SMART Questions for Niagara, NY (Diagnosis & Treatment Focus):

1. How does CCS Diagnosis Category relate to the average length of stay for patients in Niagara hospitals?
   * Specific: Focus on Niagara only.
   * Measurable: Compare LOS means across diagnosis groups.
   * Relevant: Reveals which conditions demand longer hospital resources.
2. Is there a significant association between APR Severity of Illness and Risk of Mortality in Niagara hospitals?
   * Specific: Two coded clinical measures.
   * Measurable: Test proportion of deaths at each severity level.
   * Relevant: Validates whether coding severity aligns with patient outcomes.
3. How do CCS Procedure Types influence total hospital charges for patients treated in Niagara hospitals?
   * Specific: Links procedures to costs.
   * Measurable: Compare average charges across top procedures.
   * Relevant: Shows economic burden of treatments.
4. Do surgical vs. medical cases (APR classification) show different lengths of stay after adjusting for severity in Niagara?
   * Specific: Compares LOS across case type.
   * Measurable: Means & statistical tests (t-test/ANOVA).
   * Relevant: Identifies efficiency differences in treatment pathways.
5. Are there disparities in treatment procedures across racial/ethnic groups for the most frequent diagnoses in Niagara hospitals?
   * Specific: Focuses on equity in care.
   * Measurable: Crosstabs & Chi-square.
   * Relevant: Addresses of fairness and potential disparities.