

**HOSPITAL REPORT CARD REPORTING MANUAL
FOR THE COMMUNITY HOSPITALS**



Published March 15, 2019

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INTRODUCTION

This Manual was developed to provide the necessary information for Vermont hospitals to follow the Vermont Statute¹ and regulation² for reporting related to:

- State Comparative Hospital Report Card published on Vermont Department of Health's website – including the quality of care measures, healthcare associated infection measures, patient safety, nurse staffing, pricing information on common services, and a link to the Green Mountain Care Board's website for related Act53 financial data.
- Community specific information to be published at individual hospital's website – including public participation and strategic planning, community health needs assessment/implementation plan/annual progress report, complaint process information, and financial assistance policy.

The Manual sets the expected measures, timelines and processes for the annual reporting by hospitals for: 1. Hospital Quality Measures, 2. Financial Data, and 3. Public Participation and Strategic Planning.

The Department will notify all hospitals if there are any changes made to the required measures or reporting processes during the year. New measures may be added as follows:

- For measures requiring new data collection by the hospitals, the Department will notify hospitals 180 days prior to the inception date for data collection of new measures.
- For measures included in existing federal or state reporting, the Department will notify hospitals by December 1 of the year prior to the scheduled June 1 publication date.

It is the hospital's responsibility to inform the Department of any staffing change in order to receive up-to-date information related to Act 53/Hospital Report Card in [Appendix D](#). This includes, but not limited to, the following: CEO, CFO, Infection Preventionist, Quality Director, Communications Officer, Chief Nursing Officer, and IT/Web staff.

¹ . [Vermont Statute, 18 V.S.A. § 9405a](#) applies to the public participation and strategic planning, and [Vermont Statute, 18 V.S.A. § 9405b](#) addresses hospital community reports.

² [2018 Hospital Reporting Rule, Section 9](#)

SECTION ONE: HOSPITAL QUALITY MEASURES

These measures below will be published in the 2019 Hospital Report Card (the comparative statewide report card posted on the health department website).

1. Quality of Care Measures

CMS measures that are required to report under Acute Care Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) ([CMS Acute Inpatient PPS](#)).

- MORT-30-AMI: Acute myocardial infarction 30-day mortality rate
- READM-30-AMI: Acute myocardial infarction 30-day readmission rate
- MORT-30-HF: Heart failure 30-day mortality rate
- READM-30-HF: Heart failure 30-day readmission rate
- MORT-30-PN: Pneumonia 30-day mortality rate
- READM-3-PN: Pneumonia 30-day readmission rate
- READM-30-HOSP-WIDE (HWR): 30-day overall hospital-wide readmission rate

Hospitals will adhere to CMS data submission guidelines, specifications, and deadlines.

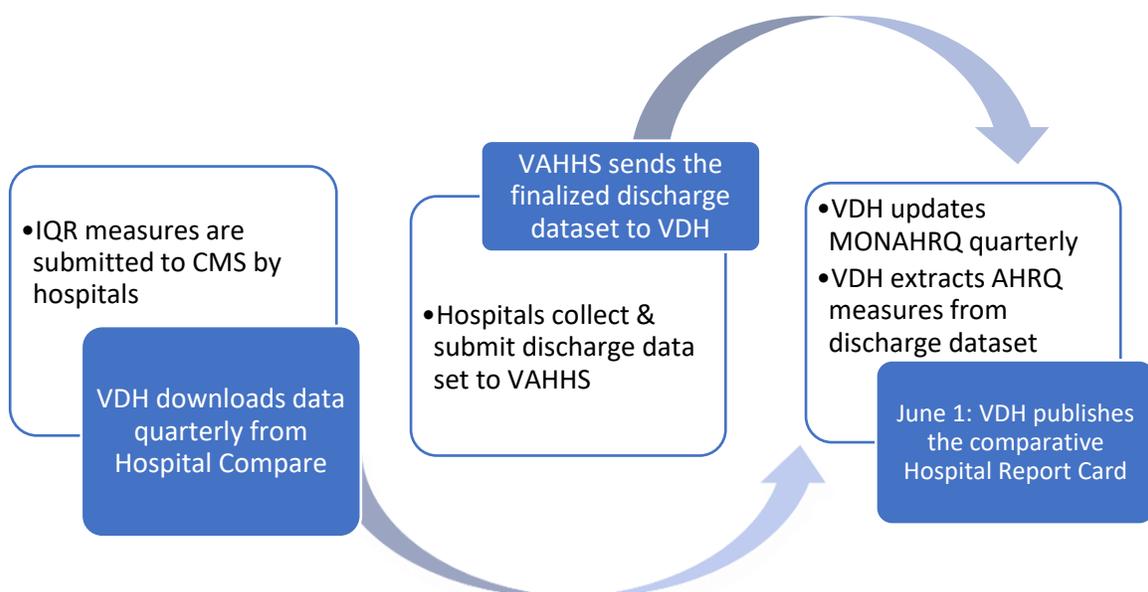
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Measures ([Individual Measure Technical Specifications](#)).

