Assessing the Quality of Data Consolidated for use in Establishing Surgical and Medical Guidelines and Pathways

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Background
Emphasis on developing “enterprise-wide information warehouses” highlights an emerging movement among IS departments in general, and hospital IS groups in particular, to combine data for more integrative processing. The Department of Health Policy and Clinical Effectiveness at the Children's Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati compiles and consolidates data from medical records (charts) with data obtained from pre-existing hospital information systems. These data are used in establishing surgical and medical guidelines and pathways. Methods are being developed to identify, quantify, and ultimately reduce, inaccurate and inconsistent data acquired from these multiple data sources.

Summary
This poster provides a framework in which to conceive and "grow" a program for quality control for data aggregated from multiple sources. Key questions to address include the following:

1. What data are of greatest priority and interest?
2. What events and/or circumstances create data set errors and degrade quality?
3. How can we measure errors in sets of data?
4. How can data errors be reported in meaningful ways to non-technical audiences?
5. What practices can reduce or eliminate data errors?
6. What are the costs associated with allowing data errors? Of reducing data errors?
7. What resources can help us prioritize and focus on the most important areas for reducing data errors?