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MHDO/Maine Quality Forum Newsletter, April 2018

Maine Health Data Organization
Maine Quality Forum

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Message from Karynlee Harrington, Director of the Maine Quality Forum and the Maine Health Data Organization:

Since our last publication, the team at MHDO & MQF has been busy working on several key initiatives including hospital and claims data releases, an updated release of CompareMaine and continuing to work with our data partners to use MHDO data to help inform key health issues in the state and nationally. Details of some of these items are described below. We are always open to feedback so if there are topics that you would like us to include in our newsletter, please let us know a quarterlynewsletter.mhdo-mqf@maine.gov.

Happy Spring! Karynlee

In this issue:

- CompareMaine cost & quality data update
- Current data availability
- New reports using MHDO data
- Maine Infection Prevention Forum
- Release of a new Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) database - 2015 Nationwide Emergency Department Sample (NEDS)
- AHRQ Resource Provides County-level Comparisons of Hospitalization Rates for Substance Abuse
- Healthcare Associated Infections Validation Contract Announcement
- Cost of Care Conversations Pilot Webinar

Measuring Maine’s Healthcare Cost & Quality

CompareMaine Updates

The MHDO and MQF recently released CompareMaine 5.0. The highlights in this updated version include:

- **Cost data** reflecting the time period July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017.
- **H-CAHPS Patient Experience Summary Star** reflecting the time period January 1 - December 31, 2016.
- **Hospital infection measures for C.difficile and MRSA** reflecting the time period January 1- December 31, 2016.
- **Preventing Serious Complications** data reflecting the time period July 1, 2014 - September 30, 2015.
- A modified minimum reporting threshold from 10 to 5 procedures in order to include more data for the state’s rural areas.
• **Enhanced search functionality** to populate results based on driving distance rather than “as the crow flies” distance.
• **Alphabetized procedures** within a category/topic under “Choose a Topic”.

The next release of CompareMaine is scheduled for the Fall of 2018.

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**Current Data Availability**

MHDO maintains **over 1 billion healthcare records** and that number continues to grow every month new data is submitted. The MHDO’s interactive data availability tool allows you select a date range for the specific data set you are interested in (claims or hospital data) and each graphic will adjust to display information regarding the data set for the date range selected. For example claims data will display the volume of claims available, the amount paid, the number of members reported and the specific payers represented in the date range selected.

View our data availability tool here: [https://mhdo.maine.gov/tableau/data.cshtml](https://mhdo.maine.gov/tableau/data.cshtml)

**Below is a summary of the status of the most current data availability:**

- All payer claims data
  - Commercial and MaineCare through 12/2017 (release date week of 4/2/18)
  - Medicare through 12/2016 (MHDO has requested Q1-Q2 2017 data from CMS-Plan to release in July 2018)
- Hospital inpatient and outpatient data
  - Inpatient through 9/2017 (inpatient data now being released quarterly with lag)
  - Outpatient through 12/2016 (released annually. CY 2017 planned for release week of June 25, 2018)
- Quality data – through 6/2017
- Financial data – through FY 2016 (based on hospital fiscal year)

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**Data Requests**

A listing of all new data requests submitted to the MHDO can be found here: [https://mhdo.maine.gov/datarequest.aspx](https://mhdo.maine.gov/datarequest.aspx)

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**New Reports using MHDO Data**

**Inventory and Prioritization of Measures Using All-Payer Claims Databases**

The AHRQ-funded report, **Inventory and Prioritization of Measures to Support the Growing Effort in Transparency using All-payer Claims Databases (APCD)**, is now available. The report provides background on APCDs and the APCD project, uses of APCD-based measures, and evaluation of data from a few State APCDs including the **Maine Health Data Organization’s APCD**.

[Access the report](https://mhdo.maine.gov/datarequest.aspx)
Evaluating use of APCD for Medication Adherence among Maine Adults

The Maine CDC and the USM Muskie School of Public Service used the MHDO’s pharmacy claims data to calculate blood pressure and diabetes medication adherence. The blood pressure medication adherence data and methodology were shared with other state epidemiologists at the 2017 CSTE Conference.

The medication adherence rates, by demographics and geography, will continue to be used in combination with other data to inform further public health interventions that address hypertension and diabetes control in Maine. As part of an upcoming GIS training coordinated by CDC, National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD), and the Children’s Environmental Health Initiative at Rice University, Maine medication adherence data from MHDO’s claims data will be used with other relevant data to explore sub-state geographic relationships to highlight geographic health disparities or identify opportunities for clinical-community linkages in certain regions. One of the lead researchers on this project stated, “Using the MHDO claims data was essential as it is the most comprehensive statewide source available”.