- Volume/mortality rate of esophageal resections (IQI 1 & 8)
- Volume/mortality rate of pancreatic resections (IQI 2 & 9)
- Volume/mortality rate of abdominal aortic aneurysm repairs (IQI 4 & 11)

Hospitals will adhere to VAHHS data submission guidelines, specifications, and deadlines.

The HCAHPS (Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems) survey ([HCAHPS Overview](#))

Data flow (see [Appendix A](#)).



2. Patient Safety

Each Vermont hospital must report to the *Vermont Patient Safety Surveillance and Improvement System (VPSSIS)* any incidence of any of the National Quality Forum's serious reportable events. The complete list can be found on the National Quality Forum's website ([NQF Serious Reportable Events](#)).

Reports are submitted to VPSSIS by downloading and filling out the form found here: [Vermont Department of Health adverse event report form](#). Hospitals may submit the form by mail, e-mail, or fax to the Patient Safety Program.

E-mail to: sre@vpqhc.org

Fax form to: Vermont Program for Quality in Health Care, Inc.
802-262-1307

Attention: Patient Safety Program

Mail form to: Vermont Program for Quality in Health Care, Inc.
Attention: Patient Safety Program
132 in Street Montpelier, VT 05602

Hospitals must report the event to the VPSSIS within **seven days** of incidence.

In addition, **all Designated Hospitals³ are also required to report** critical incidents to the Vermont Department of Mental Health. Please note that the reporting requirements for the Department of Mental Health are different from VPSSIS. *The Manual for Critical Incident Reporting Requirements for Designated Hospitals* can be found here: [The Manual for Critical Incident Reporting Requirements for Designated Hospitals](#).

3. Healthcare-Acquired Infection Measures

CMS IPPS required National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Measures.

