

# WHAIC Announces Data Exchange with Minnesota

Since 2003, the Wisconsin Hospital Association Information Center (WHAIC) has been helping health care stakeholders in Wisconsin turn data into actionable insights, that enable timely and reliable decision making. As the data collection entity under Chapter 153, WHAIC's data currently includes all Wisconsin hospital and ambulatory surgery center (ASC) patient discharge data. We have had many requests from WHA members along the borders, for additional information on Wisconsin residents who seek care in those states. This would complete the picture of their patient populations and allow for a more complete and accurate analysis.

WHAIC has been working with the respective hospital associations in our border states and we are pleased to announce that effective January 1, 2020, patient discharge information from the Minnesota Hospital Association (MHA) covering relevant portions of Minnesota will be available to WHA members that sign a business associate agreement with MHA. Additionally, MHA and WHAIC have also reached an agreement enabling WHAIC to integrate that Minnesota data with WHAIC's data products available to you, including through Kaavio, WHAIC's self-service analytics and visualization tool.

If you are interested in obtaining the Minnesota data, please contact Jennifer Mueller at 608-274-1820 or [jmueller@wha.org](mailto:jmueller@wha.org) so we can walk through the process together. In short, your organization will need to 1) sign a HIPAA Business Associate Agreement with MHA (WHAIC can facilitate the contact with MHA), and 2) have a Business Associate Agreement with WHAIC authorizing WHAIC to configure and format the Minnesota data on your behalf. For those WHA members that already have a Business Associate Agreement with WHAIC, only a simple addendum will need to be executed describing the authorized work and our warranties regarding the work.

We are actively working with the hospital association in the other three border states - Illinois, Iowa and Michigan - to create a similar process as set out above. We will let you know as soon as there is more information.