

# Waiting Time Jawda Guidance for Specialized and General Hospitals

Version 8

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#### **Executive Summary**

The Department of Health– Abu Dhabi (DOH) is the regulatory body of the healthcare sector in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and ensures excellence in healthcare for the community by monitoring the health status of its population.

The Emirate of Abu Dhabi is experiencing a substantial growth in the number of hospitals, centers and clinics. This is ranging from school clinics and mobile units to internationally renowned specialist and tertiary academic centers. Although, access and quality of care has improved dramatically over the last couple of decades, mirroring the economic upturn and population boom of the Abu Dhabi Emirate, however challenges remain in addressing further improvements.

The main challenges that are presented with increasingly dynamic population include an aging population with increased expectation for treatment, utilization of technology and diverse workforce leading to increased complexity of healthcare provision in Abu Dhabi. All of this results in an increased and inherent risk to quality and patient safety.

DOH has developed a dynamic and comprehensive quality framework in order to bring about improvements across the health sector. This guidance relates to the quality indicators that DOH is mandating the quarterly reporting against by the fully operating general and specialist hospitals in Abu Dhabi.

The guidance sets out the full definition and method of calculation for patient safety and clinical effectiveness indicators. For enquiries about this guidance, please contact <a href="mailto:jawda@doh.gov.ae">jawda@doh.gov.ae</a>

This document is subject for review and therefore it is advisable to utilize online versions available on the DOH website at all times.

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#### **About Guidance**

The guidance sets out the definitions, reporting, and frequency of JAWDA waiting time (WT) performance indicators. Department of Health (DoH) with consultation of local and international emergency and accident (E &A) consultant expertise developed waiting time performance indicators that are aimed for assessing the degree to which a provider competently and safely delivers the appropriate clinical services to the patient within the optimal time period.

The waiting time performance indictors in this guidance include measures to monitor I.e., (time spent in emergency, wait time for cardiac procedures, wait time for diagnostic imaging, and primary care appointment). Healthcare providers are the most qualified professionals to develop and evaluate quality of care measures for emergency department. Therefore, it is crucial that clinicians retain a leadership position in defining emergency department quality of care.

#### Who is this guidance for?

All DoH licensed healthcare facilities providing emergency and outpatient care services (emergency, urgent care hospitals, and primary care providers) in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

#### How do I follow this guidance?

Each provider will nominate one member of staff to coordinate, collect, monitor and report waiting time quality performance indicators data as per communicated dates. The nominated healthcare facility lead must in the first instance e-mail their contact details (if different from previous submission) to jawda@doh.gov.ae and submit the required quarterly quality performance indicators through Jawda online portal.

#### What are the Regulation related to this guidance?

- Legislation establishing the Health Sector
- DOH Standard for Primary Health Care in Emirate of Abu Dhabi
- DOH Standard for Emergency Department
- As per DoH Policy for Quality and Patient Safety issued January 15th 2017, this guidance
  applies to all DOH Licensed Hospital Healthcare Facilities in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi in
  accordance with the requirements set out in this Standard.

### **DoH Levels of Emergency Care**

Emergency Department (Major Trauma) Emergency Department (Trauma) Urgent Care Centre

## **Waiting time Performance Indicators**

KPI Description (title):	Primary Care Appointment- Outpatient Setting
Domain	Timeliness
Indicator Type	Process
Definition:	Time to see a Department of Health (DoH) licensed Family Physician or member of their team General Practitioner (GP) in the primary care service.
Calculation:	Numerator: Number of patients that were seen within 2 working days of requests.  Denominator: Total number of all new patient-initiated appointment requests to see a family physician or a member of their team General Practitioner (GP) in the primary care service.  Denominator Exclusions:  Non-Physician Led Appointment Types Follow Up Appointment Types Dentist and anesthesia Emergency Patients Patient choice of not having the appointment within 2 working days when offered Walk in Patients without prior appointment No show or appointments cancelled by patients.
Reporting Frequency:	Quarterly
Unit of Measure:	% for performance (hours for mean, median and min. & max)
Reported Information	Numerator, Denominator, Indicator Performance (also, mean waiting time, median waiting time, min. & max. waiting time)
Target	90% within 2 working days
	Notes for all facilities
Data sources Report Name:	<ul> <li>Local business intelligence report or any other internally designed system</li> <li>Applicable to licensed operational general and specialist hospitals for provision of primary care and/or specialist/consultant outpatient facilities</li> </ul>

