

## Arizona Hospital Discharge Data General Information

The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) collects hospital discharge records for inpatient and emergency department visits from all Arizona licensed hospitals. This collection is required by Arizona Revised Statute (A.R.S.) § 36-125-05, and Arizona Administrative Code Title 9, Chapter 11, Articles 4 and 5.

The records are collected twice each year based upon patient discharge date, January 1 through June 30 discharges comprising the first data reporting and July 1 through December 31 comprising the second. Approximately 3 million discharge records are collected annually. Accuracy and completeness in reporting are required and enforced.

All Arizona *licensed* hospitals (i.e. regulated by the Arizona Department of Health Services), are required to report. Therefore, hospitals such as Veteran's Administration, Department of Defense, and those located on tribal land are *not* included in the reporting.

Data is released the same way it is collected, by reporting period. Each data set contains six months of records, based upon discharge date, with inpatient and emergency department records in separate files. Therefore, a complete year of all Arizona hospital discharge records is comprised of four data sets; two inpatient sets and two emergency department sets.

Target release dates are April 15 and October 15 each year. The April 15 release contains discharge records for July 1 through December 31 of the previous year. The October 15 release contains discharge records for January 1 through June 30 of the current year. ADHS strives to have the data available for release on or before these two dates; however, changes to data requirements or difficulties encountered in data collection may sometimes cause the data to be released after the target date. Data is not released until complete and acceptable data has been received from all hospitals required to report.

Records contain hospital identifiers, patient demographics, diagnoses, external cause codes, procedures, revenue and physician information. Much of this information is removed in the *Public Use File (PUF)* releases, under the HIPAA Safe Harbor Privacy Guidelines at 45 CFR 164.514.(b)(2).

Release of records in a *Limited Data Set* format is subject to application and approval by ADHS. A limited set of data elements is available for approved purposes.

Release of personally identifiable information for the purpose of biomedical and behavioral research must first be approved by the ADHS Human Subjects Review Board (HSRB). If approved by HSRB, actual data release is contingent upon final approval of the ADHS Section of Cost Reporting and Discharge Data Review (CRDDR).