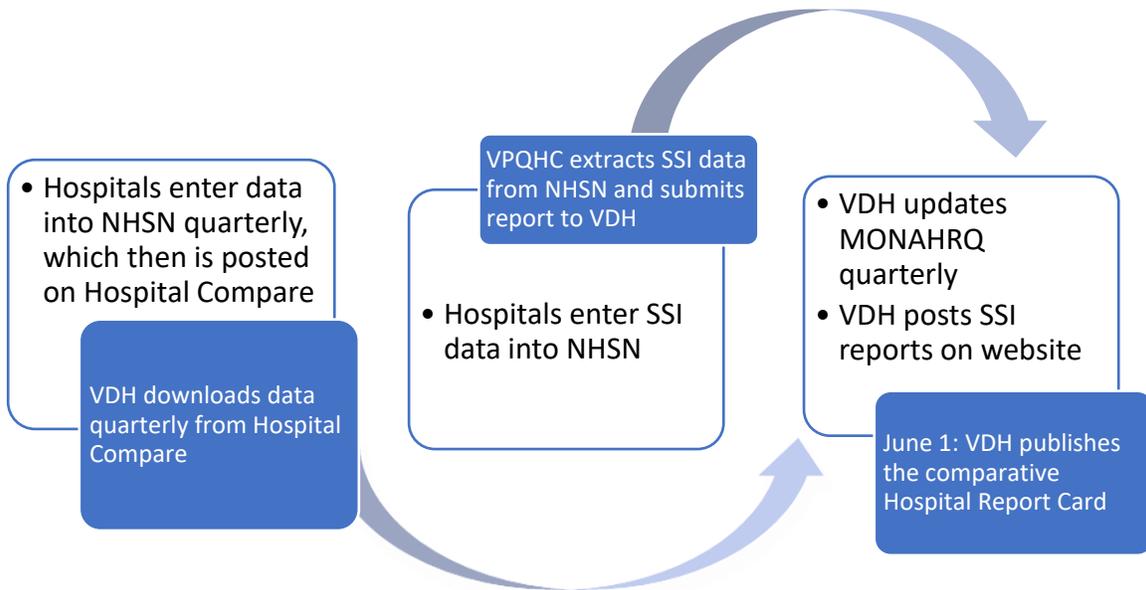
- Central Line Associated Bloodstream Infection (CLABSI) Ratios (HAI-1)
- *Clostridium difficile* (C. diff) Infection Ratios (HAI-6)
- Surgical Site Infection Ratios – Abdominal Hysterectomy (HAI-4)
- Surgical Site Infection Ratios – Hip Replacement*
- Surgical Site Infection Ratios – Knee Replacement*

Hospitals will adhere to CMS/NHSN measure specifications, data submission guidance and deadlines.

³ Brattleboro Retreat, Central Vermont Medical Center, The University of Vermont Medical Center, Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital, Rutland Regional Medical Center, and Springfield Hospital (Windham Center) and refers to the inpatient psychiatry unit of each hospital respectively.

* Applies to all Vermont hospitals per Act 53 although not IPPS-required.

Data flow.



4. Nurse Staffing ([Appendix B](#))

Hospitals will use the template provided by the Department for the submission of data. Templates are found on the Report Card webpage, under "[Resources for Vermont Hospitals](#)".

There are two templates available: Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) based, and hour-based. Hospitals will use the appropriate template that aligns with hospital's data collection method.

- Data entry is limited to the highlighted area of the spreadsheet: by shift, RN, LPN, UAP hours or FTEs; and patient census.
- Completed templates will be emailed to: teri.hata@vermont.gov. at least every three months.

SECTION TWO: FINANCIAL REPORTING

Per [18 VSA §9405b](#), a statewide comparative report shall include measures indicative of the hospital's financial health and a summary of the hospital's budget, as more fully described below, and it will be posted on the Green Mountain Care Board's (GMCB) website. Hospitals will have an option to review the report before it is published on GMCB's website. Measures relating to the hospital's financial health shall include comparisons to appropriate nation and/or other benchmarks for efficient operation and fiscal health and shall be derived from the hospital budget and budget-to-actual information submitted annually to the GMCB pursuant to [Rule 7.000 \(Unified Health Care Budget\)](#).

5. Hospital's Financial Health and Financial Assistance Policies

GMCB will post a statewide comparative report on its website a description of the **hospitals' finances**, including but not limited to:

- Ratios, statistics and indicators relating to liquidity, cash flow, productivity, surplus, charges and payer mix. Such ratios, statistics and indicators shall represent both actual results and projections for subsequent budget years and shall be presented against t least one national peer, regional peer or Vermont peer group data, or against one bond rating agency's comparable rating.

