USING ESSENCE: MAKING A BASIC QUERY

Objective 1: User will be able to identify key components of ESSENCE dashboard.

Objective 2: User will know how to create a basic query using ESSENCE Syndromes.

Objective 3: User will know how to interpret the Times Series Graph generated by the query.

Objective 4: User will know best practices for saving queries to myESSENCE.

1. Starting on the ESSENCE Home Page, locate the toolbar at the top of the page and click **Query Portal.**

2. In the Query Wizard, select your data source, dates and syndrome.

   2a. Select your data source (county or hospital-based visit view):
   - **County health departments**: Emergency Room Data by Patient Location
     - Select your **Region** (county)
   - **Hospitals**: ER Data by Hospital Location
     - Select your **Hospital(s)**

   2b. Select your **Time Resolution**:
   - Use Weekly for ILI reports or other seasonal surveillance queries

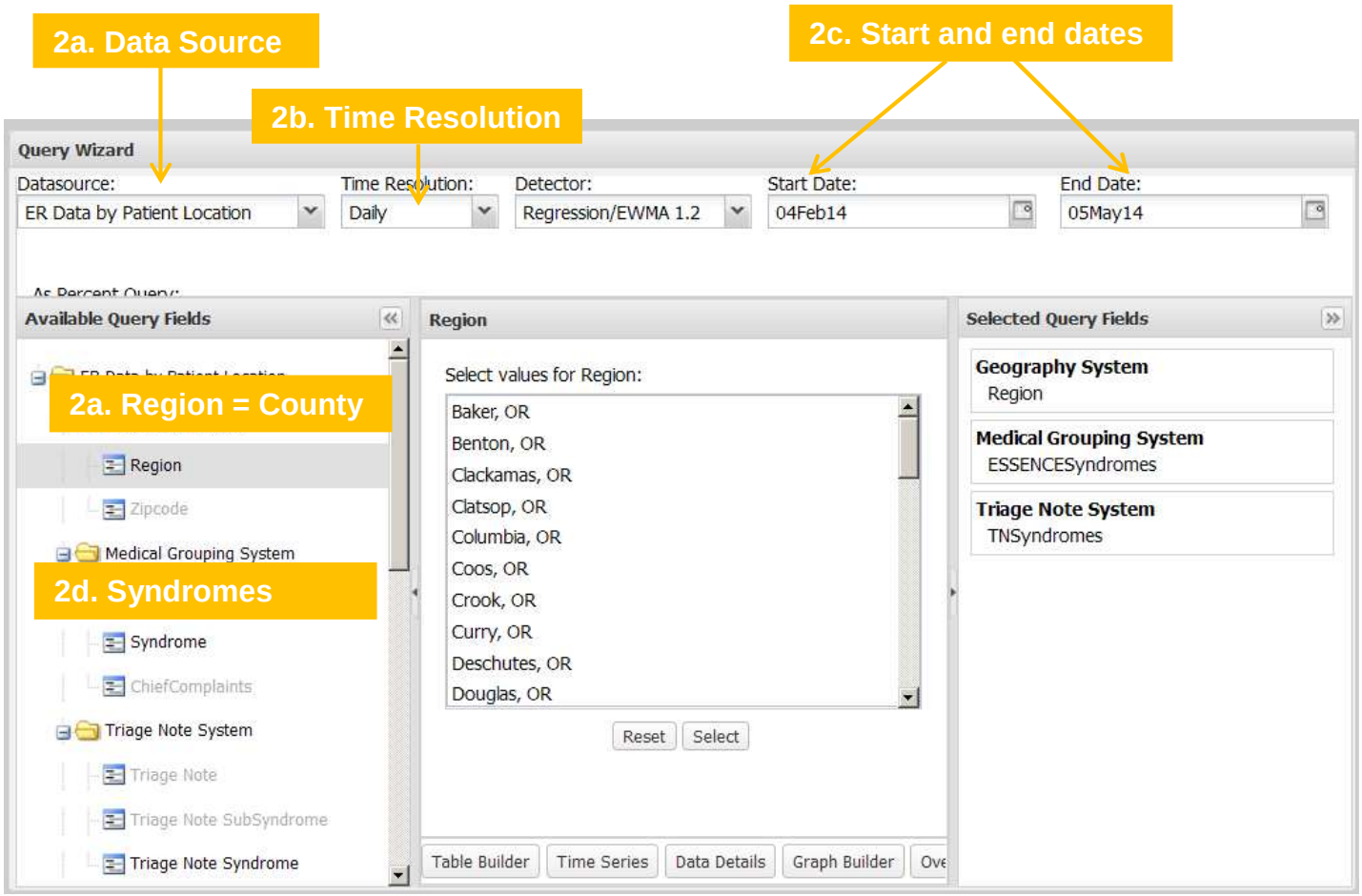
   2c. Select your **dates**:
   - Select the appropriate start and end dates.
   - If not dates are selected, ESSENCE defaults to the previous 90 days.

