



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Tony Evers, Governor
Kirsten L. Johnson, Secretary

April 1, 2024

Mr. Richard Champagne
Acting Senate Chief Clerk
Room B20 Southeast, State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin 53701

Mr. Edward Blazel
Assembly Chief Clerk
17 West Main Street, Room 401
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Mr. Champagne and Mr. Blazel:

I am pleased to submit to the Legislature the enclosed report as required by Wis. Stat. ch. 153. The report describes “the content and number of reports and currency of information and reports generated in the previous calendar year” by the Wisconsin Hospital Association Information Center (WHAIC). WHAIC produced all required reports in a timely manner using the most currently available annual hospital discharge data.

Whenever possible, WHAIC continues to shorten the time between availability of the annual data set for analysis and web publication of these mandated reports.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kirsten Johnson".

Kirsten L. Johnson
Secretary-designee

Enclosure



Standard Reports Produced by the Wisconsin Hospital Association Information Center under Ch. 153, Wis. Stats.

Wisconsin Stat. § 153.05(2m)(c) directs the Department of Health Services (DHS) to submit a report about the reports produced by the Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA). Specifically, by April 1 annually, the Secretary of DHS is required to submit to the chief clerk of each house of the legislature “a report concerning the content and number of reports and currency of information and reports generated in the previous calendar year” by the Wisconsin Hospital Association Information Center (WHAIC), the entity under contract to produce the reports under § 153.05(2m).

The ***Hospital Rate Increase Report*** is a web-based spreadsheet showing the dates of hospital price increases that caused a hospital’s gross patient revenue to increase faster than the rate of inflation (specifically, the federal government’s consumer price index). State law requires Wisconsin hospitals to report price increases to the WHA Information Center and to the public via local newspapers. The web-based spreadsheet is updated “real-time” throughout a calendar year, with a final spreadsheet report produced at the end of the calendar year. For fiscal year 2022, there was an average annualized rate increase of 4.7% from five hospitals, which is similar to the fiscal year 2021 increase of 4.5%.

[Hospital Rate Increase Report 2022-2021](#)

The ***Guide to Wisconsin Hospitals*** presents descriptive financial, utilization, and staffing data about individual Wisconsin hospitals, and provides summary and trend information for selected aggregate data. Data sources are the Hospital Fiscal Survey and the Annual Survey of Hospitals submitted annually by all Wisconsin hospitals. In October 2023, WHAIC published the report covering fiscal year 2022. Respondents included 133 general medical-surgical (GMS) hospitals, of which, 58 were critical access hospitals (CAHs). Among the specialty hospitals, four were long-term acute care (LTAC) hospitals, 13 were psychiatric hospitals, and two were state-operated mental health institutions.

[Guide to Wisconsin Hospitals 2022 report](#)

The ***Uncompensated Health Care Report, Wisconsin Hospitals*** publication provides annual uncompensated health care information for GMS hospitals, psychiatric hospitals, alcohol and other drug abuse hospitals, and rehabilitation hospitals that are not state or federal facilities. The data source is the Annual Hospital Fiscal Survey, which includes uncompensated health care and fiscal information for one year. In October 2023, WHAIC published the report covering fiscal year 2022 from 159 hospitals. Wisconsin provided \$1.3 billion of uncompensated health care services to their patients in fiscal year 2022, this was a decrease of 0.6% from fiscal year 2021.

[Uncompensated Health Care Report 2022](#)

The ***Health Care Data Report*** (termed a “patient-level data utilization, charge and quality report” in the administrative rules) presents an annual summary of patient data on the utilization and charges at Wisconsin hospitals and freestanding ambulatory surgery centers (FASCs). The report is divided into three sections: 1) inpatient data, 2) ambulatory surgery data, and 3) emergency department data. In August 2023, WHAIC published the report covering calendar year 2022. In 2022, there were over 529,000 inpatient hospitalizations, over 1 million ambulatory surgery cases, and over 1.8 million emergency

department visits. Compared to 2021, inpatient hospitalizations decreased 4%, ambulatory surgery cases increased 3%, and emergency department visits increased 6% in 2022.

[Health Care Data Report 2022](#)

The *Wisconsin Inpatient Hospital Quality Indicators Report* provides information about procedure volume, utilization and in-hospital mortality for common conditions and procedures in GMS hospitals in Wisconsin. After the 2015 release of the report, WHAIC now provides the most currently available annual data on the [CheckPoint](#) website, making timelier data available now and in the future. It is intended to provide information about the quality of care in Wisconsin GMS hospitals that will be used to make administrative and system changes to improve patient outcomes. The quality measures used in the report are derived from hospital data submitted to WHA by GMS hospitals for inpatient stays. One such measure is patient experience, where in 2022, 75% of patients rated their experience as “high”. This is above the national average of 71%.