Hospital will post on its website **Financial Assistance Policies (FAP)** and its related contents consistent with IRS requirement, including but not limited to the following:

- The list of providers, other than hospital facility itself, delivering emergency or other care in the hospital and to specify which providers are covered by the hospital's FAP and which are not.
- the eligibility criteria for financial assistance, whether such assistance includes free or discounted care, and the basis for calculating amounts charged to patients.
- Description of how an individual applies for financial assistance under the FAP and either the hospital's FAP or FAP application form must describe the information or documentation the hospital may require an individual to submit as part of FAP application.
- A plain language summary of the FAP.
- Action that may be taken in the event of nonpayment.

Data flow of 5.1 (see below).

6. Hospital's Budget Information

GMCB will post a **statewide comparative report** summarizing the hospitals' budget, including revenue by source and quantification of cost shifting to private payers, and shall use formats, graphic data displays, data sources and common explanatory language. Minimum content and presentation requirements for summary hospital budget

information will be based on the hospitals' financial performance, as reported in the annual hospital budget submission to the GMCB for the next fiscal year, shall be presented as follows:

- **Finances:** Summaries of the hospitals' finances, including but not limited to ratios, statistics and indicators relating to liquidity, cash flow, productivity, surplus, charges and payer mix. Such ratios, statistics and indicators shall represent two years of actual results and current budget year.
- **Budgets:** Summaries of the hospitals' budgets which represent two years of actual results and current budget year.
- **Cost Shift:** Quantification of cost shifting from public payers to private payers for one year of actual results and current budget year.
- **Key Performance Indicators:** Summaries of the hospitals' capital key performance indicators for two years of actual results and current budget year.
- **Capital Investments:** Summaries of capital expenditures and plans for one to four years.

Data flow (see below).

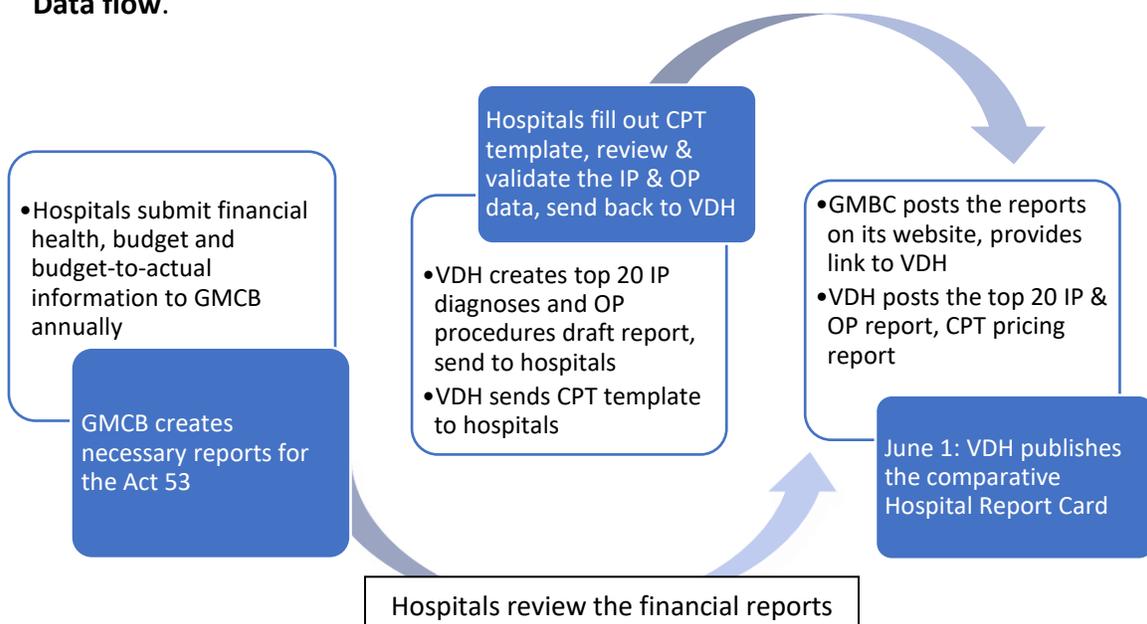
7. Charges for Higher Volume Health Care Services and Common Procedures

For Higher Volume Health Care Services, the Department will identify the top 20 inpatient diagnoses, outpatient procedures, and their counts and charges, and produce a draft report for each hospital for their review and validation.

