

Missouri Price and Quality Transparency

FAQ Sheet

September 2016

What is the Price and Quality Transparency Initiative?

The purpose of this initiative is to increase transparency of price and quality data in Missouri hospitals. By being transparent with this information, hospitals will continue to improve the quality and safety of care provided, improve health in their communities and increase the value of care received. This focus commonly is referred to as the Triple Aim — better health, better care and lower costs. The goal of the initiative is to provide current and complete information to consumers while increasing statewide efforts to reduce variation in outcomes and better coordinate care across all settings through noncompetitive methods.

Why is MHA pursuing this initiative?

There has been increasing pressure on hospitals to be more transparent about both the cost and quality of health care services for the past several years. Lawmakers at the state and federal level have proposed legislation that would mandate the publishing of this data. By being proactive, the MHA Board of Trustees believes that the hospital community can demonstrate its commitment to making information available to the public and expectantly preclude unnecessary legislative or regulatory action.

Further, research suggests that through transparency hospitals can improve quality care related to readmissions and reduction of adverse events by approximately 15 percent.

Making this information publicly available is similar to an initiative undertaken by MHA seven years ago when hospital-specific community benefit and economic impact information became public.

What happens if my hospital does not participate?

This is a voluntary initiative that requires hospitals to sign a revised data-use agreement sent out in June. Hospitals that choose not to participate will be listed in the Web-based report as “Not participating.”

Hospital leaders must consider the potential negative message sent to consumers and the community if they choose not to participate. Does non-participation increase doubt about quality and price of care provided?

Where will the data be displayed?

Focusonhospitals.com is a public website maintained by the Missouri Hospital Association. The website is open to all audiences, including consumers and payors. There are no memberships or passwords required.

Will there be a data review period prior to publication on Focus on Hospitals?

Yes. Hospitals will be given a two week preview period to review their data prior to the release to Focus on Hospitals. Members are encouraged to assess and validate this data each reporting period.

PRICE

[For what procedures will there be price information?](#)

The low, median and high charges for the top 100 diagnosis related groups (statewide) and five levels of emergency department services are posted. This data represents all hospital types.

[Will other information be listed for those procedures?](#)

Yes. In addition to the low, median and high charges, information on those procedures will be listed for average length-of-stay, volume and self-pay discount.

[Is there a minimum threshold for price reporting?](#)

Yes. The minimum threshold for reporting is 20 cases for the 12 month reporting period. These hospitals will not be displayed on Focus on Hospitals, but will be included in the state-aggregate calculation. It will be noted that they are participating in the program. Hospital-specific reports will be available to hospitals no matter how many cases are reported.

[How often is the price data reported?](#)

The price data will be updated quarterly.

QUALITY

[What data is included in the Missouri Quality Transparency Initiative?](#)

For most Missouri hospitals, there are 23 claims-based and chart-abstracted measures included in the transparency initiative covering four domains: managing chronic diseases, preventing readmissions, preventing infections and reducing harm.

Children's Hospitals in Missouri report three chart-abstracted measures in the preventing infections domain. These measures are specific to the population of those specialty hospitals.

[How often is the quality data reported?](#)

Currently, the data is uploaded to Focus on Hospitals quarterly; however, as hospitals begin to submit monthly data, the quality transparency outcomes could be updated monthly.

[Is there a minimum threshold for quality reporting?](#)

Yes. The minimum threshold for reporting is 25 cases per four-quarter reporting period. If a hospital does not have the minimum amount of cases required, their data will not be displayed on Focus on Hospitals; however, it will be noted that they are participating in the program. Hospital-specific reports will be available to hospitals no matter how many cases are reported.

[What if my hospital does not report the chart-abstracted CDC NHSN measures?](#)

If your hospital does not report to the CDC's NHSN or does not confer rights to HIDI for data submission, the website will note "data submission not required."

What if an error is found during the data review period?

If an error is found, correct the code, diagnosis or error in your hospital data set. Then, reload the file to the HID [website](#) and mark it as a replacement file.