KPI Description (title):	Percentage of First Available Appointment for all Suspected Cancer Cases	
Domain	Timeliness	
Indicator Type	Process	
Definition:	Time for a Department of Health (DOH) licensed relevant specialist/consultant to see a patient with suspected cancer from time of receiving the referral.	
	Numerator: Number of patients with suspected cancer that were seen by the relevant (DOH) licensed specialist/consultant within 10 working days from receiving the referral (or self-requested appointment).	
	<b>Denominator</b> : Total number of all new suspected cancer appointments referral (including self-referral patients with suspected cancer).	
Calculation:	Populations: All suspected cancer referral cases	
	<ul> <li>Denominator Exclusions:         <ul> <li>Non-Physician Led Appointment Types</li> <li>Follow Up Appointment Types</li> <li>Patient choice of not having the appointment within 10 working days when offered</li> <li>Walk in Patients without prior appointment</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
	No show or appointments cancelled by patients.	
Reporting Frequency:	Quarterly	
Unit of Measure:	% for performance ( <i>days</i> for mean, median and min. & max)	
Reported Information	Numerator, Denominator, Indicator Performance (also, mean waiting time, median waiting time, min. & max. waiting time)	
Target	90% within 10 days	
	Notes for all facilities	
Data sources / Report Name:	<ul> <li>Local business intelligence report or any other internally designed system</li> <li>Applicable to licensed operational general and specialist hospitals for provision of primary care and/or specialist/consultant outpatient facilities</li> <li>Referral forms or database</li> </ul>	

KPI Description (title):	Hospital Wait at Point of Arrival
Domain	Timeliness
Indicator Type	Process
Definition:	Time in minutes from registration to seeing any Department of Health (DOH) licensed (specialist, family medicine, general practitioner, or consultant).
	Numerator: Number of patients that were seen within 60 minutes from registration in attendance.
	<u>Denominator</u> : Total number of all patients registering by any DOH licensed specialist, family medicine, general practitioner, or consultant. physician.
Calculation:	<ul> <li>Denominator Exclusions:         <ul> <li>Non-Physician Led Appointment Types</li> <li>Patients that required investigation done prior to seeing the doctor, as part of efficient process (e.g.; hearing test, treadmill test, ECG, blood glucose, etc.)</li> <li>Dental and anesthesia</li> <li>ED/UCC visits</li> <li>LWBS</li> <li>Teleconsultations</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Reporting Frequency:	Quarterly
Unit of Measure:	% for performance ( <i>minutes</i> for mean, median and min. & max)
Reported Information	Numerator, Denominator, Indicator Performance (also, mean waiting time, median waiting time, min. & max. waiting time)
Target	90% within 60 minutes
Notes for all facilities	
Data sources / Report Name:	<ul> <li>Local business intelligence report or any other internally designed system</li> <li>Applicable to licensed operational general and specialist hospitals for provision of primary care and/or specialist/consultant outpatient facilities</li> </ul>

**Indicator Number: WT 004** 

Type: Waiting Time Indicator

KPI Description (title):	Percentage of first available appointment for Consultant or specialist (excluding cancer)	
Domain	Timeliness	
Indicator Type	Process	
Definition:	Time for a Department of Health (DOH)-licensed specialist or consultant to see a non-suspected cancer case.	
	<b>Numerator:</b> Number of patients that were seen by the relevant (DOH licensed specialist/consultant within 10 working days from receiving the referral (or self-requested appointment).	
Calculation:	<b><u>Denominator</u></b> : Total number of all new appointments including self-referral patients.	
	<ul> <li>Denominator Exclusions:</li> <li>Appointments in primary care services, dental, and anesthesia services</li> <li>Appointments for Oncology Clinics.</li> <li>Non-Physician Led Appointment Types</li> <li>Follow Up Appointment Types</li> <li>Patient choice of not having the appointment within 10 working days when offered</li> <li>Walk-in without prior appointment</li> <li>Exclude no show or appointments cancelled by patients.</li> </ul>	
Reporting Frequency:	Quarterly	
Unit of Measure:	% for performance ( <i>days</i> for mean, median and min. & max)	
Reported Information	Numerator, Denominator, Indicator Performance (also, mean waiting time, median waiting time, min. & max. waiting time)	
Target	90% within 10 working days	
	Notes for all facilities	
Data sources / Report Name:	<ul> <li>Local business intelligence report or any other internally designed system</li> <li>Applicable to licensed operational general and specialist hospitals for provision of primary care and/or specialist/consultant outpatient facilities</li> </ul>	

