2018 has been a dynamic year at the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD), and there are many changes happening in the coming year. This article highlights some of the changes and aims to keep health information professionals informed.

**New Reporting Requirements for 2019**
The OSHPD Patient Data Section is busy preparing to accept the 2019 patient data under the new reporting requirements, which were approved in January 2018. The requirements will apply beginning with the January 1, 2019 data submissions. These changes are some of the most extensive since 2005 when the Emergency Department and Ambulatory Surgery (ED/AS) data sets were added.

Some of the most critical changes for 2019:
- File formats for all data types have changed significantly,
- (NEW) Total charges will be a part of the ED/AS data sets,
- (NEW) Patients can report up to five race choices,
- The ED/AS zip code data values will change to match inpatient values, which differentiate between homeless, non-US resident, and unknown,
- The inpatient race data values will change to match the Office of Management and Budget 1997 standard already collected for ED/AS data.

Several issues of the OSHPD Patient Data Section’s Quick Notes Technical Bulletins highlight the new requirements in detail. The special edition Issue No. 50: 2019 Regulatory Changes outlines additional resources that can be found on the OSHPD webpage. Share this information with hospital staff, especially the information systems and admissions departments, in preparation for the 2019 changes.

**Video Training**
One of the developments the OSHPD Patient Data Section is excited to announce is the introduction of a new video training series for MIRCal system users. These videos replace the previous Computer Based Training. These dynamic videos help modernize the MIRCal learning process and target specific topics and audiences, such as facility users, user account administrators, and designated agents.

One of the videos highlights a standard report found on MIRCal, the Data Distribution Report (DDR). This often-under-utilized report is one of the most important tools MIRCal offers for data quality verification. It is a high-level snapshot of all the data submitted for a data report period. If the DDR is scrutinized closely and reviewed in conjunction with past DDRs, MIRCal users can identify potential data issues that MIRCal’s automated edits are not able to evaluate. The OSHPD Patient Data Section has seen many cases where a data category slowly and erroneously changed over multiple reporting periods, but because the decline was below edit percentages, MIRCal did not flag the change as a potential problem. The new training video offers suggestions on how to review and use the DDR to improve data accuracy. One such use is to compare the DDR to a facility’s Annual Utilization Report submitted to the Automated Licensing Information and Report Tracking System (ALIRTS). Not all categories will match exactly between the two reporting systems, but they will typically be similar.

The OSHPD Patient Data Section strongly encourages all MIRCal users and interested facility staff to look at the DDR. The report can be saved by MIRCal users and forwarded to staff who do not have access to the system. For more information about the data categories and definitions, refer to the Reporting Manuals online at oshpd.ca.gov/data-and-reports/submit-data/patient-data.

**Cost Transparency Rx (CTRx) Update**
In October 2017, OSHPD was charged with the collection and reporting of prescription drug cost information resultant of the signing of California Senate Bill (SB) 17 (Chapter 603, Statutes of 2017) into law. SB 17 seeks to increase prescription drug cost transparency by requiring drug manufacturers to provide advance notification to public and private purchasers before a specified cost increase occurs. OSHPD has been tasked with collecting this drug cost information beginning in 2019.

SB 17 requirements and deadlines:
- **Beginning January 1, 2018**, SB 17 requires OSHPD to make available a registry of public and private purchasers

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for purposes of the 60-day advance notice requirement for specified increases in the wholesale acquisition cost of a prescription drug. Public and private registration of these purchasers began December 1, 2017 on OSHPD’s website.

- **Beginning January 1, 2019**, drug manufacturers must notify OSHPD within three days of introducing a new drug at a wholesale acquisition cost that exceeds the specified threshold. Within 30 days of this notification, manufacturers must submit additional information to OSHPD. OSHPD will publish this information on its website quarterly.

- **Beginning after January 1, 2019**, drug manufacturers are required to submit information on the rationale for cost increases for existing drugs that fall under the reporting requirement. OSHPD will collect this information beginning April 2019 and publish on its website within 60 days of receipt from each manufacturer on a quarterly basis.

OSHPD conducted a workshop March 15, 2018, to elicit feedback from data users on the information OSHPD will publish per the provisions of SB 17. A second similar workshop was conducted for data submitters on April 11, 2018. The materials from both these workshops are available on OSHPD’s CTRx webpage at oshpd.ca.gov/data-and-reports/cost-transparency/rx.

If there are any questions regarding the provisions of SB 17, please visit the OSHPD CTRx webpage or contact OSHPD at ctrx@oshpd.ca.gov.

OSHPD Patient Data Section hopes the information presented in this article proves beneficial. OSHPD takes great pride in our partnership with California’s hospitals in providing quality data and encourages health information professionals to reach out to your MIRCal representative for any questions concerning the topics presented.

### Resources


OSHPD. (n.d.) Prescription Drug (CTRx). Retrieved from oshpd.ca.gov/data-and-reports/cost-transparency/rx

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*Krista Todd; Data Quality Lead Analyst, Patient Data Section in Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development*