

Emergency Department Visit Definitions

Data source: Washington State Department of Health, Rapid Health Information NetWOrk (RHINO)
Accessed from: CDC National Syndromic Surveillance Program BioSense Platform ESSENCE

Allergic Disease: ED visits for allergic disease are identified through a definition adapted from the Georgia Department of Public Health. The query searches the chief complaint and discharge diagnosis fields for pollen-related allergies through key word searches for “allergy” and exclusion of visits with allergy symptoms other than from pollen; or an ICD-10-CM code indicative of pollen allergies.

Asthma: ED visits for asthma are identified through the CDC ESSENCE Chief Complaint Discharge Diagnosis query category, Asthma V1. This definition includes free text terms such as “asthma,” and ICD-10-CM diagnosis code J45 to search the chief complaint and discharge diagnosis fields.

Cold-related illness (CRI): ED visits for CRI are identified through the ESSENCE Chief Complaint Discharge Diagnosis query category, [Cold-Related Illness V1](#), and was developed by CSTE’s Climate, Health, and Equity subcommittee. The definition identifies visits with symptoms of hypothermia or injuries due to direct cold exposure through both keyword searches and ICD-10-CM codes.

Domestic violence: ED visits for domestic violence are identified through a definition developed by the Washington State Department of Health Rapid Health Information Network (RHINO) team. The definition searches the triage notes, clinical impression, chief complaint, and discharge diagnosis fields for key words and combinations indicative of domestic violence and ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes for domestic violence or abuse.

Heat-related illness (HRI): Emergency department (ED) visits for HRI are identified through the ESSENCE Chief Complaint Discharge Diagnosis query category, Heat-Related Illness V2, which was developed by the Heat Workgroup of the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE). Elements of the definition include mention of the terms “hyperthermia,” “sun stroke,” “heat exhaustion,” or their derivations in the chief complaint or discharge diagnosis fields. It also captures visits with International Classification of Disease – Clinical Modification (ICD-CM) diagnostic codes for heat-related illnesses (e.g. T67).

Suicidal ideation: ED visits for suicidal ideation are identified through the CDC ESSENCE Chief Complaint Discharge Diagnosis query category, Suicidal Ideation V1. The definition was created by partners in CDC’s National Center for Injury Prevention and queries the discharge diagnosis, admit reason, and chief complaint fields for a combination of ICD-10-CM codes for suicidal ideation (e.g. R45.851) and key words indicative of suicidal ideation such as “SI” or “want” and “die”.

Suicide attempt: ED visits for suicide attempt are identified through the CDC ESSENCE Chief Complaint Discharge Diagnosis query category, Suicide Attempt V1. The definition was created by partners in CDC’s National Center for Injury Prevention and queries the discharge diagnosis, admit reason, and chief complaint fields for a combination of ICD-10-CM codes for suicidal attempt (e.g. T14.91) and key words indicative of suicide attempt.

Suspected Child-abuse and neglect: ED visits for suspected child abuse and neglect are identified through the CDC ESSENCE Chief Complaint Discharge Diagnosis query category, [Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect V1](#). This definition identifies visits related to suspected or confirmed physical, sexual, or



emotional abuse; or physical or emotional neglect as perpetrated by a parent or other caregiver through key word searches such as “abuse” or “assault” paired with a term for a parent/caregiver; or ICD-10-CM codes indicative of child abuse or neglect.