State-Sponsored Public Reporting Of Hospital Quality

Joseph Ross and colleagues presented useful information on “State-Sponsored Public Reporting of Hospital Quality” (Dec 2010). We offer an expanded and updated view.

The All-Payer Claims Database (APCD) Council is a federation of government, private, nonprofit, and academic organizations focused on improving the development and deployment of state-based all-payer health insurance claims databases. Such databases are a rich source of data on hospital quality reporting.

The interactive map on the council’s website shows the status of database development for each state. Comparing Exhibit 1 of Ross and colleagues with this map, we find that an additional six states have an existing database (Kansas, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Tennessee, Washington, and Wisconsin), and two (Hawaii and West Virginia) have expressed strong interest in them.

Ross and colleagues noted that there “was no standardized approach to data collection, analysis, and presentation.” Recently, the APCD Council has been working with health data organizations to develop standards.

Finally, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has developed public-domain software (MONAHRQ) to facilitate the building of websites for reporting health measures from administrative data. We suggest that collaboration between AHRQ, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and the APCD Council in further developing this software could produce efficiencies and improve the overall quality of reporting across the country.

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