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The Facts

What are the MIS Standards?

The Standards for Management Information Systems in Canadian Health Service Organizations (*The MIS Standards © 2022, the Canadian Institute for Health Information, Ottawa, Canada*) provide a national, standardized framework for collecting, reporting, and using financial and statistical data related to the day-to-day operations of health service organizations in Canada. The standards also provide a framework for integrating clinical, financial and statistical data. The MIS Standards apply across the continuum of care including acute care, community-based services and long-term care. In Newfoundland and Labrador, all expenditures of the Regional Health Authorities (RHAs) as well as key statistical information related to the services they provide, are reported based on this standard. The MIS Standards are developed, maintained and published by the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) in Ottawa.

The MIS Standards include the following core standards:

- Chart of Accounts for Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Financial Operations reporting with definitions
- Accounting Principles and Procedures
- Statistical Principles and Procedures including workload measurement systems
- Performance Indicators such as productivity and utilization measures

Management Applications and Reporting

Why were they developed?

The MIS Standards were developed to:

- better measure the use of resources in relation to services provided by integrating financial, statistical and clinical data; and
- improve the quality and comparability of information being collected within Canadian health care facilities for management purposes.

Who uses the MIS Standards data?

The primary users of MIS data are the RHAs including front-line and senior managers, utilization managers, finance and decision support staff, and boards of directors. Data is used for budgeting based on meaningful workload and activity projections, resource allocation and planning, performance monitoring, program evaluation, and accountability reporting; all for the purpose of informed management decision-making at the departmental and regional levels.



Secondary users of MIS data include provincial/territorial Ministries of Health, CIHI, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Statistics Canada and researchers.

Which health service organizations use them?

Soon after the MIS Standards were developed in the 1980s, many acute care hospitals began using them as the standard to collect and record financial and statistical data on their operations. Subsequent to this, many provinces/territories mandated their use for external reporting. MIS Standards are reviewed and revised every three years to enhance their applicability across the continuum of health services. Implementation has taken place in acute care, community-based services, and long-term care across the province.

What is the data used for?

Data collected and reported based on the MIS Standards to facilitate:

- accountability reporting by managers.
- development of budgets based on meaningful workload and activity projections.
- more precise resource allocation.
- more informed management decisions.

These uses result in better management of the health system and, as a result, better health outcomes for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Did you know?

The Provincial MIS Database:

- houses financial and statistical data related to the day-to-day operations of the provincial health authorities.
- contains detailed data related to earned hours including overtime and facility specific costs like drugs and equipment, etc.
- contains statistical data related to client/inpatient/resident service volumes at both the facility and the individual unit/clinic level.
- contains statistical data related to workload for health care disciplines.
- is maintained at the Department of Health and Community Services (DHCS).
- receives electronic data submissions from the finance department of each RHA electronically, on a monthly and annual basis.
- is used by the MIS staff of Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information (NLCHI or 'the Centre') and by Financial Information Services at the DHCS to answer requests from the RHAs and other divisions within the DHCS, to verify report results from the CIHI and to provide indicator reports and data quality reports to provincial users.



- the MIS team in this province is comprised of the MIS Consultants at the Centre, the Financial Information Services staff at the DHCS and appropriate staff of the RHA.
- a provincial Data Quality and Reporting MIS committee exists to address application of the MIS Standards, data quality issues, and monitoring of reporting within the province; each region is represented, as well as the DHCS and the Centre.
- a provincial Health Information Services MIS committee exists to address application of the MIS Standards, data quality issues, and monitoring of reporting of coding, registration and health records services within the province; each region is represented, as well as the Centre.
- a provincial discipline-specific MIS contact list is maintained by the Centre to facilitate education and information sharing regarding MIS Standards. It is comprised of regional representatives and MIS Standards Consultants from the Centre.
- performance Indicator reports linking the financial and statistical information can be produced from this data. All reports must be requested either through the Information Request at the Centre (Information Requests @ InfoRequests@nlchi.nl.ca) or the Financial Information Services division at the DHCS.
- the MIS Standards Consultants at the Centre provide educational workshops, consultation and assistance with information analysis. Further information is available on the Centre's website at www.nlchi.nl.ca.
- CIHI supports and maintains the MIS Standards and offers educational support for the Standards through e-learning programs and instructor-lead workshops. Further information is available on CIHI's website at www.cihi.ca.

Help us help you

Has this Fact Sheet been helpful in raising your awareness of the MIS Standards? Do you have other suggestions as to how we can increase your knowledge of the MIS Standards and/or utilization of financial and statistical information? Please send your comments and/or questions to Jennifer Guy at jenniferl.guy@nlchi.nl.ca or Marie Strang at marie.strang@nlchi.nl.ca.

About the Centre for Health Information

The Centre was established to provide quality information to health professionals, the public, researchers and health system decision-makers. Through collaboration with the health system, the Centre supports the development of data and technical standards, maintains key health databases, prepares and distributes health reports, and supports and carries out applied health research and benefits evaluations. The Centre's mandate also includes the development and implementation of a confidential and secure provincial electronic health record, including the change management required to support adoption by end user clinician.