



Comprehensive Hospital Abstract Reporting System

June 2014

Every year in Washington there are over 650,000 inpatient admissions to state-licensed, acute care hospitals in the state. Under RCW 43.70.052, the Department of Health collects data on each of these hospital stays through the Comprehensive Hospital Abstract Reporting System (CHARS). The data collected includes patients' demographics and diagnoses, the procedures performed, and the charges associated with the hospital visit. CHARS data is used extensively to study illness, injury, and health care utilization in Washington State. Public agencies, researchers, and the health care industry use CHARS to:

- Document the burden of disease (e.g., the charges linked with diabetes hospitalizations)
- Monitor the frequency of potentially avoidable hospitalizations (e.g., for asthma)
- Analyze variations in procedures and evaluate outcomes
- Apply for Certificate of Need and evaluate Certificate of Need applications
- Study patient mix and perform market analysis
- Evaluate and monitor the effect of policies on health care delivery, quality, and cost

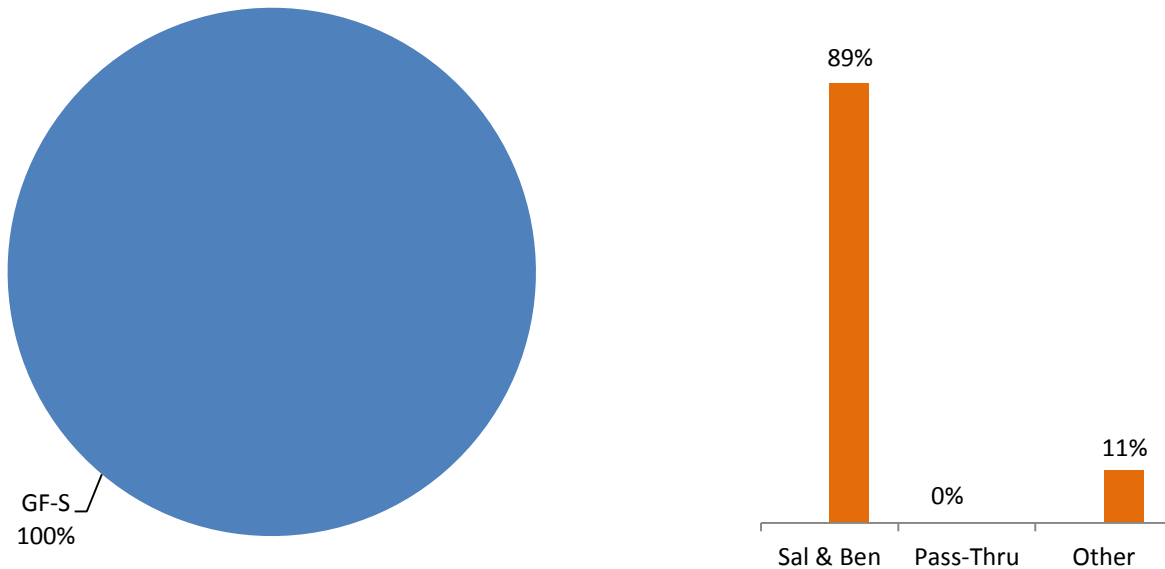
Services

- Produce and release CHARS data files, including a public file, a limited file, a confidential file (with patient identifiers), and a revisit file (for looking at hospital re-admissions)
- Work to obtain complete data by monitoring data submission, following up with hospitals that fail to report, and performing data entry for hospitals that do not submit data electronically
- Perform data quality assurance (including identifying and correcting errors) and work with hospitals to improve data quality
- Provide materials, training, and support to hospital staff that use the CHARS application
- Provide technical consultation on the analysis and interpretation of CHARS data
- Maintain the CHARS application to meet changes in technology standards and requirements for hospital billing records

Stakeholders

- Washington State Hospital Association
- Hospitals in Washington State
- Health care consulting firms
- Public health agencies including Department of Health and Washington's local health jurisdictions
- Other state agencies including the Office of Financial Management (OFM)
- Academic and research institutions, especially the University of Washington

Comprehensive Hospital Abstract Reporting System Fiscal Information



	GF-S	Federal	Dedicated	Fees	Total	Sal & Ben	Pass-Thru	Other
Total	955,000	0	0	0	955,000	853,000	0	102,000

Recent Funding History

2007-09 biennium:

- One-time GF-S reduction of \$130,000 in response to OFM’s request (ESHB 1694)

2009-11 biennium:

- Ongoing GF-S reduction of \$320,000 in response to Governor’s directed freeze and 1 percent cut

2011-13 biennium:

- Ongoing GF-S reduction of \$55,000 in response to OFM’s 10 percent reduction request