For Common Procedure Pricing, hospitals will fill out the CPT pricing template provided by the Department with the most recent charge listed in the hospital's chargemaster.

Hospitals will follow the timelines specified in [Appendix A](#).

Data flow.



SECTION THREE: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

Each hospital shall have a protocol for meaningful public participation in its strategic planning process for identifying and addressing health care needs that the hospital provides or could provide in its service area. Needs identified through the process shall be integrated with the hospital's long-term planning.

Staff at the District Offices of the Department of Health ([Appendix D](#)) are available to partner with hospitals in conducting the community health needs assessment (CHNA) and in developing the required Implementation Plan in the following ways:

- Compilation of health outcome data to develop a Community Health Profile,
- Developing community survey and/or other engagement methods,
- Providing evidence-based strategies that have proven impact in improving health outcomes to consider when developing the Implementation Plan, and
- Collaborating in monitoring of the Implementation Plan to evaluate its success in improving health outcomes.

The following information will be posted on **each hospital's website**.

8. Community Health Needs Assessment

Each hospital will post on its website a community health needs assessment (CHNA) in accordance with IRS⁴ and alignment with the GMCB guidance for budget submission reporting requirements, which includes at minimum the following:

- Definition of the community it serves;
- Assessment of the health needs of the community that can include access to care and other needs to prevent illness, to ensure adequate nutrition, or to address social, behavioral, and environmental factors that influence health in the community⁵;
- Identification of the significant health needs;
- Prioritization of the health needs, including the description of the process and criteria used in prioritization and description of how public input was solicited/considered in prioritizing the health needs;
- Description of resources available to address the significant health needs;

⁴ See Additional Requirements for Charitable Hospitals; Community Health Needs Assessments for Charitable Hospitals; Requirements of a Section 4959 Excise Tax Return and Time for Filing the Return; Final Rule, 79 Fed. Reg. 78954, 78956 (Dec. 31, 2014) (to be codified at 26 C.F.R. pts. 1, 53, and 602), *available at* <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-12-31/pdf/2014-30525.pdf> [hereinafter Final Rule].

⁵ Final Rule at 78963; 26 C.F.R. § 1.501(r)-3(b)(4).

- Report on *the evaluation* of the impact of any actions that were taken since the hospital facility finished conducting its immediately preceding CHNA to address the significant health needs identified in the hospital facility's prior CHNA(s)⁶;
- Contact information including but not limited to: the telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, fax numbers and postal addresses of the person in charge of the CHNA at the hospital;
- Contact information including but not limited to: the department(s), telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, fax numbers and postal addresses at the hospital for consumers to use if interested in learning about public participation events⁴; website references may also be included; and
- Description of where and how consumers may obtain detailed information about, or a copy, of the hospital's CHNA and strategic plan.

Hospital will post the above information on their website by **June 1**. IRS requires the hospitals make the CHNA report available until two subsequent assessments are made available. Therefore, hospitals must have links to at least the 2 most recent reports.

9. CHNA Implementation Plan/Strategic Initiatives/Annual Progress Report

The Implementation Plan/strategic initiatives will be written in accordance with the IRS⁷ and alignment with the GMCB guidance for budget submission reporting requirements.

The implementation Plan/Strategic Initiatives will describe how the hospital plans to address the identified health needs, including:

- Actions the hospital intends to take to address the health needs, which may include interventions designed to prevent illness or address social, behavioral, and environmental factors within an implementation strategy⁸,
- Anticipated impact of these actions,
- Resources the hospital plans to commit to address the health needs, and
- Any planned collaboration between the hospital and other facilities or organizations;
- Identifies the health needs the hospital does not intend to address and explain why the hospital does not intend to address them;

Implementation Plan/Strategic Plan will also provide a brief explanation of its reasons, including resource constraints, other facilities or organizations addressing the need, lack

⁶ See *id.*, at 78969.

