

Nebraska DATABANK Program Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Nebraska DATABANK Program? The Nebraska DATABANK Program is a web-based database of hospital utilization and financial performance indicators. The DATABANK will provide 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.

How can my hospital receive this valuable information? Three simple steps: sign a participation agreement with the NHA, complete a simple process of entering data on a monthly basis, then run your reports from the on-line system.

Is there a cost to participate in the DATABANK Program? Registration fees and other resources are covered by NHA. There is no charge to hospitals for participation, data entry or report generation.

Can I run my own reports? And do I need special computer software? With proper authorization, you and other staff members may run DATABANK reports from your web browser. Netscape Navigator 4.5 or above, or Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.5 or above will both work with the DATABANK Program.

Is it complicated? No, the data collection tool is a simple two-page form. It is estimated the monthly data entry takes 30-45 minutes.

What data is required? 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. A balance sheet data collection tool is now being developed.

Is my data confidential? You can control the release of your data. Standard peer groups will be established with minimal thresholds for reporting. You will only be able to run reports after your data is entered.

Does NHA need this information? Absolutely! Whether working on public policy, or advocating on behalf of Nebraska hospitals, NHA will be able to use aggregate information from participating hospitals. The information can assist the NHA to better understand the impact on Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement policies.

Is this a Nebraska Program? Although the implementation will be unique for Nebraska, the Colorado Health and Hospital Association developed the DATABANK program. Nebraska is one of 36 states to implement the DATABANK Program.

How do I start? Contact Maria Witkowicz at 402-458-4917 or mwitkowicz@nhanet.org, or Kevin Conway at 402-458-4910 or kconway@nhanet.org with questions.