

Proposal for Legislation -- 2009 ER and Hospital Discharge Data

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1. What is the problem or issue?

Availability of emergency department and hospitalization claims data is essential to monitor the morbidity and mortality among Montanans. Information derived from these data will support the design and evaluation of prevention activities that will add years of healthy life for Montanans. DPHHS has worked with the hospitalization data maintained by the Montana Hospital Association for some of Montanans hospitals. These data have many limitations and don't include emergency department claims, making them far less than optimal for monitoring the health of our citizens.

2. What do you want the legislation to do?

This legislative proposal would make emergency department and hospitalization discharge data reportable to the Department of Public Health and Human Services in a timely manner and to improve the quality and utility of these data.

3. If possible, please list the MCA (Montana Code Annotated) sections that would need to be amended.

New sections of law would be added to Title 50, chapter 5.

4. If the proposed change requires additional funding, what funding sources do you propose?

Yes. A request for funding has been submitted to the Governor's Office of Budget and Program Planning . It has been requested that the funds come from Master Tobacco Settlement Agreement Trust Fund.

5. Has similar legislation been requested in the past, been introduced in another state, or provided as a model act? If so, please provide a citation, reference, or point of contact.

Similar legislation has been passed into law in multiple states. Examples include Oregon (ORS 442.120, www.leg.state.or.us/ors/442.html). Other Western States with laws related to this issue for both emergency department and hospital discharge data include California, Utah, and New Mexico.