

Nebraska DATABANK Program

The Nebraska DATABANK Program is a Web-based database of hospital utilization and financial performance indicators. The Nebraska DATABANK Program provides participating Nebraska hospitals with useful, comparative data to benchmark a variety of indicators. Among others, the indicators include discharges, average length of stay, outpatient statistics, charges by payer categories, expenses per day, days A/R, profitability, and personnel statistics. Information from the DATABANK reports can be used for budgeting, planning, marketing, and internal management purposes within the hospital. In late 2001, Nebraska became one of 37 states to license the DATABANK Program.

Nebraska hospitals and hospitals nationwide have seen margins declining as a result of the Balanced Budget Act. Medicare Outpatient PPS also negatively affected hospital margins, as will future changes. Nebraska Health and Human Services System changes to Medicaid reimbursement also affected Nebraska hospitals. The NHA advocacy and policy development efforts rely on data from the Nebraska Hospital Information System, Financial Ratios report and AHA. Although these are rich data sources, the lack of access to timely and specific comparative data hampers some advocacy efforts. The DATABANK is designed to provide both the NHA and its participating hospitals with timely comparative data.

Hospitals submit their data on the secure DATABANK Web Site by the 25th of each month following the reporting month. The data collection process varies among hospitals. The data submission process to the DATABANK Web Site will usually take the hospital contact person less than one hour per month to complete. Once the data is submitted on the Web, participating hospitals are able to run their facilities' reports immediately. Reports containing peer group comparisons can be viewed and printed once certain peer group thresholds have been met. In addition to running a series of reports (Monthly, Trend, Comparative, Accumulation, Participating, Missing and Edit reports), participating hospitals are able to download report information for internal use and graphing.

The monthly data collection mirrors your financial report income statement. This includes gross revenue, contractual allowances, discharges and discharge days by payer categories; surgery, outpatient and other statistics; operating expenses; and payroll data.

There is no charge to hospitals for participation, data entry or report generation. Licensing fees and other resources are covered by NHA.

Contact Barb Jablonski at 402-742-8163 or bjablonski@nebraskahospitals.org with questions. View sample reports or learn more about the Nebraska DATABANK Program by clicking on the Health Data tab on the NHA Web Site www.nebraskahospitals.org.