

Case study: National Audit of Admitted Patient Information in Irish Acute Hospitals

Situation

Sector	National government agency
Geography	Ireland
Case type	Project Management ,Advisory and software services (SaaS)

Client Objectives

- The core purposes of this project covered the following three areas: assess the validity of data underpinning the HSE ABF funding model; validate a range of data reported to the HPO (Healthcare Pricing Office) of the HSE by acute hospitals; identify best practice to improve coding quality management

Solution

- The inpatient and day case data that underpin ABF include the disease and procedure (clinical) codes collected by the Hospital Inpatient Enquiry (HIPE) system. In 2015 the HSE engaged Pavilion Health Australia Pty Ltd., by competitive tender, to undertake a review of the quality of HIPE data, to assess whether the quality of the data is sufficient to support the introduction of ABF.
- The scale and methods employed in this project were carried out for the first time in Ireland and internationally. Six methods were employed to examine this complex area from different perspectives with the aim of providing a robust review of the quality of the data.

Result

- The review demonstrated that the quality of the current HIPE coded data, and the processes and systems underpinning those data, are sufficiently sound to provide a platform for ABF in acute hospitals in the Republic of Ireland.
- While the overall quality of the HIPE data is sufficient to move forward, there is a need to develop and resource a national data quality improvement agenda that reduces variations in coding practice between the hospitals. Detailed recommendations are contained in the body of the report but can be categorised into the following key areas: ♦ Clinician engagement with the HIPE Clinical Coding teams and the ABF process ♦ improvements in the structure and content of the medical record ♦ ensuring the HIPE Clinical Coding teams have the right structure and size in line with identified best practice ♦ the use of audit processes and quality tools ♦ training of key stakeholders including Clinical Coders
- This review and stakeholder engagement led to a number of country wide software tools implementations to ensure the quality of the data was being monitored at the source of the collection .
- The project initiated a dialogue between the data custodians and the clinicians to improve the use of the data by the clinical teams who improved the quality of the clinical documentation