⁷ See Additional Requirements for Charitable Hospitals; Community Health Needs Assessments for Charitable Hospitals; Requirements of a Section 4959 Excise Tax Return and Time for Filing the Return; Final Rule, 79 Fed. Reg. 78954, 78956 (Dec. 31, 2014) (to be codified at 26 C.F.R. pts. 1, 53, and 602), *available at* <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-12-31/pdf/2014-30525.pdf> [hereinafter Final Rule].

⁸ See *id.*, at 78970.

of experience or competency, relatively low priority for community, or lack of identified effective interventions.

Each hospital will post on its website an **Annual Progress Report**,⁹ which is a description of the actions taken as were stated in the implementation plan during the past year to address the health needs identified through its CHNA, or if no actions were taken with respect to one or more of these health needs, the reasons no action were taken. Annual Progress Report will include at minimum the following:

- Health needs identified in CHNA, and actions hospitals plan to take to address each health needs.
- Health needs identified in CHNA for which no action is planned with an explanation of why.
- Current initiatives, activities, action items for each health need being worked on. Include items such as list of partners, resources, funding sources, supports received; program description (or link to the program webpage).
- Any of the following: progress made/outcome for each initiative/activity/action item, lessons learned, or any barriers encountered.

Hospitals will post the above information on their website **by June 1**.

10. Description of Hospital Complaint Process

Each hospital will describe its **consumer complaint resolution** process including but not limited to:

- A description of the complaint process including how to register a complaint;
- Contact information, including but not limited to: telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, fax numbers, and postal addresses
 - for the hospital employee(s) responsible for implementation of the complaint resolution process;
 - for Department of Disability, Aging, and Independent Living, Licensing and Protection Division in order to register a complaint against the hospital; and
- Contact information or website URL for all of the organizations listed in [the Office of the Health Care Advocate](#) website who provide assistance with filing complaints, or the Office of the health Care Advocate website URL itself (<https://vtlawhelp.org/complaints#>) to direct consumers to a resource website which provides information on how to file complaints outside of hospital.

Hospitals will post the above information on their website by **June 1**.

⁹ Annual Progress Reports can be submitted as part of CHNA to comply with the IRS Rule “CHNA report include an evaluation of the impact of any actions that were taken since the hospital facility finished conducting its immediately preceding CHNA to address the significant health needs identified in the hospital facility’s prior CHNA(s).”

11. Hospital Governance

Each hospital will provide the **hospital's governance**, including but not limited to:

- Information on membership and governing body qualifications;
- A listing of the current governing body members, including each member's name, town of residence, occupation, employer, and job title, and the amount of compensation, if any, for serving on the governing body;
- Means of obtaining a schedule of meeting of the hospital's governing body, including times scheduled for public participation;
- Contact information including, but not limited to, the telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, fax numbers and postal addresses of the person responsible for public participation at the hospital; and
- The hospital's affiliation and membership with other hospitals, Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs), and/or other managing entities.

Hospitals will post the above information on their website by **June 1**.

12. Link to the Health Department's Statewide Comparative Hospital Report Card

Hospitals will display this link: [VT Department of Health Hospital Report Card Webpage \(http://www.healthvermont.gov/health-statistics-vital-records/health-care-systems-reporting/hospital-report-cards\)](http://www.healthvermont.gov/health-statistics-vital-records/health-care-systems-reporting/hospital-report-cards) on hospital's website.

Hospitals will post the above information on their website by **June 1**.

Hospitals will promptly notify the Department (contact information in [Appendix D](#)) of all the links of information/measures/documents per requirement of Act53 that are posted on the hospital's website by **May 29, 2019**.

