As hospitals and health systems are put under more scrutiny to justify their tax-exempt status, documenting community benefit is a strategic imperative. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), signed into law on March 23, 2010, outlines a new requirement for all nonprofit, 501(c)(3) hospitals. Charitable hospitals must now conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) once every three years, and this requirement goes into effect for tax years beginning after March 23, 2012. Noncompliance results in a $50,000 fine per facility, per year, or worse, the loss of charitable status.

Retain Your Tax-Exempt Status and Improve Community Health

By striving to improve a community’s health, hospitals and health systems can begin to address the larger issues of chronic health problems and the costs associated with them. A healthier community can mean a healthier bottom line.

Components of a Community Health Needs Assessment

PPACA does not prescribe exactly how a CHNA should be conducted, but it does outline some basic requirements. As the regulation stands today, each individual 501(c)(3) hospital must complete a CHNA, even if the hospital is part of a larger system. The CHNA must take into account input from persons who represent the broad interests of the hospital’s community, including those with special knowledge of, or expertise in, public health.

The final assessment must be made widely available to the public. An implementation strategy describing how the hospital will meet the community’s health needs must also be included. Additionally the hospital is required to identify any health needs they have chosen not to address and the rationale behind these decisions.

The Truven Health Strategic Services Team Will Help You:

- Define the community served by the hospital
- Collect and analyze Truven Health data and key public health indicators
- Create an inventory of existing community health resources
- Conduct interviews and focus groups
- Analyze, interpret, and synthesize the qualitative and quantitative information
- Prioritize the community health needs identified
- Create and document an action plan

The Community Health Needs Assessment

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FACT: The Community Health Needs Assessment may leverage proprietary information assets such as demographic and socioeconomic data at the ZIP code level, physician supply and demand data, and the PULSE™ Healthcare Survey results.

Retain Your Tax-Exempt Status and Improve Community Health

The experts from Truven Health Analytics℠ can help your hospital conduct a compliant CHNA that not only meets the regulatory requirement, but also provides an actionable plan that addresses the broader imperative of community health. Our consultants have the expertise and resources to help hospitals conduct the CHNA, facilitate the prioritization of community health needs, and develop an actionable implementation strategy.
Important Fact-Gathering Stage

Our experts, working with key individuals in the organization, will facilitate the assessment process. They will conduct a series of structured interviews and focus groups to gather input from key organizations and community leaders. The team will then work with the provider organization to facilitate prioritization of the health needs and develop action plans to address those needs. Our experts will ensure that the process is executed in a timely fashion while gathering the required information.

Local Data — The Truven Health Advantage

The foundation of our solutions is access to detailed, local healthcare data. Basing decisions on local — not national — data helps you understand the environment in your local market and plan for the changes expected in your specific community.

By leveraging comprehensive Truven Health demographic and utilization data and the wide variety of publicly available national and local health indicators, our experts will base their recommendations on information that directly applies to your local community. They will analyze the health indicators and qualitative input from the interviews and focus groups to identify major health needs of the community and inventory community resources to meet those needs.

The final report for each facility will include:

- Descriptions of:
  - The community served by the hospital and how the hospital determined the parameters of the community served
  - Indicators, processes, and methods used to conduct the CHNA
  - Public input gathered (including description of populations represented)
  - Inventory of current community resources
  - Process and criteria used to identify and prioritize needs
  - List of prioritized needs
  - Implementation strategy
- A plan that meets existing regulatory requirements
- A plan that can be made public

Impact Your Community’s Health

Our consultants will ensure that your CHNA does not just meet regulatory requirements, but provides actionable steps so you can document how the implemented plan is impacting local community health. The CHNA will provide a framework and indicators to document community benefit and improve community health over time.

Precise Data Sources

Some of the proprietary information assets used to complete a CHNA may include:

- Community Needs Index
- Demographic and socioeconomic data at the ZIP code level
- Physician supply and demand
- Emergency department visits
- Public health indicators
- Cancer estimates
- Heart disease estimates
- PULSE™ Healthcare Survey