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2012 Hospital Outpatient Data Refresh Release Notes

Updated March 2016

# Opening Statement

In November 2015 the MHDO released the 2012 hospital outpatient data along with supporting release documentation. In December 2015 we updated our release documentation with clarifications/corrections. As of March 11, 2016 we have updated our 2012 hospital outpatient file. For all new data requests and for data users that want a copy of the 2012 refresh file these release notes and supporting documentation replace the previous documentation.

With this release the MHDO has revised its policy on the assignment of geocodes-detail are below. Also note that in order to comply with MHDO Rule Chapter 120 section 9(A)(2)(f) by default, this and future data releases will only include county to identify the patients’ home addresses unless the additional detail is requested and approved by the MHDO.

# Facility Specific Data Notes

Included with this release is an excel document that contains records counts by facility by month, with data gaps highlighted in yellow. We estimate that the data gaps account for 1.4% of the expected volume of outpatient visits specific to provider based clinics. The table below identifies the data gaps that exist in the 2012 Outpatient data.

| **Facility ID #** | **Facility Name** | **Missing Months** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 200070 | Maine General Physicians’ Offices | October, November, December |
| 200072 | Maine Coast Physicians’ Offices | January |
| 200081 | Saco Health Center | January, February, March |
| 200083 | ME Med - Scar Physicians’ Offices | December |
| 200084 | ME Med - Bath Physicians’ Offices | January, February, March, December |
| 200085 | McGeachy Hall | January, February, March |
| 200089 | Central Maine Medical Group | January, February, March, April, May, June |
| 200090 | Sanford Physicians’ Offices | November, December |

Note: Some facilities have volume fluctuations month to month that may be outside of the expected range. We do not have any additional information to explain that fluctuation at this time, but in our new hospital submission system coming online this summer (2016), we will have a data validation that will compare volume with previous submissions which will allow us to detect potential data issues and capture explanations from facilities about fluctuation at the point of data submissions or notify them to submit missing information. This information will be released to the users as part of the release documentation.

Below are some additional facility specific notes.

**Facility 200001-** St. Joseph’s Hospital’s outpatient data contained a large number of null records in the “Covers Period From Date (Dos1)” field. The facility confirmed that files were created with DOS1 blank and DOS2 populated. More information on issues with the “Covers Period From Date (Dos1)” field are described below. We are working with St. Joseph’s to ensure that this doesn’t happen in the future.

**Facility 200084-** Maine Health Center - Bath informed MHDO that Bath Physician Offices has been combined with MMC OP (200009) during a system conversion in December 2012.

## Eastern Maine Health

In August 2015, EMH brought to the attention of the MHDO, that due to a system issue, services reported on a 1500 with no associated UB had not been reported to the MHDO for their **provider-based clinics only** for data submitted to the MHDO for the time period 2009-2015. This issue does impact this release. Note: The issue has been corrected by the facility and will be reflected in the 2014 hospital data.

# Assignment of Geocodes

In the restricted data releases the MHDO has historically assigned a geocode which has been populated in the geocode field. The MHDO has modified the algorithm used to determine this geocode. The MHDO will now assign a geocode when the city, state, and ZIP match the entries that appear on the canonical list of geocode values. The MHDO will no longer impute geocodes based on incomplete or conflicting city, state, or zip information. In order to improve our ability to assign geocodes in we are currently working with those facilities that have not provided consistent city, state, and zip information.

We have included in this release a data table of Maine geocodes provided by the Maine Office of GIS (MEGIS); this is the canonical list used for the geocode assignment.

In this and future releases of our restricted data the MHDO will provide the data elements of county, city, state and zip code, along with the geocode only when they are specifically requested and approved by the MHDO.

# Issues with “Covers Period From Date (DOS1)”

In order to accurately capture all of the appropriate dates for inpatient and outpatient encounters, we need to revise Rule Chapter 241 to include Statement Covers Period-From date (DOS1) in the hospital inpatient file and to validate proper population of others (e.g. admission/start of care date). As confirmed by the National Uniform Billing Committee (NUBC), this revision will eliminate the erroneous workarounds that many facilities have implemented due to the current file layout. We anticipate this rule change will take effect in 2017.

# Issues with MHDO-Assigned Medical Record Numbers (MRN) across Time

The MHDO has been made aware of some issues in how the MHDO-Assigned Medical Record Number (Scram\_MRN) has been created in the past that create the potential for clashes to occur (that is, two different MRNs yielding the same MHDO-Assigned Medical Record Number). These issues have been resolved in the current dataset. However, there is the potential that MRNs may differ from those distributed in previous versions of the data.

Data users are reminded that the MHDO-Assigned Medical Record Number generally cannot be used to track individuals between facilities; the same MRN may be used at different facilities to represent different individuals. Also, even within the same facility, an individual may not retain the same MRN across time; when hospitals merger or when they transition to new data systems, new MRNs may be assigned. The MHDO has no control over the MRN assignment policies within facilities.

The MHDO is developing data elements that will allow an individual to be more reliably tracked both across time within a given facility and between facilities.