Appendix A: Hospital Report Card Timelines

Community Hospitals

Timeline/ Deadline	Hospitals	Department (VDH)
ONGOING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit nurse staffing data to VDH at least every three months using the nurse staffing template available from the VDH website. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Makes nurse staffing templates available on VDH website.
Before or on Friday, March 15		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Releases the 2019 Hospital Report Card Reporting Manual. Sends the CPT pricing template to hospitals. Produces a draft inpatient & outpatient pricing report and send to hospitals.
Friday, March 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send VDH completed CPT template. 	
Friday, April 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send comments to VDH on inpatient and outpatient pricing. 	
Friday, April 26		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sends formatted nurse staffing data to hospitals for review. Sends inpatient & outpatient pricing report to hospitals for final review.
Friday, May 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send the nurse staffing data back to VDH with final comment. Send inpatient & outpatient pricing with final comments back to VDH. 	
Monday, May 27		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publishes the 2019 Hospital Report Card on its website. During this time, it will be used to make sure all contents and links are correct. Hospitals are strongly encouraged to visit the site for quality checking.
Wednesday, May 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send links of all the reports and information posted on hospital website to VDH. 	
Saturday, June 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All reports and information published on all hospital websites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comparative report published on VDH's website.

Appendix B: Nurse Staffing Information

1. Required Units for Reporting:

Neonatal In-Patient

- Level III/IV Critical Care
- Level II Intermediate Care
- Level I Continuing Care
- Well Baby Nursery

Pediatric In-Patient

- Critical Care-Pediatric
- Bone Marrow Transplant
- Step Down
- Medical
- Surgical
- Med-Surg Combined
- Burn
- High Acuity
- Moderate Acuity
- Blended Acuity

Adult In-Patient

- Critical Care-Adult
- Step Down
- Medical
- Surgical

Med-Surg Combined

- Bone Marrow Transplant
- Burn
- Critical Access Unit
- Long-term Acute Care
- High Acuity
- Moderate Acuity
- Blended Acuity
- Universal Bed

Psychiatric

- Adult
- Adolescent
- Child/adolescent
- Child
- Geripsych
- Behavioral health
- Specialty
- Multiple unit types

Rehab In-Patient

- Adult
- Pediatric

For other unit not listed, reporting is optional.

2. Category of Nursing Staff

- Registered Nurse (RN) includes Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN)
- Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) includes Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVN)
- Unlicensed Assistive Personnel (UAP) includes the following:
 - Nurse assistants
 - Orderlies
 - Paramedics
 - Patient care technicians
 - Mental health technicians
 - Licensed Nurse Assistants (LNA)
 - Emergency medical technicians (EMS)

3. Direct patient care means patient centered nursing activities in the presence of the patient and activities that occur away from the patient that are patient related such as:

- Medication administration
- Nursing treatments
- Nursing rounds
- Admission, transfer, discharge activities
- Patient teaching
- Patient communication
- Coordination of patient care
- Documentation time
- Treatment planning
- Patient screening

Appendix C: Where Information Is Published

VDH	Hospitals	GMCB
Quality of care measures	Financial Assistance Policy	Financial health report
Healthcare-Associated Infection measures	CHNA report	Budget information
Patient safety	Implementation Plan	
Nurse staffing report	Annual Progress Report	
Charge/pricing information	Hospital complaint process	
	Hospital governance	
	Link to VDH's website	

Appendix D: Contact Information and Resources

Any questions regarding the Hospital Report Card, please contact

Teri Hata

Department of Health

108 Cherry St. Burlington VT 05401

Teri.hata@vermont.gov

802-657-4209 (direct); 802-863-7300 (general)

Or

Hillary Wolfley

Vermont Program for Quality in Health Care (VPQHC)

