



**PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

## **October 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 October 1 through October 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 October was 19,508, and the average daily rate in October was 650 entries per day. This is a 3% increase over the total number of entries for last month. 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>August 2006</b>	<b>Sept 2006</b>	<b>Oct 2006</b>
Helen Ellis	4	5	8
All Children's	5	5	6
St. Pete General	12	6	11
St. Anthony's	7	8	17
Edward White	13	12	16
Palms of Pasadena	13	12	13
Largo Medical	17	17	35
Sun Coast Hospital	20	19	22
Northside Hospital	31	21	26
Bayfront Medical	42	47	94
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>18 hours</b>	<b>14 hours</b>	<b>31 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**

Hospital	No Box Checked Rate		
	August 2006	Sept 2006	Oct 2006
Edward White	0%	0%	0%
Sun Coast Hospital	0%	0%	0%
Northside Hospital	0%	0%	0%
Largo Medical	0.1%	0.1%	0%*
All Children's	0.1%	0.6%	0.3%*
St. Anthony's	0.6%	0.8%	0.5%*
Bayfront Medical	1.7%	3%	12.9%
Palms of Pasadena	4.3%	3%	6.2%
St. Pete General	0%	5%	6.1%
Helen Ellis	6.6%	9%	13.2%
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
<b>All Hospitals</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>4.6%</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**

Hospital	Data Entry Rate		
	August 2006	Sept 2006	October 2006
Sun Coast Hospital	100%	100%	100%
Helen Ellis Memorial	95%	94%	93%
All Children's Hospital	95%	91%	93%
Bayfront Medical	89%	88%	92%
Edward White Hospital	79%	87%	85%
Largo Medical	60%	82%	65%
St. Pete General Hospital	72%	81%	81%
Palms of Pasadena	86%	77%	71%
Northside Hospital	77%	CNP**	CNP**
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
<b>All Reporting Hospitals</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>87%</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**

Hospital	Duplicate Rate		
	August 2006	Sept 2006	October 2006
Sun Coast Hospital	0%	0%	0%
Palms of Pasadena	0.4%	0%	0.5%
St. Anthony's	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%
Helen Ellis	0.9%	0.3%	0.8%
Largo Medical	0.7%	0.4%	0.5%
Bayfront Medical	0.8%	0.4%	0.3%*
Northside Hospital	1.1%	0.4%	0.6%
Edward White	1.7%	0.4%	0.4%
St. Pete General	2.7%	0.6%	0.3%*
All Children's	2.8%	2.5%	0.8%*
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
<b>All Hospitals</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>0.4%</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 increased to 31 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 4.6%, 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 3 hospitals this month, with all 10 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 120 flags reported by the statistical analysis program during the month of October. It was necessary to contact a hospital 10 times as a result of flags and 2 contacts were made without a flag present. There were 6 unexplained deaths reported this past month. Also, there were 5 botulism-like illness syndromes reported. 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 not any hospitals that had zero non-significant flags.

### Aberrant Flags by Hospital, October 2006

Hospital	Total Reported Flags	Non-significant Flags*	Flags Reviewed by CHD	Hospital Contacts
All Children's	7	3	4	2
Bayfront Medical	5	2	3	1
Edward White	7	3	4	1
Helen Ellis	11	4	7	3
Largo Medical	2	1	1	0
Northside	8	4	4	0
Palms of Pasadena	12	5	7	1
St. Anthony's	8	4	4	0
St. Pete General	5	2	3	1
Sun Coast	18	8	10	0
Multiple Hospital/ Cumulative Flag	37	17	20	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>10</b>

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

\*\*Call made to hospital without a flag present

BayCare Health Systems has completed the databridge for hospitals in Hillsborough County and will begin to implement the databridge for their hospitals in Pinellas County. 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 Sitha Mangipudy at the Pinellas County Health Department at (727) 824-6900 ext 11516 or email at [Sitha\\_Mangipudy@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Sitha_Mangipudy@doh.state.fl.us).