



Protecting, Maintaining and Improving the Health of Minnesotans

NURSING HOME LENGTH OF STAY Calendar Years 2002 – 2006

Methodological Notes

The Minnesota Department of Health, Division of Compliance Monitoring computed the length of stay of residents in nursing homes for the calendar years 2002 through 2006. The data used for this computation is the federally required Minimum Data Set (MDS) records that are submitted to the Minnesota Department of Health by each nursing facility certified to participate in the Medicare and/or Medicaid programs.

Attached to this memo are charts and tables that present the results of the computations. This memo addresses the methodological process used to compute the length of stay.

The data used to compute length of stay and the other data presented was accessed under a data use agreement between the U.S. Department of Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Minnesota Department of Human Services and Minnesota Department of Health under responsibilities as the State Medicaid Agency and State Survey Agency respectively.

The information used for the length of stay computation is from the federally required Minimum Data Set (MDS) records submitted to the Minnesota Department of Health by each nursing facility certified to participate in the Medicare and/or Medicaid programs.

Attached to this memo are charts and tables that are the result of the findings of the computations. This memo also addresses the methodological process used to compute the length of stay.

The method used for computing length of stay for this report is often referred to as the “Discharge Days” method. Simply, when a resident is discharged from a facility the number of days is counted from the date of admission to the date of discharge. If a resident has multiple stays in a facility or facilities then each episode that had an admission and corresponding discharge is counted separately then added together to get a total length of stay for that resident.

The MDS system tracks the discharge of a resident using three distinct codes. These tracking codes are:

- 1) Discharge return not anticipated. This code is used when nursing does not expect the resident to return to that facility. In most cases the resident is returning to their home after receive therapy or treatment for an acute illness. All discharge records coded “Discharge return not anticipated” is used in the computation of the length of stay.
- 2) Discharge return anticipated. This code is used when a resident is discharged to an acute care hospital other type of care facility and the facility expects the resident to return the nursing after receiving the appropriate care or treatment. If a resident is discharged “return anticipated” and does not return to the facility for some reason the facility is not required to submit another discharge tracking form coded as “Return not anticipated”. In order to capture this situation discharge tracking forms coded “Return anticipated” were used in the computation only if they were last record for that resident and the date of discharge is more than 92 days from the end of the year.
- 3) Discharge Prior to Completion of Initial Assessment. This code is used when a resident is discharged prior to day fourteen following admission to a facility and full admission assessment has not been completed. Discharge tracking forms coded “Discharge Prior to Completion of Initial Assessment“ were used for the length of stay computation, with the exception of residents discharged to the hospital.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) only retains three years of active MDS records on the computer systems in each state. The date a resident is admitted to the facility only is required to be provided on the admission record. As a result the MDS admission records for residents admitted prior to January 1, 2002 were not available for use in computing length of stay. These records are available only in a nation archive maintained in Baltimore. In order to determine the admission date for residents admitted prior to January 1, 2002 the previous case mix database was used. Residents in the MDS database with a missing date of admission were matched by first name, last name and date of birth to records in the previous case mix database. The match process required an exact in spelling and dates. If an exact match was not achieved the MDS discharge record as not included in the computation.



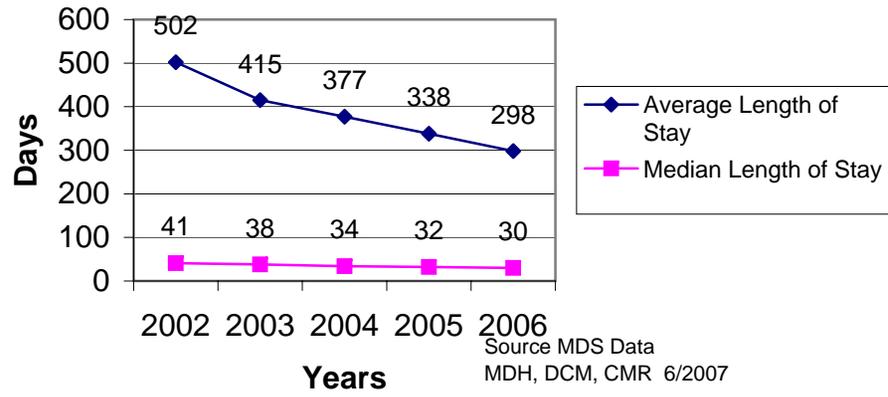
Division of Compliance Monitoring Case Mix Review Program

Nursing Home Length of Stay - Mean (Average) and Median

Calendar Year	Mean Days	Median Days	
2002	502	41	N=41,044
2003	415	38	N=42,569
2004	377	34	N=43,769
2005	338	32	N=44,925
2006	298	30	N=44,081