   2d. Select the appropriate **syndrome**:

   Choose from the 12 preset syndromes:
   - Bot_like
   - Exposure
   - Fever
   - GI
   - Hemr_ill
   - ILI
   - Injury
   - Neuro
   - Rash
   - Resp
   - Shk_coma

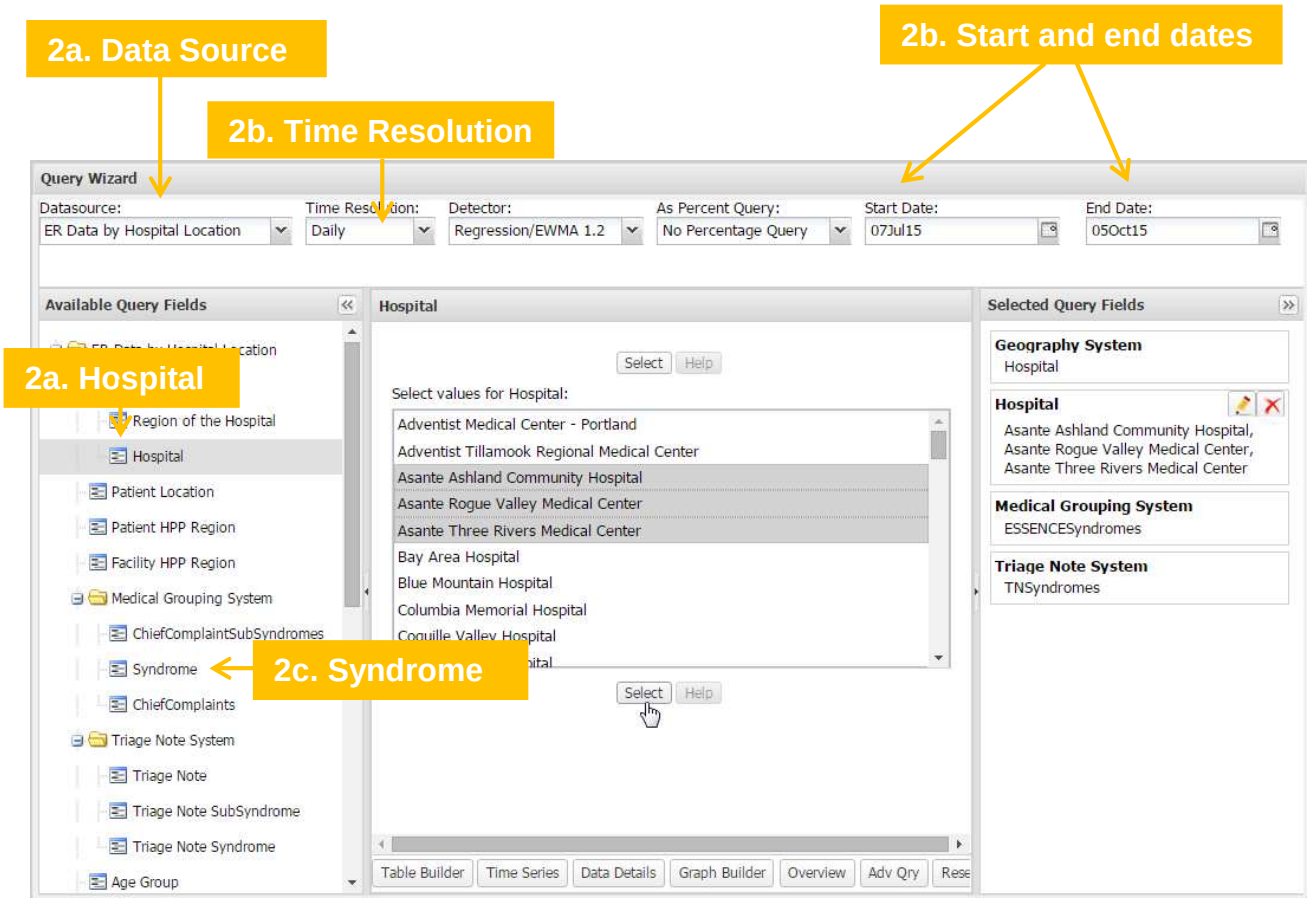
NOTE

Basic queries search the 12 preset syndromes in ESSENCE.



