



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Tony Evers, Governor
Karen E. Timberlake, Secretary

August 16, 2021

Michael Queensland
Senate Chief Clerk
Room B20 Southeast, State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin 53701

Edward Blazel
Assembly Chief Clerk
17 West Main Street, Room 401
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Mr. Queensland and Mr. Blazel:

I am pleased to submit to the Legislature the enclosed report as required by Wis. Stat. 153.05(2m) (c). The submission of this report has been delayed due to workload demands on Wisconsin's hospitals and the Department of Health Services due to COVID-19 and associated postponements in compiling the necessary data.

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.

Whenever possible, WHAIC continues to shorten the time between availability of the annual data set for analysis and web publication of these mandated reports.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Karen E. Timberlake".

Karen E. Timberlake
Secretary-designee

Enclosure



Standard Reports Produced by the Wisconsin Hospital Association Information Center under Ch. 153, Wis. Stats.

Wisconsin Stat. § 153.05(2m)(c) directs the Department of Health Services (DHS) to submit a report summarizing certain 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 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 “real-time” 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 October 2020, WHAIC published the report covering fiscal year 2019.

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 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 November 2020, WHAIC published the report covering fiscal year 2019.

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 2020, WHAIC published the report covering calendar year 2019.

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. After the 2015 release of the report, WHAIC now provides the most currently available annual data on the [CheckPoint](#) website, making timelier data available now and in the future. 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.