KPI Description (title):	Percentage of elective Inpatient admissions within 28 days.
Domain	Timeliness
Indicator Type	Process
Definition:	Number of days it takes to admit a non- emergency patient in acute care from DTA (decision to admit) made by a Department of Health (DOH) licensed specialist or consultant.
	Numerator: Number of patients being admitted in acute care within 28 days from date of DTA (Decision to Admit). DTA day=1
	<b>Denominator</b> : All elective inpatient admissions in acute care
Calculation:	<ul> <li>Denominator Exclusions:         <ul> <li>Patients who are unable to have their treatment for social, work or personal reasons within 28 days from DTA</li> <li>Patients who choose to wait longer than 28 days for their treatment</li> <li>Patients for whom it is not clinically appropriate to start treatment within 28 days</li> <li>Delay in admission due to insurance approval being refused or delayed &gt;= 14 days</li> <li>Emergency/Unplanned admissions</li> <li>Same day admissions from outpatient department</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Reporting Frequency:	Quarterly
Unit of Measure:	% for performance ( <i>days</i> for mean, median and min. & max)
Reported Information	Numerator, Denominator, Indicator Performance (also, mean waiting time, median waiting time, min. & max. waiting time)
Target	90% within 28 days
	Notes for all facilities
Data sources / Report Name:	<ul> <li>Local business intelligence report or any other internally designed system</li> <li>Applicable to facilities licensed to provide inpatient services</li> </ul>

KPI Description (title):	Door to Balloon (PCI) waiting time for patients suspected with Acute Myocardial Infarction (AMI)
Domain	Timeliness
Indicator Type	Process
Definition:	Number of minutes it takes to start angioplasty for emergency patients with Acute Myocardial Infarction (AMI). Acute myocardial infarction (AMI) patients with ST segment elevation or LBBB on the ECG closest to arrival time receiving primary PCI during the hospital stay with a time from hospital arrival to PCI of ≤90 minutes.
	Numerator: Number of patients who had primary angioplasty within 90 min of attending as an emergency with AMI
	<b>Denominator</b> : Total number of AMI patients with ST-elevation or LBBB on ECG who are indicated to receive primary PCI.
Calculation:	ICD-10-CM Principal Diagnosis Code for AMI: I21.01, I21.02, I21.09, I21.11, I21.19, I21.21, I21.29, I21.3 with
	<b>CPT Codes for Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI):</b> 92920, 92921, 92924, 92925, 92928, 92929, 92933, 92934, 92937, 92938, 92941, 92943, 92944, 92973
	AND/ OR ST-segment elevation or LBBB on the ECG performed closest to hospital arrival AND PCI performed within 24 hours after hospital arrival
	<ul> <li>Denominator Exclusions:         <ul> <li>Patients less than 18 years of age</li> <li>In-Patients</li> <li>Patients enrolled in clinical trials</li> <li>Patients administered fibrinolytic agent or any counter indication agent prior to PCI in another facility if indicated</li> <li>PCI described as non-primary by a physician/advanced practice nurse/physician assistant (physician/APN/PA)</li> <li>PCI is clinically contraindicated: such as cardiac arrest or requiring resuscitation, difficult vascular access and/or crossing the culprit lesion</li> <li>Patient/Family refusal/ or delay in consent</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Reporting Frequency	Quarterly
Unit of Measure:	% for performance ( <i>minutes</i> for mean, median and min. & max)
Reported Information	Numerator, Denominator, Indicator Performance (also, mean waiting time, median waiting time, min. & max. waiting time)
Target	90% within 90 minutes
	Notes for all facilities
Data sources Report Name:	<ul> <li>Local business intelligence report or any other internally designed system</li> <li>Applicable to facilities licensed to provide inpatient services</li> </ul>

