

Less is More: Developing Essential Indicators for Hospital Performance

Plain language Summary for Harmonization of the Digital Hospital Indicator Reporting System

A unified health information system is essential for a strong health system. However, hospitals currently have to comply with submitting multiple forms to different units in the Department of Health (DOH), some of which have overlapping requirements. This study aims to streamline the information submitted by hospitals in the online hospital statistical report (OHSR) to the Department of Health by finding and recommending a reduced set of statistics that hospitals need to prepare for their regular reporting, and designing a simplified submission process. Making reporting clearer and less tedious aims to improve the quality of data and encourage complete and timely reporting.

First, groups in the DOH and PhilHealth (Philippine Health Insurance Corporation) were interviewed about their data needs, the different forms they currently collect from hospitals, and how these are submitted. Next a literature search was done to find the ideal and recommended information to collect from hospitals, based on international studies. Finally, a redundancy analysis was done to compare the information currently being collected, the recommendations from literature, and the current needs of chosen DOH Bureaus. This was done by comparing and eliminating duplicate indicators and clarifying conflicting definitions. The information found to be proven by literature, relevant to DOH needs, and applicable to Philippine hospitals were sifted and included in a final set of recommended indicators.

After considering the hospital information that was recommended from literature and from other forms, the final set of recommended indicators for the OHSR was reduced to only 47 indicators, or about half the original length of the form. A simplified reporting process was also designed to reduce delays and errors, and make it easy for hospital statisticians to generate the information needed for several reports.

Moving forward, these indicators can be studied fully for feasibility and how they actually will data quality and hospital compliance. On a larger scale, DOH should also continue to develop an integrated health information system to make data sharing easier for both the DOH and health care centers, and create effective data-driven policies.