

NATIONAL HOSPITAL DISCHARGE SURVEY

2002

PUBLIC USE DATA FILE DOCUMENTATION

Abstract

This document provides information for users of the National Hospital Discharge Survey (NHDS) Public Use Data File for 2002. The NHDS is conducted annually by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) and is a principal source of information on inpatient hospital utilization in the United States.

Section I describes the survey and includes information on the history and scope of the NHDS; the methodology, including data collection and medical coding procedures; population estimates; measurement errors and sampling errors.

Section II provides technical details about the file.

Section III provides a detailed description of the contents of each data record.

Appendix A defines certain terms used in this document;

Appendix B lists the ICD-9-CM Addenda;

Appendix C provides population estimates to allow for the calculation of rates;

Appendix D provides unweighted and weighted frequencies for selected variables; and

Appendix E includes a copy of the NHDS Medical Abstract Form.