For more information on this project visit: https://cste.confex.com/cste/2017/webprogram/Paper8579.html

Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative

Joan Orr, Director of Northern New England Practice Transformation Network (NNE-PTN), and Senior Director of Programs, Quality Counts, made a presentation to the MHDO Board of Directors at their December 2017 meeting on how Quality Counts and over 2000 providers in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont participating in the NNE-PTN project will be using APCD data from all three states.

View the Presentation Slides

Education & Training

Maine Infection Prevention Training

The Maine Infection Prevention Forum is a free, online education tool that provides modules on the following topics:

- Core Infection Preventionist Training Program
- Biological Hazards
- Bloodborne Pathogens for Clinical Staff
- Bloodborne Pathogens for Non-clinical Staff

To date:
- Staff from 120 long term care facilities, representing 270 employees, have enrolled in the Infection Preventionist module.
- 197 employees have enrolled in the Biological Hazards module.
- 216 clinical staff and 57 non-clinical staff have enrolled in the Bloodborne Pathogens modules.

The Forum can be found at: maineinfectionpreventionforum.org
AHRQ Announces Release of a New HCUP Database - the 2015 Nationwide Emergency Department Sample (NEDS)

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) just released a new Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) database – the 2015 Nationwide Emergency Department Sample (NEDS). The MHDO is one of HCUP’s partners and MHDO hospital data is sent to HCUP to be integrated into the national Emergency Department (ED) database. The NEDS was created to enable analyses of emergency department utilization patterns. Note as reported by AHRQ the ED serves a dual role in the U.S. healthcare system infrastructure, as a point of entry for approximately 50 percent of inpatient hospital admissions and as a setting for treat-and-release outpatient visits. The NEDS contains information about geographic, hospital, and patient characteristics as well as descriptions of the nature of the visits (i.e., common reasons for ED visits, including injuries). The NEDS is the largest all-payer ED database that is publicly available in the United States, containing information from 30.5 million ED visits at 953 hospitals that approximate a 20-percent stratified sample of U.S. hospital-owned EDs. Weights are provided to calculate national estimates representative of 143 million ED visits in the U.S. for calendar year 2015.

The 2015 NEDS is a publicly available database that can be purchased through the HCUP Central Distributor.

AHRQ Resource Provides County-level Comparisons of Hospitalization Rates for Substance Abuse

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) released an online statistical resource that for the first time provides county-level comparisons of hospitalization rates for substance use, including opioids, alcohol, stimulants and other drugs.

AHRQ’s new resource of statistics, drawn from 2014 hospital discharge data provided by 32 states, including data for Maine provided by MHDO, illustrates how the impact of substance use has varied widely across communities.

Maine ranked 11th highest in opioid-related inpatient stays of 44 states reporting with 300.5 per 100,000 inpatient stays. Within Maine, county-level rates of opioid-related inpatient discharges ranged from 137 per 100,000 in Aroostook county to 467 per 100,000 discharges in Knox county.

View opioid hospitalization trends by state

Healthcare Associated Infections Validation Contract

As a result of a competitive Request for Proposal process, the Maine Quality Forum recently awarded a contract to John Snow, Inc. for the validation work specific to Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI). The parties are finalizing the terms of the contract with an anticipated effective date of later this spring.
**Coming Soon**

MHDO has been working with our data users for over a year on how best to enhance the content and structure of our metadata resources. We released our interactive APCD data dictionary last fall and have received positive feedback. We plan on releasing our interactive hospital data dictionary in July. We are also preparing entity relationship diagrams (ERDs), as well as a description of all our business rules for both the APCD and Hospital data sets which will be available in July and November respectively.

**Events**

**Enhancing Cost of Care Conversations for Low Back Pain Treatment using Publicly Reported Cost Information Webinar**

Kimberley Fox of the USM, Muskie School of Public Service will present findings from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funded Cost of Care Conversations pilot on May 30 during a Maine Quality Counts hosted webinar.

This formative study developed and piloted health care provider and consumer tools to facilitate cost conversations related to low-back pain treatment using cost information available on www.CompareMaine.org.

[Learn More and Register](#)

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The **Maine Health Data Organization** was established to create and maintain a useful, objective, reliable and comprehensive health information data warehouse that is used to improve the health of Maine citizens and to promote transparency of the cost and quality of healthcare in the State of Maine by collaborating with the **Maine Quality Forum** which was established in 2003 per 24-A Chapter 87 Section 6951 to monitor and improve the quality of health care in the State.

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