



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Tony Evers, Governor
Andrea Palm, Secretary *designee*

August 6, 2020

Jeffrey Renk
Senate Chief Clerk
Room B20 Southeast, State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7882

Patrick E. Fuller
Assembly Chief Clerk
17 West Main Street, Room 401
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Mr. Renk and Mr. Fuller:

I am pleased to submit to the Legislature the enclosed report as required by Wis. Stat. ch. 153. The report describes “the content and number of reports and currency of information and reports generated in the previous calendar year” by the Wisconsin Hospital Association Information Center (WHAIC). WHAIC produced all required reports in a timely manner using the most currently available annual hospital discharge data.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Andrea Palm".

Andrea Palm
Secretary-designee

Enclosure



Standard Reports Produced by the Wisconsin Hospital Association Information Center under Wis. Stat. ch. 153

Wisconsin stat. § 153.05(2m)(c) directs the Department of Health Services (DHS) to submit a report about the reports produced by the Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA). Specifically, by April 1 annually, the Secretary of DHS is required to submit to the chief clerk of each house of the legislature “a report concerning the content and number of reports and currency of information and reports generated in the previous calendar year” by the Wisconsin Hospital Association Information Center (WHAIC), the entity under contract to produce the reports under § 153.05(2m).

The *Hospital Rate Increase Report* is a one-page web-based spreadsheet showing the dates of hospital price increases that caused a hospital’s gross patient revenue to increase faster than the rate of inflation (specifically, the federal government’s consumer price index). State law requires Wisconsin hospitals to report price increases to the WHA Information Center and to the public via local newspapers. The web-based spreadsheet is updated periodically throughout a calendar year, with a final spreadsheet report produced at the end of the calendar year.

The *Guide to Wisconsin Hospitals* presents descriptive financial, utilization, and staffing data about individual Wisconsin hospitals, and provides summary and trend information for selected aggregate data. Data sources are the Hospital Fiscal Survey and the Annual Survey of Hospitals submitted annually by all Wisconsin hospitals. In September 2019, WHAIC published the report covering fiscal year 2018.

The *Uncompensated Health Care Report, Wisconsin Hospitals* publication provides annual uncompensated health care information for general medical surgical (GMS) hospitals, psychiatric hospitals, alcohol and other drug abuse (AODA) hospitals, and rehabilitation hospitals that are not state or federal facilities. The data source is the Annual Hospital Fiscal Survey, which includes uncompensated health care and fiscal information for one year. In September 2019, WHAIC published the report covering fiscal year 2018.

The *Health Care Data Report* (termed a “patient-level data utilization, charge and quality report” in the administrative rules) presents an annual summary of patient data on the utilization and charges at Wisconsin hospitals and freestanding ambulatory surgery centers (FASCs). The report is divided into three sections: 1) inpatient data, 2) ambulatory surgery data, and 3) emergency department data. In August 2019, WHAIC published the report covering calendar year 2018.

The *Wisconsin Inpatient Hospital Quality Indicators Report* provides information about procedure volume, utilization and in-hospital mortality for common conditions and procedures in GMS hospitals in Wisconsin. It is intended to provide information about the quality of care in Wisconsin GMS hospitals that will be used to make administrative and system changes to improve patient outcomes. The quality measures used in the report are derived from hospital data submitted to WHA by GMS hospitals for inpatient stays. In November 2019, WHAIC published a modernized version of this report on their website, making timelier data available now and in the future.

The reports used the most currently available annual data and provided new charts, graphs and information.