



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
Division of Health Care Quality
99 Chauncy Street, 11th Floor, Boston, MA 02111
617-753-8000

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

JUDYANN BIGBY, MD
SECRETARY

JOHN AUERBACH
COMMISSIONER

Circular Letter: DHCQ 10-12-542

To: Chief Executive Officer, Massachusetts Primary Stroke Service Hospital

From: Alice Bonner, PhD, RN, Bureau Director 

Subject: Public Release of Hospital-Specific Data on Primary Stroke Services, 2008-2009

Date: December 29, 2010

The Department of Public Health (DPH) plans to publicly release the next series of hospital-specific performance data for each licensed Primary Stroke Service (PSS) in Massachusetts in late February / early March 2011. The report will contain data on the percentage of eligible patients who received intravenous (IV) tissue plasminogen activator (tPA) treatment for ischemic stroke in a PSS designated Emergency Department between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2009. This data is entered by hospitals into a database hosted by Outcome Sciences, Inc.

The data includes ischemic stroke patients who presented to the Emergency Department within two hours of the time the patient was last known to be well. We strongly recommend that the data be reviewed by appropriate hospital staff such as the stroke coordinator or other clinical, quality management, and administrative staff to ensure that the information that has been submitted by the hospital to the registry is accurate and complete prior to public release. Instructions on generating the summary data report for your hospital are attached. Your hospital's stroke coordinator can also access individual patient-level data for review. The data will be extracted on Friday, February 18th **and there will be no changes to the data allowed after that date.**

The final report for the 2008-2009 data is scheduled to be posted in February/March 2011, and will be accessible from a link on the DPH Division of Health Care Quality website: www.mass.gov/dph/dhcq. To view a report from this website, click on Primary Stroke Service Hospitals in the Health Care Quality Topics section, and then click on the Hospital Specific Data page link. The 2007-2008 data report is currently available at this location, and the same metrics found in that hospital-specific data report will be reported for the 2008-2009 data. A subsequent report for the period January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2010 will be posted in June 2011, with the data extract for that report scheduled for Friday, June 17th.

If you have questions about how to access your hospital's data please contact Outcome Science's Help Desk at 888-526-6700 or support@outcome.com. Additionally, SCORE and GWTG hospitals may wish to contact their respective program contacts with any questions. Please contact Philip Mello at 617-753-8182 or email phil.mello@state.ma.us if you have questions about the data reports.

Instructions for Running A Hospital Report

1. Log in to the Outcomes, Inc. Get with the Guidelines reporting system (Hospital Stroke Coordinators have the login information).
2. Click on the Run Reports button in the **Get Started** box on the top, left side of the page. Select the icon with the bar chart represented.
3. This will bring you to the Reports page. Click on the **Configurable Measure Reports** link.
4. This will bring you to the Configurable Reports page where you can select parameters for your report. Select the following parameters and you should see the results DPH will be publicly reporting.
 - a. **TIME PERIOD**
 - i. **Interval:** - Select **Annually** and check the Aggregate box.
 - ii. **From:** - Select year **2008** and month **Jan**.
 - iii. **To :** - Select year **2009**.
 - b. **REPORT 1**
 - i. **Measure:** - Select **IV rt-PA Arrive by 2 hour, Treat by 3hour**.
 - ii. **Format** – Select **Bar Chart**.
 - iii. **Compare to:** - Select **My Hospital**.
5. Click on the **Generate Report** button and wait for your report to run.

Please forward this circular letter to the following staff at your hospital: Chief Medical Officer, Chief of Emergency Services, Chief of Neurology, Primary Stroke Service, Physician Director, Primary Stroke Service Coordinator, Chief Nursing Officer, and QA Director /Risk Manager.