**Indicator Number: WT007** 

Type: Waiting Time Indicator

KPI Description (title):	Stroke admission with CT scan timeframe
Domain	Timeliness
Indicator Type	Process
Definition:	The number of minutes it takes to interpret head CT scan for emergency patients presenting with stroke signs and symptoms.
	Numerator: Number of suspected stroke patients who had a CT-Scan of the head which was interpreted within 45 minutes of arrival to emergency department or UCC
	<b>Denominator</b> : All adult patients (18 years and older) visiting the emergency department or urgent care center, who were suspected of having signs and symptoms of a stroke.
Calculation:	ICD-10 CM codes (not limited to) and include suspected cases as per clinical documentation: 160.00, 160.01, 160.02, 160.10, 160.11, 160.12, 160.2, 160.30, 160.31, 160.32, 160.4, 160.50, 160.51, 160.52, 160.6, 160.7, 160.8, 160.9, 161.0, 161.1, 161.2, 161.3, 161.4, 161.5, 161.6, 161.8, 161.9, 162.00, 162.01, 162.02, 162.03, 162.1, 162.9, 163.00, 163.011, 163.012, 163.013, 163.019, 163.02, 163.031, 163.032, 163.033, 163.039, 163.09, 163.10, 163.111, 163.112, 163.113, 163.119, 163.12, 163.131, 163.132, 163.133, 163.139, 163.20, 163.211, 163.212, 163.213, 163.219, 163.22, 163.231, 163.232, 163.233, 163.239, 163.29, 163.30, 163.311, 163.312, 163.313, 163.319, 163.321, 163.322, 163.323, 163.329, 163.331, 163.332, 163.339, 163.341, 163.342, 163.343, 163.349, 163.39, 163.40, 163.411, 163.412, 163.413, 163.419, 163.421, 163.422, 163.423, 163.429, 163.431, 163.432, 163.433, 163.439, 163.441, 163.442, 163.443, 163.449, 163.49, 163.50, 163.511, 163.512, 163.513, 163.519, 163.521, 163.522, 163.523, 163.529, 163.531, 163.532, 163.533, 163.539, 163.541, 163.542, 163.543, 163.549, 163.59, 163.
	<ul> <li>Denominator Exclusion:         <ul> <li>Stroke symptoms more than 6 hours before presentation</li> <li>Stroke symptoms of undetermined duration</li> <li>CT not conducted in the facility for the following reasons:</li></ul></li></ul>
Reporting Frequency:	Quarterly
Unit of Measure:	% for performance ( <i>minutes</i> for mean, median and min. & max)
Reported Information	Numerator, Denominator, Indicator Performance (also, mean waiting time, median waiting time, min. & max. waiting time)
Target	90% within 45 minutes
	Notes for all facilities
Data sources / Report Name:	<ul> <li>Local business intelligence report or any other internally designed system</li> <li>Applicable to facilities licensed to provide inpatient services</li> </ul>

KPI Description (title):	Seeing a doctor in emergency department or urgent care center (Door to Doctor Time)
Domain	Timeliness
Indicator Type	Process
Definition:	Number of minutes from registration to patient seeing an emergency department or urgent care doctor.
Calculation:	Numerator: Number of patients seen by an emergency department or urgent care doctor within target time (60 minutes).
	<u><b>Denominator</b></u> : All emergency or urgent care encounters (irrespective of triage category).
Garcaration	Denominator Exclusion:
	Deceased on Arrival (DOA)
	Patient Left Without Being Seen (LWBS)
	Triaged out to Outpatient Services.
Reporting Frequency:	Quarterly
Unit of Measure:	% for performance ( <i>minutes</i> for mean, median and min. & max)
Reported Information	Numerator, Denominator, Indicator Performance (also, mean waiting time, median waiting time, min. & max. waiting time)
Target	90% within 60 minutes
Notes for all facilities	
Data sources / Report Name:	<ul> <li>Local business intelligence report or any other internally designed system</li> <li>Applicable to facilities licensed to provide emergency and inpatient services</li> </ul>

