

Quick Notes

Access to Safe, Quality Healthcare Environments that
Meet California's Dynamic and Diverse Needs

Issue No. 52

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2019 Requirements are a Month Away!

As we approach the end of 2018, we hope that your facility is ready to implement the new 2019 Inpatient, Emergency Department, and Ambulatory Surgery reporting requirements as previously discussed in Quick Notes [49](#) and [50](#). The following checklist may be a helpful visual in your continued teamwork as you work interdepartmentally on preparing your data for submission. OSHPD suggests you collaborate with the following areas:

- IT/Software providers
- Admissions
- Finance
- Coding team, including remote coders

Key Data Changes

Below are some of the most significant requirement changes:

- **New** Multiple Races: Your facility must be equipped January 1st to collect up to 5 races for each patient. See page 3.
- **New** Total Charges will be collected for ED and AS encounters.
- IP Race and Ethnicity categories will change to align with ED/AS.
NOTE: Not all categories can be cross walked from the old values.
- ED/AS ZIP Code values will change to align with IP.

Key File Specification Changes

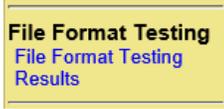
Your IT department and software vendor should comprehensively review the Format and File Specifications for [IP](#) and [ED/AS](#) since the changes are substantial. Here are a few examples of the changes:

- For all data types: the total file length will significantly increase, and the placement of many data elements will shift.
- IP: The Source of Admission field will decrease and the Prehospital Care and Resuscitation field will increase.
- ED/AS: The Expected Source of Payment field will increase.
- Present on Admission indicators for exempt codes must be reported as "blank."
- It may be necessary to use Notepad ++ or other text editor that will support the new data file lengths in order to view records in your file.

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2019 Requirements (continued)

With so many important changes, it is recommended that your facility submit your data as early as possible to allow time to resolve any challenges you may encounter. The MIRCAl File Format Testing feature is available now to check data files for the correct format. This feature does not run the data through any of the other edit programs. The link is found towards the bottom of the MIRCAl Main Menu.



File Format Testing
File Format Testing
Results

2019 data submissions will open on the following days:

- January 1 for manual record entry
- April 1 for January – March ED/AS data
- July 1 for January – June Inpatient data.

For more details on the upcoming changes, see the [Data Reporting Manuals](#), [regulations](#), or contact your assigned analyst.

Regulatory Bulletin

Nonsubstantive Section 100 [regulations](#) were approved by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) on October 31, 2018. The changes were made to remove obsolete regulatory language and to update IP Expected Source of Payment plan codes as follows:

Licensed Name Change:

0502 Health Advocate West, Inc.

Added:

0514 Claremont Behavioral Services, Inc.
0539 Health Net Medicare of California
0533 Providence Health Assurance
0535 Vitality Health Plan of California, Inc.

Removed:

0443 Care 1st Partner Plan, Inc. (QIF)

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact your assigned analyst.

The Variant Action Request Process

The Variant Action Request (VAR) process allows facilities to verify that data which has been flagged by the MIRCAl edit programs is accurate as reported.

When submitting a VAR to OSHPD, a concise but thorough justification should be included. This justification must:

- Describe why the data are accurate
- Provide any applicable causes
- Explain the steps taken to validate the data

A request cannot be processed until all required information is provided.

Please note, the process may take up to five business days; so please submit your requests as early as possible. Contact your assigned analyst if you have questions or need to submit a VAR.

Administrator Outreach Data Distribution Report

At the beginning of November, our office mailed a copy of your facility's most recent Data Distribution Report (DDR) to your administrator as part of our ongoing outreach efforts to keep our reporting facilities informed about data products and to emphasize the importance of data quality. Primary contacts should have received a copy of the letter, and you can access your DDR on the *Error Reports* page in MIRCAl.

We hope the mailing proved beneficial and highlighted all the hard work you do to report valuable administrative patient data to OSHPD.

If you or your administrator have any questions or comments about the mailing, please contact your analyst or call our office at (916) 326-3935.

Race and Ethnicity Patient Self-Identification

For use on and after January 1, 2019

Please mark clearly

Hospitals and other healthcare facilities are required by law to provide the California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) with information regarding the race and ethnicity of their patient population. (California Health and Safety Code Division 107, Part 5, Sections 128735, 128736, and 128737.) The data will be used for health projects including diagnostic research, identification and correction of disparities in healthcare access and outcomes, management of healthcare delivery and public health programs, quality of care, healthcare trends, and supporting informed decisions. Individually identifiable patient information is protected and encrypted within the State system.

Each patient's **self-reporting** of their Ethnicity and Race supports integrity and quality of demographic data. A family member or guardian shall complete this information when the patient is not capable.

Mark one selection in the Ethnicity box and up to five selections in the Race box.

STEP 1: Choose one Ethnicity category:

- HISPANIC or LATINO
- NON HISPANIC or LATINO

STEP 2: Choose up to FIVE Race categories:

- AMERICAN INDIAN or ALASKA NATIVE
- ASIAN
- BLACK or AFRICAN AMERICAN
- NATIVE HAWAIIAN or OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER
- WHITE
- OTHER - Any race not covered in the above categories.