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Nursing Home Length of Stay





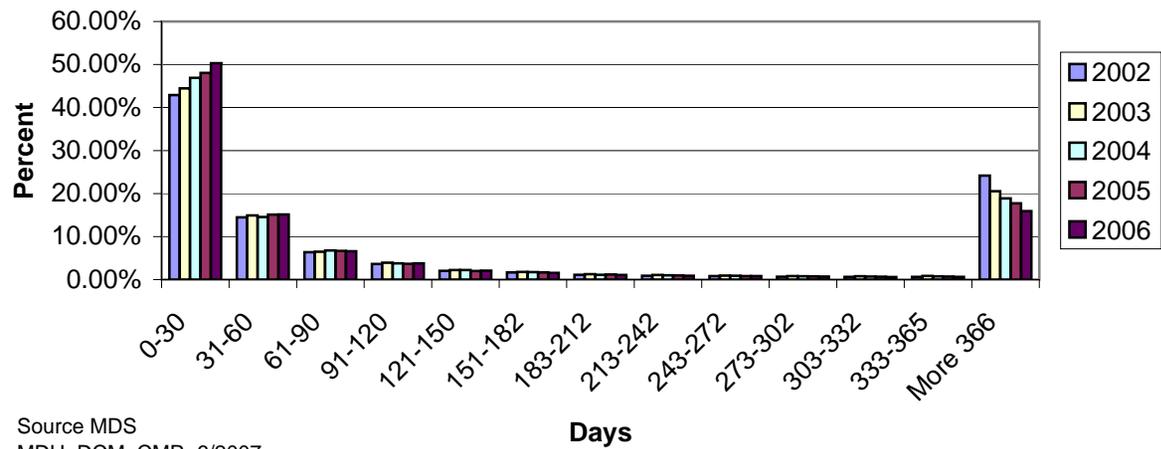
Division of Compliance Monitoring
Case Mix Review Program

Nursing Home Length of Stay of One Year or Less

Year	Days													Total
	0-30	31-60	61-90	91-120	121-150	151-182	183-212	213-242	243-272	273-302	303-332	333-365	More 366	
2002 Number	17614	5939	2618	1496	836	682	451	364	334	281	251	257	9921	41044
2002 Percent	42.91%	14.47%	6.38%	3.64%	2.04%	1.66%	1.10%	0.89%	0.81%	0.68%	0.61%	0.63%	24.17%	
2003 Number	18917	6356	2756	1669	943	762	537	450	396	349	332	355	8747	42569
2003 Percent	44.44%	14.93%	6.47%	3.92%	2.22%	1.79%	1.26%	1.06%	0.93%	0.82%	0.78%	0.83%	20.55%	
2004 Number	20533	6371	2965	1651	968	754	486	437	385	333	301	320	8265	43769
2004 Percent	46.91%	14.56%	6.77%	3.77%	2.21%	1.72%	1.11%	1.00%	0.88%	0.76%	0.69%	0.73%	18.88%	
2005 Number	21577	6792	2991	1653	904	755	536	438	368	332	301	308	7970	44925
2005 Percent	48.03%	15.12%	6.66%	3.68%	2.01%	1.68%	1.19%	0.97%	0.82%	0.74%	0.67%	0.69%	17.74%	
2006 Number	22174	6681	2897	1664	913	680	467	395	352	308	264	275	7011	44081
2006 Percent	50.30%	15.16%	6.57%	3.77%	2.07%	1.54%	1.06%	0.90%	0.80%	0.70%	0.60%	0.62%	15.90%	

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Nursing Home Length of Stay of One Year or Less



Source MDS
MDH, DCM, CMR 6/2007



Division of Compliance Monitoring
Case Mix Review Program

Length of Stay - Number of Months Stayed

	0-3 Months	4-6 Months	7-9 Months	10-12 Months	13-15 Months	16-18 Months	19-21 Months	22-24 Months	25-27 Months	28-30 Months	31-33 Months	34-36 Months	37 Months or More	Totals
2002 Number	26171	3014	1149	789	594	514	469	435	408	368	364	347	6422	41044
Percent	63.92	7.17	2.82	1.92	1.45	1.22	1.15	1.08	1.02	0.89	0.88	0.83	15.65	100
2003 Number	28029	3374	1383	1036	801	573	480	382	332	329	294	307	5249	42569
Percent	66.02	7.68	3.32	2.43	1.88	1.31	1.14	0.93	0.79	0.77	0.7	0.7	12.33	100
2004 Number	29869	3373	1308	954	746	621	493	454	437	416	313	268	4517	43769
Percent	68.41	7.49	3.04	2.18	1.7	1.39	1.13	1.06	1.01	0.94	0.74	0.58	10.32	99.99
2005 Number	31360	3312	1342	941	683	578	514	466	433	398	372	372	4154	44925
Percent	69.95	7.17	3.04	2.09	1.52	1.25	1.15	1.06	0.97	0.88	0.85	0.8	9.25	99.98
2006 Number	31752	3257	1214	847	636	535	430	452	414	349	342	282	3571	44081
Percent	69.95	7.17	3.04	2.09	1.52	1.25	1.15	1.06	0.97	0.88	0.85	0.8	9.25	99.98

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