

Patient Care Link

Conversation with Deborah M. Ragusa, Senior Data Analyst/Project Manager

Massachusetts Hospital Association

March 29, 2013

Each hospital has two project managers for staffing and two for quality, for a total of four persons per hospital.

Project was begun in 2006. At the time, hospitals completed data using Excel format and submitted it to MHA. Today, the system is entirely online, with each hospital given a password for data entry.

Data is entered quarterly. One year's history is always displayed, so when the newest quarter is added, the oldest falls off the visual display.

Hospitals receive a preview link, so that they can visualize their data before it is displayed to the public. They also have access to their peer group, which is determined by hospital size.

All acute care Massachusetts hospitals participate on a voluntary basis, along with most (but not all) of the non-acute care hospitals.