

Same-Site Revisits for ED Encounters

Updated February 2026

Descriptions

This report presents same-site Emergency Department (ED) revisit rates within specified time intervals (3, 7, 14, and 30 days) using ED encounter data. A same-site revisit is defined as a subsequent ED encounter occurring at the same facility within a specified number of days following an index ED encounter.

Individuals are tracked longitudinally using the Record Linkage Number (RLN), a unique patient identifier that allows linkage of encounters across time within the same facility.

The report displays:

- Same-Site Revisit Rate (%)
- Trend over time
- Benchmark comparison to All California Hospitals
- Rate Difference
- Number of Comparison Facilities
- Statistical Significance ($p = 0.05$)

The purpose of this report is to identify patterns of repeated ED utilization and to support quality improvement initiatives focused on care coordination, discharge planning, and frequent ED use.

Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria

Data Sources Included

Data Source	Inpatient Discharges	Emergency Department Encounters	Ambulatory Surgery Encounters
SIERA Encounters		✓	

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AB2876 Encounters		✓	

This report includes **Emergency Department encounters only**.

Encounter Inclusion Criteria

- Valid Emergency Department encounter
- Encounter must be at least two years old (data maturity requirement)
- Valid Record Linkage Number (RLN) present

RLN Requirements

Encounters are linked using the Record Linkage Number (RLN), a unique patient-level identifier used to track individuals across encounters.

Encounters are excluded if the RLN is:

- Missing or blank
- Known placeholder values (e.g., 000000000, 111111111, 123456789, etc.)
- Otherwise identified as invalid or junk identifiers

Encounters without valid RLNs cannot be linked across time and are therefore excluded from revisit calculations.

Definitions

Index Encounter

An ED encounter with a valid RLN that qualifies for inclusion.

Same-Site Revisit

A subsequent ED encounter occurring at the same facility within a specified number of days following the discharge date of an index ED encounter.

The following revisit windows are evaluated:

- **3-Day Revisit**
- **7-Day Revisit**
- **14-Day Revisit**
- **30-Day Revisit**

Only revisits occurring within the specified time interval are counted for each measure.

Revisits are not required to have the same diagnosis as the index encounter.

Methodology

Step 1: Sort Encounters

ED encounters are sorted by:

- RLN
- Facility
- Encounter date

Step 2: Identify Eligible Index Encounters

Each ED encounter with a valid RLN is considered a potential index encounter.

Step 3: Identify Subsequent ED Visits

For each index encounter:

- The next ED encounter for the same RLN at the same facility is identified.
- The time between discharge date of the index encounter and admission date of the subsequent encounter is calculated.

If the subsequent encounter occurs within:

- 3 days → counted as 3-day revisit
- 7 days → counted as 7-day revisit
- 14 days → counted as 14-day revisit

- 30 days → counted as 30-day revisit

Each index encounter can generate at most one revisit event per time window.

Encounters may qualify for multiple time windows (e.g., a 3-day revisit also counts as a 7-, 14-, and 30-day revisit).

Numerators

For each revisit window (3-, 7-, 14-, 30-day):

Numerator =

Number of eligible index ED encounters followed by at least one same-site ED revisit within the specified time interval.

Denominators

Denominator =

Total number of eligible ED index encounters during the measurement timeframe with valid RLNs.

Rate Calculations

Same-Site Revisit Rate (%) =

$(\text{Numerator} \div \text{Denominator}) \times 100$

Rates are displayed as percentages.

Benchmarking and Statistical Significance

All California Hospitals Rate (%)

Represents the comparison rate calculated across all participating facilities meeting inclusion criteria.

Rate Difference

Facility Rate (%) – All California Hospitals Rate (%)

Number of Comparison Facilities

Number of facilities included in the statewide comparison for the selected revisit window.

Statistical Significance (p = 0.05)

Indicates whether the facility's revisit rate differs significantly from the All California Hospitals comparison rate at a 95% confidence level.

If denominator counts are insufficient, rates and statistical comparisons may display as N/A.

Important Notes

- Revisits are defined at the encounter level, not the patient level.
- A patient may contribute multiple index encounters during the measurement timeframe.
- Revisits to different facilities are not included in this same-site measure.
- This report does not adjust for case mix, diagnosis, severity, or social risk factors.
- Presence of a revisit does not imply inappropriate care but may reflect complex patient needs.