

Update
December 22, 2006

Another Year Gone By: We are about to complete an eventful year and 2007 promises to bring even more challenges and opportunities to the world of hospital data collection.

In looking back at 2006, there were a number of significant developments:

- The development and release of WHAIC's new relational database products.
- The development of a prototype Other Hospital Outpatient (OHO) data set.
- Preparations for some major changes in 2007.
- Five more hugely successful training sessions. The average participant rating of the meetings was 2.71 on a 3.0 scale (1 = not helpful; 2 = somewhat helpful; 3 = very helpful). Speaker knowledge was rated at 2.88 on average. Program content received a 2.81 average rating.
- The launch of version 2 of the PricePoint Web site (www.wipricepoint.org), which includes a severity-of-illness filter, the ability to compare inpatient services for up to four individual hospitals side-by-side, and a new outpatient module for selected high-volume outpatient surgeries and invasive diagnostic procedures.
- The quarterly data cycle turnaround time returned to pre-WIpop levels with the release of 2Q06 data in November.

Looking ahead to 2007:

- Data submitters will be using updated race and ethnicity codes.
- Outpatient surgery records will use CPT/HCPCS procedure codes only.
- The WIpops system will be modified to accommodate several changes associated with the new UB-04 billing form. Testing is scheduled to begin March 1. The system will be fully implemented for 4Q07 dates of service.

We continue to be grateful for the strong working relationship we have with our data submitters and consumers. Thank you for another outstanding year.

We wish you and your loved ones a very happy and safe holiday season.

A collection of handwritten signatures in blue ink. The names are: Christine, Julie, Debbie, Brian, Robert, and Shannon. There is also a signature that appears to be 'Ja' on the far left.