Alternate level of care (ALC) days in patients with mental health and substance abuse conditions

Resource for Indicator Standards (RIS)
Health Analytics Branch, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

Indicator description

RIS indicator name
Alternate level of care (ALC) days in patients with mental health and substance abuse conditions

Other names for this indicator
N/A

Indicator description
Alternate level of care days for patients in designated mental health units and for patients with mental health (MH) and substance abuse (SA) diagnoses treated in other units of acute care hospitals as a proportion of total hospital days.

Accountability agreement(s) or ministry initiative(s) the indicator supports
- The Quarterly

Numerator

Data source
Ontario Mental Health Reporting System (OMHRS), Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI); and Discharge Abstract Database (DAD), CIHI
Inclusion/exclusion criteria

Includes:
OMHRS
1. Episodes discharged during the period of interest;
2. Episodes with 1 or more ALC day(s) during the inpatient stay.

DAD
1. Includes discharges during the period of interest for patients with a most responsible diagnosis of mental health or substance abuse (ICD-10-CA diagnosis codes between F00 and F99);
2. Discharges with 1 or more ALC day(s) during the inpatient stay.

Excludes:
OMHRS
1. CIHI_Special_Discharge code = “1”;
2. Medical diagnosis (i11h) = ’U999’;
3. Discharge to facility =’V3253’.

DAD
1. Newborns, stillbirths, and cadaver donors.

Calculation

Steps:
OMHRS
1. Extract all records for episodes discharged during the period of interest.
2. For each episode, sum the ALC days recorded at each assessment.
3. Select episodes with one or more ALC day during the stay.

DAD
1. Select all discharge records with a most responsible diagnosis between F00 and F99.
2. Select discharges with one or more ALC day during the stay.

ALC days from OMHRS and DAD are summed to get the overall ALC days for MH/SA patients.

Denominator

Data source
Ontario Mental Health Reporting System (OMHRS), CIHI; and Discharge Abstract Database (DAD), CIHI

Inclusion/exclusion criteria

Includes:
OMHRS
1. Episodes discharged during the period of interest.
DAD
1. Includes discharges during the period of interest for patients with a most responsible diagnosis of MH or SA (ICD-10-CA diagnosis codes between F00 and F99).

Excludes:
OMHRS
1. CIHI_Special_Discharge code = “1”;
2. Medical diagnosis (i11h) = ‘U999’;
3. Discharge to facility = ’V3253’.

DAD
1. Newborns, stillbirths, and cadaveric donors.

Calculation

Steps:
OMHRS
1. Select episodes discharged during the period of interest.
2. For each episode, calculate the total days of care as the difference between the date of admission (CIHI_real_admission_date) and the date of discharge.

DAD
1. Select the total days for all discharge records with a most responsible diagnosis between F00 and F99.
2. Total days from OMHRS and DAD are summed to get the total length of stay for MH/SA patients.

Timing and geography

Timing/frequency of release
How often and when data are being released (e.g., be as specific as possible…data are released annually in mid-May)
Data are available quarterly.

Trending
Years available for trending
Data are available from fiscal year 2006 for OMHRS and from 1996 for DAD.

Levels of comparability
Levels of geography for comparison
Data are available at the LHIN level.
Additional information

Limitations
Specific limitations
N/A

Comments
Additional information regarding the calculation, interpretation, data source, etc.
To provide full coverage of inpatient care for MH and SA conditions, the analysis for this indicator includes information from OMHRS (treatment occurring in adult designated mental health units) and from DAD (treatment occurring in designated mental health units for children and in general acute care units).

References
Provide URLs of any key references (e.g., Diabetes in Canada, HTTP:// …)
N/A

Contact information
For more information about this indicator, please contact RIS@ontario.ca.

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