

Response: William Sappenfield, Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative (FPQC)

Nancy,

Thanks for the opportunity to respond. SSN is essential to assessing, monitoring, evaluating and improving health and health care for mothers and infants in Florida. Below are my responses to your questions. Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

~Bill

- What applications/programs/studies are supported with AHCA discharge data?

AHCA hospital discharge data is essential to the work of the Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative (FPQC). With support of statewide partners, the FPQC works voluntarily with hospitals and health care providers to improve the health and health care of mothers and infants. Our current initiatives with hospitals that provide health care to over half of Florida's births, more than 110,000 births. We used hospital discharge data to perform the following activities on a routine basis:

- Assess and study health issues focused on prevention.
- Assess potential health and quality improvement indicators.
- Monitor health and health care and provide indicators to do the same for their hospital
- Develop quality improvement initiatives and preventive strategies
- Monitor quality improvement initiatives and prevention strategies
- Evaluate quality improvement initiatives and prevention strategies

This work by FPQC is also already occurring and developing in other states across the country and becoming the standard of quality improvement practice nationally. States not performing these activities are greatly limited in their quality improvement and prevention efforts.

- What data sources do you utilize other than AHCA data?

The FPQC is currently using hospital discharge data of mothers and infants and the linked file of hospital discharge data to birth certificates. We are currently developing strategies and looking for funding to use hospital emergency department data and identifying potential funding opportunities.

- What data elements are required for linkage from each data source?

Social security number is essential to this work. It permits 1) the linkage of hospital discharge data and birth certificates greatly expanding the ability to use this data for quality improvement and health prevention. 2) the collapsing of hospital discharges to individuals both within a hospital and across hospitals. Other essential data elements include patient characteristics, hospital coverage source, hospitalization days and times, discharge diagnoses, procedures, hospital disposition, hospital charges, ICU utilization, and more.

- What is the impact if the SSN/Infant Linkage element is eliminated from the AHCA data source?

Eliminating SSN/Infant linkage would greatly limit this data for the many activities and would potentially increase the data reporting burden of hospitals to conduct this work. Those states that

cannot use data in this fashion are now requiring or developing policies to mandate independent hospital reporting.

- Do you use other methodologies/algorithms that require SSN/Infant Linkage?
- Additional comments or concerns?

Everyone—hospitals, health care providers, patients, families, communities, and health organizations—are directly benefitting from this work. Current quality improvement efforts have been shown to reduce millions of health care dollars as well as improve health outcomes. Eliminating this option greatly limits the potential of current quality improvement efforts and will greatly increase the burden.

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