

2014 Hospital Outpatient Data Release Notes

Updated 5/2/2016

# Opening Statement

This release contains the Calendar Year 2014 hospital outpatient data.

# Facility Specific Data Notes

Included with this release is an excel document that contains record counts by facility by month, with data gaps highlighted in yellow. We estimate that the data gaps primarily associated with provider based clinics account for 0.9% of the total expected volume of outpatient visits.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Facility ID** | **Name of Facility** | **Missing Months** |
| 200045 | MMP Neurology | August-October |
| 200046 | MMP Maine Health Cardiology | January-September |
| 200086 | MDI Health Centers | November-December |
| 200105 | MMP General Surgery  | New group with November, 2014 start date |

You will note that some facilities have volume fluctuations month to month that may be outside of the expected range. At this time we do not have information to explain that fluctuation, but in our new hospital submission Portal coming online this summer, 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. We will capture this information and make it available to the user as part of our new Meta data structure.

# New Field: SERV\_LOC

This data release includes a new field called SERV\_LOC. This field comes from the input data field OP4005 Location of Service. This field is used by facilities (hospitals) that wish to report data for their provider based clinics physician office/clinic data within the same file as their facility data in order to differentiate the records. We have requested the facilities that use this field to provide us with a crosswalk of the values that we will release to the data users. In this release we included 5 crosswalk files:

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| --- | --- |
| **File Name** | **System** |
| EMHS LOS.xlsx | Eastern Maine Medical Center |
| MaineGeneral LOS.xlsx | Maine General |
| MMP LOS.pdf | Maine Medical Partners |
| NMMC LOS.doc | Northern Maine Medical Center |
| SMHC LOS.xlsx | Southern Maine Medical Center |

# Assignment of Geocodes

In the restricted data releases the MHDO has historically assigned a geocode populated in the “geocode” field. In the revised 2012/2013 data distributed in March of 2016, the MHDO modified the algorithm used to determine this geocode. The MHDO assigns a geocode when the city, state, and ZIP match the entries that appear on the canonical list of geocode values (a data table of Maine geocodes provided by the Maine Office of GIA (MEGIS) is the canonical list used for the assignment and is included in this release). The MHDO will not impute geocodes based on incomplete or conflicting city, state, or zip information. In order to improve our ability to assign geocodes we are working with those facilities that have not provided consistent city, state, and zip information.

Also note that in compliance with MHDO Rule Chapter 120 section 9(A)(2)(f) by default, data releases will only include county to identify the patients’ home addresses unless the additional data elements of city, state and zip code are specifically requested and approved by the MHDO.

# 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.