



PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

**November 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 of November 1 through November 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 November was 16,872, and the average daily rate in November was 545 entries per day. This is a 14% decrease 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

Hospital	Average Entry Time (hours)		
	Sept 2006	Oct 2006	Nov 2006
Helen Ellis	5	8	6*
All Children's	5	6	6
St. Pete General	6	11	7*
St. Anthony's	8	17	10*
Edward White	12	16	15*
Palms of Pasadena	12	13	13
Largo Medical	17	35	29*
Sun Coast Hospital	19	22	22
Northside Hospital	21	26	28
Bayfront Medical	47	94	83*
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	14 hours	31 hours	22 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		
	September 2006	October 2006	November 2006
Edward White	0%	0%	0%
Sun Coast Hospital	0%	0%	0%
Northside Hospital	0%	0%	0%
Largo Medical	0.1%	0%	0.1%
All Children's	0.6%	0.3%	0%*
St. Anthony's	0.8%	0.5%	0.8%
Bayfront Medical	3%	12.9%	11.8%*
Palms of Pasadena	3%	6.2%	5.5%*
St. Pete General	5%	6.1%	5.8%*
Helen Ellis	9%	13.2%	11.6%*
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	2%	4.6%	3.6%

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		
	September 2006	October 2006	November 2006
Sun Coast Hospital	100%	100%	100%
Helen Ellis Memorial	95%	94%	94%
All Children's Hospital	95%	91%	CNP**
Bayfront Medical	89%	88%	78%
Edward White Hospital	79%	87%	76%
Largo Medical	60%	82%	56%
St. Pete General Hospital	72%	81%	81%
Palms of Pasadena	86%	77%	66%
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
All Reporting Hospitals	83%	87%	79%

*NOTE: Data for Mease Dunedin, Morton Plant Hospital, and Mease Countryside will be available next month.

**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		
	September 2006	October 2006	November 2006
Sun Coast Hospital	0%	0%	0%
Palms of Pasadena	0%	0.5%	0.3%*
St. Anthony's	0.2%	0.2%	0%*
Helen Ellis	0.3%	0.8%	0.5%*
Largo Medical	0.4%	0.5%	0.4%*
Bayfront Medical	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%*
Northside Hospital	0.4%	0.6%	0.1%*
Edward White	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
St. Pete General	0.6%	0.3%	0.3%
All Children's	2.5%	0.8%	0%*
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	0.6%	0.4%	0.2%

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 22 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 3.6%, 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 7 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 66 flags reported by the statistical analysis program during the month of November. It was necessary to contact a hospital 10 times as a result of flags. There were 2 unexplained deaths reported this past month. Also, there were 11 botulism-like illness flags reported. None of the cases were ever suspected to be botulism.

Aberrant Flags by Hospital, November 2006

Hospital	Total Reported Flags	Non-significant Flags*	Hospital Contacts**
All Children's	1	0	1
Bayfront Medical	2	2	0
Edward White	2	2	2
Helen Ellis	5	4	1
Largo Medical	1	1	0
Northside	4	4	0
Palms of Pasadena	3	3	0
St. Anthony's	6	4	2
St. Pete General	13	11	2
Sun Coast	8	6	2
Multiple Hospital/ Cumulative Flag	21	21	0
TOTAL	66	58	10

*Refers to flags not requiring a hospital call

**Call made to hospital in the event of a potentially significant 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 begun to send data transmissions via the databridge. Morton Plant Hospital, Mease Countryside, and Mease Dunedin have also recently implemented a databridge, data entry analysis of these hospitals will begin 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 Sitha Mangipudy at the

Pinellas County Health Department at (727) 824-6900 ext 11516 or email at Sitha_Mangipudy@doh.state.fl.us.