TIP

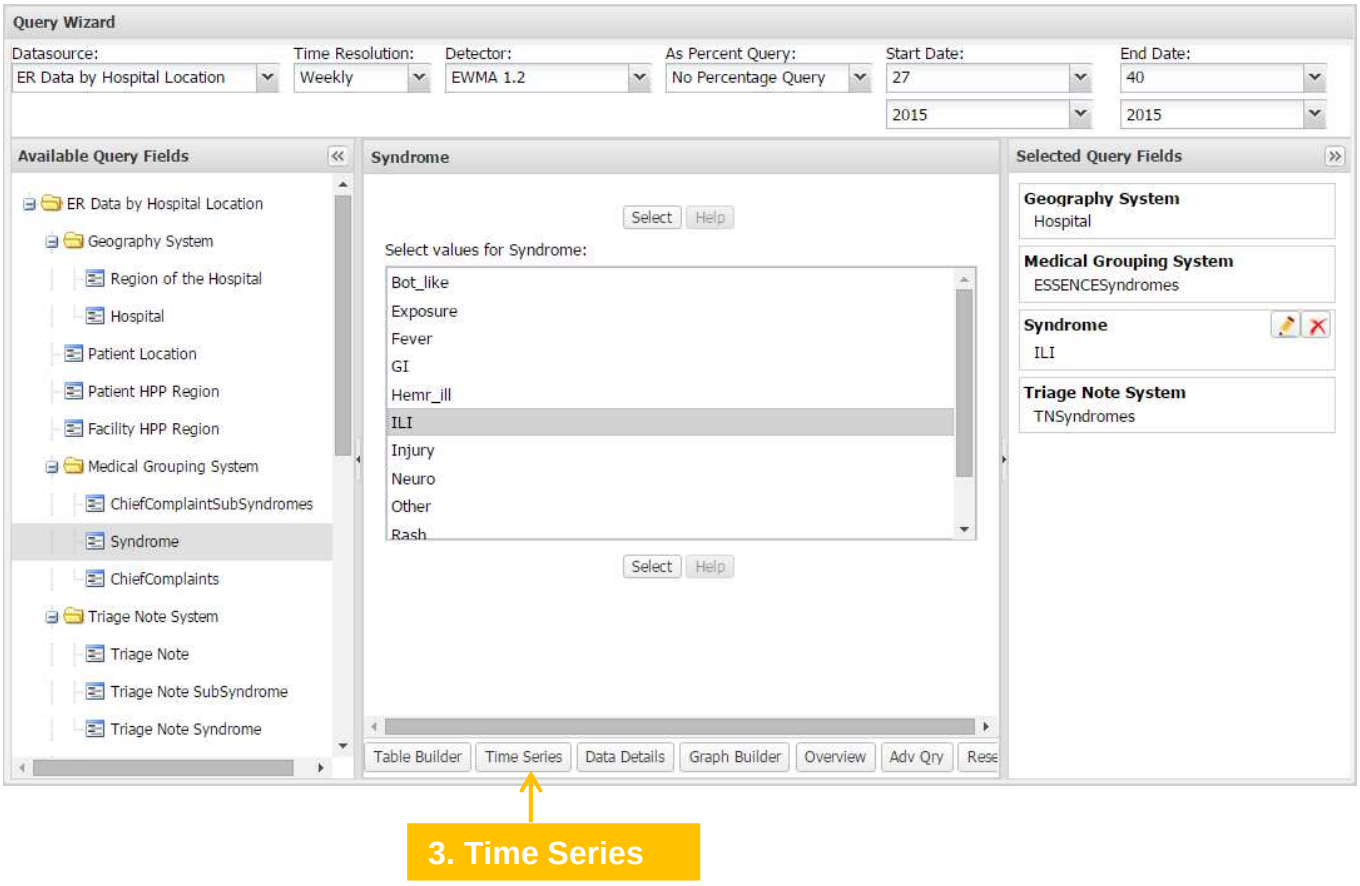
When selecting Region (County) and Syndrome, make sure to click "Select" after each choice.



