	90%	93% *	89%
Palms of Pasadena	84%	81%	86% *
Edward White Hospital	81%	78%	79% *
Northside Hospital	81%	76%	77% *
St. Pete General Hospital	99%	CNP**	72% *
Largo Medical	65%	64%	60%
St. Anthony's Hospital	CNP**	CNP**	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	85%	81%	83%

**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		
	June 2006	July 2006	August 2006
Sun Coast Hospital	0%	0%	0%
St. Anthony's	0.6%	0.5%	0.1% *
Palms of Pasadena	0.4%	0.2%	0.4%
Largo Medical	0.06%	0.8%	0.7% *
Bayfront Medical	1.0%	0.7%	0.8%
Helen Ellis	1.9%	0.7%	0.9%
Northside Hospital	0.7%	0.8%	1.1%
Edward White	1.6%	1.3%	1.7%
St. Pete General	1.4%	1.3%	2.7%
All Children's	2.9%	3.2%	2.8% *
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%	1.0%	1.2%

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 decreased to 18 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 1.2%, with 8 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 3 hospitals this month, with 6 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 96 flags reported by the statistical analysis program during the month of August. It was necessary to contact a hospital 5 times (7% of cases reviewed) as a result of flags and no contacts were made without a flag present. There were 3 unexplained deaths reported this past month, none which turned out to be an actual unexplained death. Also, there were 4 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 3 hospitals that had zero non-significant flags.

Aberrant Flags by Hospital, August 2006

Hospital	Total Reported Flags	Non-significant Flags*	Flags Reviewed by CHD	Hospital Contacts
All Children's	3	2	1	0
Bayfront Medical	6	3	3	0
Edward White	3	0	3	1
Helen Ellis	14	7	7	2
Largo Medical	4	1	3	1
Northside	16	2	14	1
Palms of Pasadena	9	3	6	0
St. Anthony's	6	2	4	0
St. Pete General	5	0	5	0
Sun Coast	13	0	13	0
Multiple Hospital/ Cumulative Flag	17	4	13	0
TOTAL	96	24	72	5

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

BayCare Health Systems has begun to test data transmission for hospitals in Hillsborough County and will implement the databridge in their hospitals in Pinellas County soon after. Bayfront Medical has also begun to send test data transmissions. 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) 507-4336 x1364 or email at Suzanne_DeKay@doh.state.fl.us.