



Baseline Inpatients Length of Stay (LOS) in a Level II Public Hospital in Southern Philippines: A Retrospective Study

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Abstract

Length of hospital stay (LOS) is a key indicator of healthcare efficiency, resource utilization, and patient outcomes. Prolonged LOS may reflect underlying issues in clinical management, hospital workflow, or healthcare access. The objectives of the study are to determine the baseline timeline of length of stay and to evaluate the time interval in compliance with the regulatory standard LOS.

The analysis of hospital records revealed distinct time patterns across various stages of patient care. Most patients experienced timely admission and transfer to the wards, reflecting efficiency in the early phases of hospital flow. However, a significant proportion of patients remained in the hospital beyond the recommended standard length of stay, particularly during the clinical management phase. Delays were also observed in the billing and physical discharge processes, contributing to the overall extension of hospitalization. Statistical testing indicated that the average length of stay exceeded the national benchmark, though the effect size was minimal. Correlation analysis showed that the mean LOS from admission to physical discharge closely mirrored the mean LOS to clinical discharge, suggesting that prolonged stays were primarily due to post-clinical processes.

Data gaps were noted in the final discharge records, attributed to incomplete documentation. These findings highlight areas for operational improvement, particularly in data recording practices.

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