

Standard-documentation Meta information

(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

Hospital Discharge Statistics

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Executive Summary

The Austrian Hospital Discharge Statistics comprises administrative and medical data documenting inpatient- and day-cases in Austrian hospitals (according to the Austrian Hospitals Act – KAKuG). The annual Hospital Discharge Statistics is compiled by Statistics Austria on the basis of the documented diagnoses and medical procedures in hospitals and includes the statistics of hospital discharges by main diagnoses at discharge as well as the statistics of medical procedures.

Actually the **documentation of diagnoses and medical procedures in hospitals** is a means for the remuneration of medical treatment expenses. Furthermore demographic and medical characteristics related to inpatient stays and day-cases can be derived (including deaths during hospital stays).

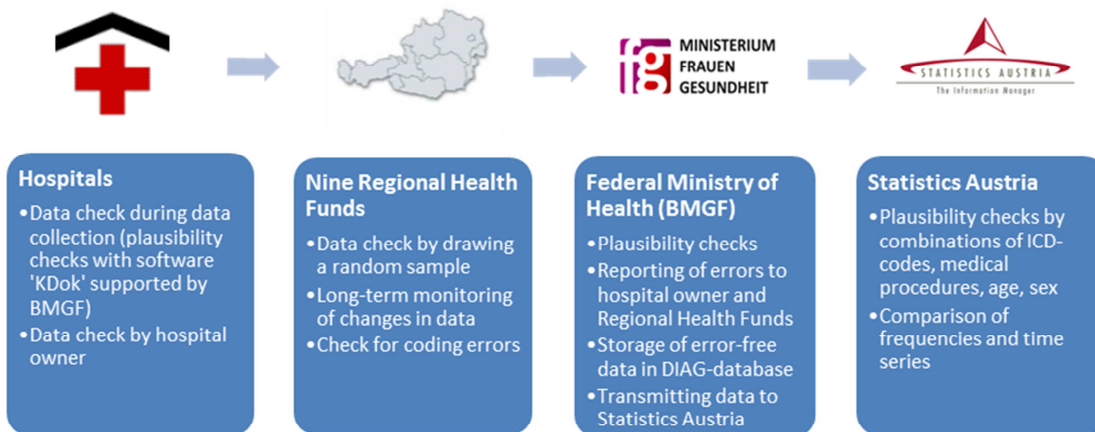
According to the **Federal Act on Documentation in Health Care System** all of the approx. 280 Austrian hospitals are legally obligated to collect administrative and medical data of their patients. Owner of those hospitals which are financed by the Regional Health Funds transmit their data to the respective funds. The Regional Health Funds checks completeness and plausibility of data and transfers them to the Austrian Federal Ministry of Health and Women's Affairs (BMGF). Hospital owner which are not funded by a Regional Health Funds have to transmit data directly to the BMGF. Finally, the BMGF delivers the hospitals discharge data to Statistics Austria.

The annual Hospital Discharge Statistics is compiled by Statistics Austria since 1989 in the current mode, i.e. data collection, data transfer and data analysis is processed electronically. Since 1997 Hospital Discharge Statistics are extended by data documented via the Austrian DRG-based hospital financing system (LKF). There, from 1997 on selected **medical procedures** are documented in all hospitals guided by a statutory catalogue of procedures, which is defined by the BMGF. Medical procedures lying over a particular threshold value of costs resp. extremely frequent procedures under this threshold value are selected for documentation. The **main diagnoses at discharge from hospital** are coded by the means of the "International Classification of Diseases" (ICD-10) in an adapted version for Austria edited by the BMGF. ICD-10-coding facilitates international comparability.

The Hospital Discharge Statistics are **case-based statistics of inpatient and day-case hospital stays**. At present, the Federal Act on Documentation in Health Care System does not foresee a personal identification of cases transmitted from BMGF to Statistics Austria. Data linkage of repeated hospital stays by one and the same person during a calendar year is not possible. Therefore individual or population risks for diseases and probabilities for treatment cannot be calculated but only the frequency of inpatient treatment for particular diagnoses. This means that the Hospital Discharge Statistics is for the time being not qualified for purposes of morbidity statistics. The high potential of hospital discharge data for answering questions of epidemiology and health statistics cannot fully be tapped before data are enhanced by a personal identification of cases and the documentation of outpatient cases. This kind of data improvement could furthermore contribute to a quality assurance of the Causes of Death Statistics and the Cancer Statistics.

The **quality assurance of hospital discharges** is not standardized and follows specific conditions of the hospital owner and the Regional Health Funds. Data collection within the Austrian DRG-model LKF is guided by detailed specifications given by the BMGF for regulating the organizational framework and coding of diseases. Data quality checks are undertaken in several steps including hospital owner, Regional Health Funds and the BMGF. After receiving data from BMGF, for Statistics Austria it is not possible to evaluate the external quality checks, but further formal plausibility checks are carried out.

Steps of plausibility checks and data transfer



Hospital Discharge Statistics – Main Features	
Subject Matter	Inpatient hospital stays and day cases in all Austrian hospitals (according to the Austrian Hospitals Act – Bundeskrankenanstaltengesetz – KAKuG) during a calendar year, in particular data documentation referring to characteristics of the hospital visit itself as well as to the patients personal and medical data
Population	Case-related data without personal identification of patients; counted are hospital discharges following an inpatient stay or same-day separations (including deaths during hospital stays) from approx. 280 Austrian hospitals (about 2.8 mio hospital discharges and 40,000 deaths). Discharges of the non-resident population are included.
Type of statistics	Secondary statistics
Data sources/Survey techniques	Documentation of diagnoses, surgical and diagnostic procedures in Austrian hospitals according to the specifications of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Health and Women's Affairs (database subset of DIAG - Documentation and Information System for Health Care System Analysis)
Reference period or due day	Calendar year of discharge
Periodicity	Annual
Survey participation (in case of a survey)	Not applicable (no survey)
Main legal acts	BGBl. Nr. 745/1996 ; Federal Act on Documentation in Health Care System, December 27th, 1996; latest amendment: BGBl. I Nr. 81/2013 Gesundheitsreformgesetz, Artikel 17 ; relevant part is § 5
Most detailed regional breakdown	Austria/Federal States; special statistical evaluations by patient's ZIP-code are possible
Availability of results	Reference year + 11 months
Other	-