KPI Description (title):	Registration to leaving emergency department or urgent care center (Door to Door Time)
Domain	Timeliness
Indicator Type	Process
Definition:	Number of minutes from registration to patient leaving the emergency department or urgent care center (admitted or discharged).
Calculation:	Numerator: Number of patients finished their emergency or urgent care visit within target time (240 minutes).  Denominator: All emergency/urgent care encounters (irrespective of triage category).  Denominator Exclusion:  Deceased on Arrival (DOA) Patient Left Without Being Seen (LWBS) Patient Left Against Medical Advice (LAMA) Triaged-out to Outpatient Services Visits with both unknown/invalid registration and triage date/time
Reporting Frequency:	Quarterly
Unit of Measure:	% for performance ( <i>minutes</i> for mean, median and min. & max)
Reported Information	Numerator, Denominator, Indicator Performance (also, mean waiting time, median waiting time, min. & max. waiting time)
Target	90% within 240 minutes
	Notes for all facilities
Data sources / Report Name:	<ul> <li>Local business intelligence report or any other internally designed system</li> <li>Applicable to facilities licensed to provide emergency and inpatient services</li> </ul>

KPI Description (title):	72 hours-Re attendance rate to emergency department or urgent care center
Domain	Timeliness
Indicator Type	Outcome
Definition:	Number of patients who return to the emergency department or urgent care center within 72 hours of being discharged.
	<ul><li>Numerator: Number of patients who return to the emergency department or urgent care center within 72 hours.</li><li>Denominator: Total number of all emergency/urgent care encounters</li></ul>
	(irrespective of triage category)
	<u>Denominator Exclusion:</u>
Calculation:	Deceased on Arrival (DOA)  Output  Deceased on Arrival (DOA)  Output  Deceased on Arrival (DOA)
	<ul> <li>Patient Left without being seen (LWBS)</li> <li>Patient Left against Medical advice (LAMA)</li> </ul>
	Triaged-out to Outpatient Services
	Transfer out to another facility from Emergency department
	Repeat encounter in emergency department or urgent care within 72 hours of the index encounter
Reporting Frequency:	Quarterly
Unit of Measure:	% Re-attendance rate
Reported Information	Numerator, Denominator, Indicator Performance
Target	Lower is better
	Notes for all facilities
Data sources / Report Name:	<ul> <li>Local business intelligence report or any other internally designed system</li> <li>Applicable to facilities licensed to provide emergency and inpatient services</li> </ul>

**Indicator Number: WT011** 

Type: Waiting Time Indicator

KPI Description (title):	Left Without Being Seen (LWBS) by an emergency department or urgent care doctor
Domain	Timeliness
Indicator Type	Outcome
Definition:	Percentage of patients who chose to leave the emergency department or urgent care, before an assessment by a doctor and treatment could occur.
	<u>Numerator</u> : Number of patients who left after registration in the emergency department or urgent care without being seen by an emergency or urgent care doctor.
Calculation:	<ul> <li><u>Denominator</u>: All emergency or urgent encounters (irrespective of triage category).</li> <li><u>Denominator Exclusion</u>:         <ul> <li>Deceased on Arrival (DOA)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	Triaged-out to Outpatient Services
Reporting Frequency:	Quarterly
Unit of Measure:	% Left without being seen (LWBS)
Reported Information	Numerator, Denominator, Indicator Performance
Target	Lower is better (3% or less)
	Notes for all facilities
Data sources / Report Name:	<ul> <li>Local business intelligence report or any other internally designed system</li> <li>Applicable to facilities licensed to provide emergency and inpatient services</li> </ul>

KPI Description (title):	Doctor to Decision to Admit Time	
Domain	Timeliness	
Indicator Type	Process	
Definition:	Number of patients admitted from the emergency department or urgent care center with whom admit decision time to time of departure from the emergency department or urgent care is within 60 minutes; Admission order and/or time of bed request may be used as a proxy.	
	<b>Numerator</b> : Number of patients admitted to an inpatient unit from the emergency department or urgent care center, with whom admit decision time to time of departure from the emergency department or urgent care center is within 60 minutes.	
Calculation:	<b><u>Denominator</u></b> : All patients admitted to the facility from the emergency department or urgent care.	
	<ul> <li>Denominator Exclusion:</li> <li>Deceased on Arrival (DOA)</li> <li>Left without been seen</li> <li>Discharged</li> </ul>	
Reporting Frequency:	Quarterly	
Unit of Measure:	% for performance ( <i>minutes</i> for mean, median and min. & max)	
Reported Information	Numerator, Denominator, Indicator Performance (also, mean waiting time, median waiting time, min. & max. waiting time)	
Target	90% within 60 minutes	
Notes for all facilities		
Data sources Report Name:	<ul> <li>National Quality form (NFQ) Emergency Department Throughput Measures         Stratification     </li> <li>Local business intelligence report or any other internally designed system</li> <li>Applicable to facilities licensed to provide emergency and inpatient services</li> </ul>	