132 Main St #1 Montpelier VT 05602

HillaryW@vpqhc.org

802-262-1304

Any questions regarding the financial/budget reporting, please contact

Lori Perry

Green Mountain Care Board

144 State Street

Montpelier, VT 05602

phone: 802 828-6971; cell: 802 622-4675

E-mail: Lori.Perry@vermont.gov

Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and Implementation Plan

Staff at the District Offices of the State Health Department are available to partner with hospitals. Contact information for each District Office is listed here below or on the website:

<http://www.healthvermont.gov/local>

District Office	Toll Free Number	Local Phone Number	Email
Barre	(888) 253-8786	(802) 479-4200	AHS.VDHOLHBarre@vermont.gov
Bennington	(800) 637-7347	(802) 447-3531	AHS.VDHOLHBennington@vermont.gov
Brattleboro	(888) 253-8805	(802) 257-2880	AHS.VDHOLHBrattleboro@vermont.gov
Burlington	(888) 253-8803	(802) 863-7323	AHS.VDHOLHBurlington@vermont.gov
Middlebury	(888) 253-8804	(802) 388-4644	AHS.VDHOLHMiddlebury@vermont.gov
Morrisville	(888) 253-8798	(802) 888-7447	AHS.VDHOLHMorrisville@vermont.gov
Newport	(800) 952-2945	(802) 334-6707	AHS.VDHOLHNewport@vermont.gov
Rutland	(888) 253-8802	(802) 786-5811	AHS.VDHOLHRutland@vermont.gov
St. Albans	(888) 253-8801	(802) 524-7970	AHS.VDHOLHStAlbans@vermont.gov
St. Johnsbury	(800) 952-2936	(802) 748-5151	AHS.VDHOLHStJohnsbury@vermont.gov
Springfield	(888) 296-8151	(802) 289-0600	AHS.VDHOLHSpringfield@vermont.gov
White River Junction	(888) 253-8799	(802) 295-8820	AHS.VDHOLHWhiteRiverJunction@vermont.gov

Local Resources:

Vermont Department of Health	http://www.healthvermont.gov/
VT Hospital Report Card	http://www.healthvermont.gov/health-statistics-vital-records/health-care-systems-reporting/hospital-report-cards
VDH Patient Safety Surveillance and Improvement	http://www.healthvermont.gov/health-professionals-systems/hospitals-health-systems/patient-safety
VPQHC	https://www.vpqhc.org/
Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems	http://vahhs.org/
Vermont Department of Mental Health (DMH)	http://mentalhealth.vermont.gov
DMH Designated Hospital: Manual and Standards	http://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/sites/dmh/files/documents/Manuals/DH_Manual_Standards_2017-05.pdf
DMH Critical Incident Reporting Requirements of Designated Hospitals	http://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/sites/dmh/files/documents/Manuals/Critical_Incidents_Req%27s_DH_2016-02.pdf
Vermont Statute, 18 V.S.A. § 9405a (public participation and strategic planning)	https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/18/221/09405a
Vermont Statute, 18 V.S.A. § 9405b (Hospital Community Reports)	https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/18/221/09405b
Vermont Department of Health Hospital Reporting Rule	http://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/7.%202018%20Hospital%20Report%20Rule%20Clean%20Copy.pdf

National Resources:

Hospital Compare	https://www.medicare.gov/hospitalcompare/search.html
CDC/NHSN	https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/acute-care-hospital/index.html
IRS Additional Requirements for Charitable Hospitals; Community Health Needs Assessments for Charitable Hospitals; Requirement of a Section 4959 Excise Tax Return and Time for Filing the Return	https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2014/12/31/2014-30525/additional-requirements-for-charitable-hospitals-community-health-needs-assessments-for-charitable#h-17
National Quality Forum Serious Reportable Events	http://www.qualityforum.org/Topics/SREs/Serious_Reportable_Events.aspx
Specifications Manual for Joint Commission National Quality Core Measures	https://manual.jointcommission.org/releases/TJC2013A/index.html