

SHEPHEARD, Jennie and MOORE, Vaughn

VICTORIAN STATEWIDE AUDIT PROGRAM: Methodology, results and significance for activity based funding.

Victoria has had a statewide audit program in place for its public hospitals admitted episodes since the introduction of a casemix funding model in 1993. The audit program is an essential and well established process for ensuring accuracy of DRG reporting the Department of Health for purposes of public hospital funding.

There are secondary, but significant outcomes from the audit process that assist in maintaining a robust hospital system in Victoria. These other outcomes include an understanding of the overall quality of the clinical coding not just as these codes relate to DRG outcome, and an understanding of other system and process issues that impact on a hospital's ability to produce quality information especially those related to workforce.

This paper will discuss the methodology used for the audits of Victoria's Admitted Episode Dataset; the outcomes from the last three year audit program; and the non coding issues that are relevant in a casemix funding environment.

It will also discuss more recent audit activity in the emergency and elective surgery data environments, canvassing issues associated with future audit planning in both 'activity' and casemix spheres.

The paper has particular relevance given the recent agreements at COAG between the Commonwealth and the States (except for WA) to adopt a national activity based funding model.