



Nebraska Hospital Association Nebraska Hospital Information System

The NHA Nebraska Hospital Information System (NHIS) collects and analyzes accurate Nebraska hospital health care data. The NHIS data is used for analysis and decision-making relative to the health care needs of the State of Nebraska and its citizens. In fulfilling this purpose, major goals of the NHIS are:

- Collection of inpatient and outpatient acute hospital health information data:
- Non-public processes for data collection
- Assist with data mandates for Nebraska Health and Human Services registries:
 - External Cause of Injury
 - Head, Brain & Spinal Injury
 - Communicable Diseases
 - Ambulatory Surgical Center data reporting (future)
- Hospital advocacy data and information:
 - Collection of geographically-specific and diagnosis-specific information
 - Document health care utilization and out-migration patterns
 - Identification of financial and utilization trends
- Reports and information for hospitals and affiliates:
 - Publish the annual *Acute Inpatient Hospital Report*
 - Publish various 'pricing guides' (every six months)
- NHA Clinical Outcomes Measurement System source data

The NHA has participating agreements and business associate agreements with Nebraska hospitals to receive their claims data into the NHIS. Although voluntary, hospitals are making a 'committed effort' to send all their claims (inpatient & outpatient), including self-pay to the NHIS. The NHIS is a primary source of hospital health care information on which to base future health planning activities.

The NHA continuously receives claims data from hospitals across the state. The information "capture" is instantaneous and causes no delay in claims processing as part of normal EDI process. The NHA has established a secure FTP server to receive claims data over the Internet. Hospitals submit their data in the ANSI 837i or proprietary flat file format.

An agreement between the NHA and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska (BCBSNE) enabled the NHA to utilize the electronic claims filing system to access a wide range of hospital health care data for the state. Nebraska is one of the most progressive states in the nation in that it utilizes a high percentage of electronic submission of hospital claims. Medicare, Medicaid and other major insurers in the state worked with BCBSNE to implement electronic claims processing.

Plans for the data collection system were developed by a broad-based task force that began meeting in October 1992 to address the question of how best to collect health data for Nebraska. The task force included representatives of hospitals, physicians, insurance companies, state health agencies, and the Nebraska Legislature's Health & Human Services Committee

The NHA is able to collect health care data under authority of Nebraska statutes. However, the NHA will be responsible for data usage activities including collection, computerizing, analyzing, evaluating, maintaining confidentiality, and publishing reports. All information generated is considered proprietary information and patient identifiers are secured.

NHA, along with hospitals, are committed to compliance with the HIPAA Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information regulations as published. As a Business Associate and trading partner with contributing hospitals, NHA will address the necessary issues and take actions as required to be HIPAA compliant. The HIPAA Privacy standards allow state hospital associations, acting on behalf of hospitals, to collect Protected Health Information for aggregation purposes and creating Limited Data Sets.

Individual hospital data will not be disclosed, however;

- Public domain data is available in reports
- Hospitals may provide authorization for limited disclosure
- Reports will contain a minimum of 5 providers with aggregated data

NHA and NHIS protect the privacy of health information;

- County or zip code will be released only with data use agreements
- NHIS identifiers and patient identifiers will not be released to outside sources
- HIPAA Privacy Standards and Security Standards will be maintained

The NHA Board of Directors established the policy that the NHIS generates adequate revenues to be self-supporting and therefore, not dues based. Member hospitals receive substantial discounts when ordering NHIS reports. The NHA prepares a variety of inpatient, ambulatory surgery, and diagnostic outpatient procedure reports. Custom NHIS reports are considered upon request.

Reports & Information published by NHIS during each year include:

- *Annual Acute Inpatient Hospital Reports* – 9th report released February 2004
- Pricing Guides - released on periodic schedule:
- *Top 20 DRG's Graphical Trend*
- *Room Rates by UB-92 Revenue Code Graphical Trend*
- *Top 20 ASC Cases by CPT Graphical Trend*
- *Top 200 ASC Cases by CPT*
- *Top 400 Diagnostic Outpatient Procedures*
- *Departmental Pricing Guide*
- *Revenue Code Profile*
- *Annual Patient Origin & Destination Reports*
- Custom report requests
- Data extracts to PC files

Participating hospitals' discounts range from 10% to 45% from list prices.

Nebraska was unique in that all acute care hospitals file claims electronically and with software that uses extensive edits. This enables the NHA to establish an accurate data collection system at a significant savings to the state and the providers of health care. This allows the database to be an increasingly valuable asset for our hospitals and others who can benefit from the information contained in the NHIS. The acute inpatient hospital contribution rate for calendar 2003 is estimated at 92%.

NHIS data collected from January 1995 to present:

- Through mid 2004, NHIS has received 15 million claims from Nebraska providers
- Transmissions approximate 12,000 additional claims every business day

With portion of 2004 complete, the NHIS system contains:

- 1,825,349 inpatient claims with 19,926,675 lines of revenue
- 13,934,849 ambulatory surgery, emergency room and outpatient claims
- 46,273,729 outpatient lines of revenue

The continuous support and effort of Nebraska hospitals make the NHIS possible and effective. The combination of your input and support from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska, and the Nebraska Health and Human Services System give Nebraska hospitals and the NHA a valuable resource.

Kevin Conway, NHA Vice President, Health Information, manages the NHIS and Maria Witkowicz provides support to the NHIS. Monica Seeland, Director of Clinical Health Information, manages the Nebraska Clinical Outcomes Measurement System.