KPI Description (title):	Percentage of emergency department or urgent care patient admitted to hospital	
Domain	Timeliness	
Indicator Type	Process	
Definition:	Percentage of emergency department or urgent care patient admitted to the acute care hospital	
	<u>Numerator</u> : Number of patients that were admitted as acute care inpatients in the hospital.	
	<b><u>Denominator</u></b> : All emergency or urgent care encounters (irrespective of triage category).	
Calculation:	<ul> <li>Denominator Exclusion:</li> <li>Deceased on Arrival (DOA)</li> <li>Patient Left Without Being Seen (LWBS)</li> <li>Triaged out to Outpatient Services.</li> </ul>	
Reporting Frequency:	Quarterly	
Unit of Measure:	Percentage	
Target	<20%	
Notes for all facilities		
Data sources / Report Name:	<ul> <li>Local business intelligence report or any other internally designed system</li> <li>Applicable to facilities licensed to provide emergency and inpatient services</li> </ul>	

# Summary of Changes 2025

KPI#	Changes
All KPIs	Revised Domain and added Indicator Types
WT001	<ul> <li>Added in the numerator instead of 48 hrs as 2 workings days.</li> <li>Rephrased denominator definition.</li> <li>Exclusions: Removed the sentence - (Follow-up does not relate to billing aspect).</li> </ul>
WT002, WT004	<ul> <li>Replace in the numerator within 2 weeks to 10 working days.</li> <li>Rephrased denominator definition (new and appointment)</li> <li>Exclusions: Removed the sentence - (Follow-up does not relate to billing aspect).</li> </ul>
WT003	Added Denominator Exclusion: Teleconsultations
WT005	<ul> <li>Change the title as: Percentage of elective Inpatient admissions within 28 days.</li> <li>Denominator Exclusion: Revised timeframe of 28 days. Added "Same day admissions from outpatient department"</li> </ul>
WT006	<ul> <li>Added denominator exclusion: PCI is clinically contraindicated: such as cardiac arrest or requiring resuscitation, difficult vascular access and/or crossing the culprit lesion</li> <li>Patient/Family refusal/ or delay in consent</li> </ul>
WT007	<ul> <li>Denominator: Removed Appendix A Stroke ICD-10 code, added codes in the profile. Removed Exclusions: Patients below 18 years of age and Transferred to Stroke center</li> <li>Added and revised Exclusions:         <ul> <li>CT not conducted in the facility for the following reasons:</li> <li>If the family refused the treatment before the CT conducted</li> <li>Clinically unstable patients</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
WT008	Added Denominator Exclusion: Triaged out to Outpatient Services
WT009	<ul> <li>Changed the time Numerator: 180 minutes-(240 minutes) even in the target changed 180 minutes to 240 minutes.</li> <li>Added Denominator Exclusion: Triaged out to Outpatient Services visits with both unknown/invalid registration and triage date/time</li> </ul>
WT010	<ul> <li>Change the title/definition/numerator as 24 hrs to 72 hrs</li> <li>Removed the phrase from definition and numerator: "for the same chief complaint (s)"</li> <li>Added denominator exclusion:         <ul> <li>Triaged-out to Outpatient Services</li> <li>Transfer out to another facility from Emergency department</li> <li>Repeat encounter in emergency department or urgent care within 72 hours of the index encounter</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
WT011	Added Denominator Exclusions
WT012	Removed Denominator Exclusion: Observation, Mental health patient
WT013	<ul> <li>Defined numerator: Number of patients that were admitted into inpatient hospitals.</li> <li>Added Denominator exclusion: Triaged out to Outpatient Services.</li> </ul>