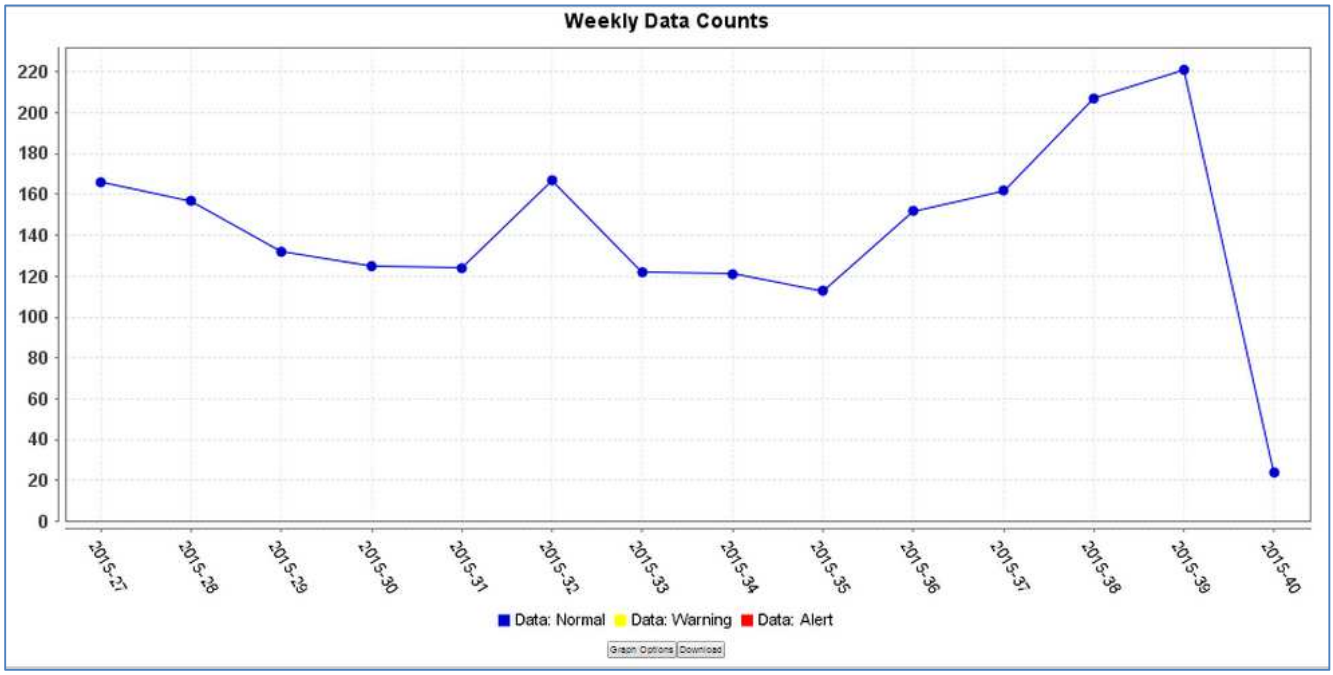
TIP

If looking at health systems, hold the Ctrl key down to select more than one hospital.

3. After you have chosen your variables, click on **Times Series**.



The **Time Series Graph** displays the number of visits over time for the particular region (or hospital) and syndrome you selected.



Best Practices for Interpreting Time Series Graphs

The **Time Series** graph provides a graphical way of viewing recent visits over the timespan of interest. When analyzing the data, look for the following:

- Color of dots
  - Blue: Normal
  - Yellow: Warning
  - Red: Alert
- Baseline or expected number of visits for the period
- Sharp increases in number of visits
- Sustained increases in visits

To determine if unusual seasonal activity is occurring, compare the graph to the same time period for the previous year in ESSENCE or by using state data sources:

- Oregon Norovirus Watch
- Oregon Flu Bites

Note: For weekly views, keep in mind weeks in ESSENCE start on Sunday and end on Saturday. If running these queries during the middle of the week, know the current week's visit counts may not be complete.

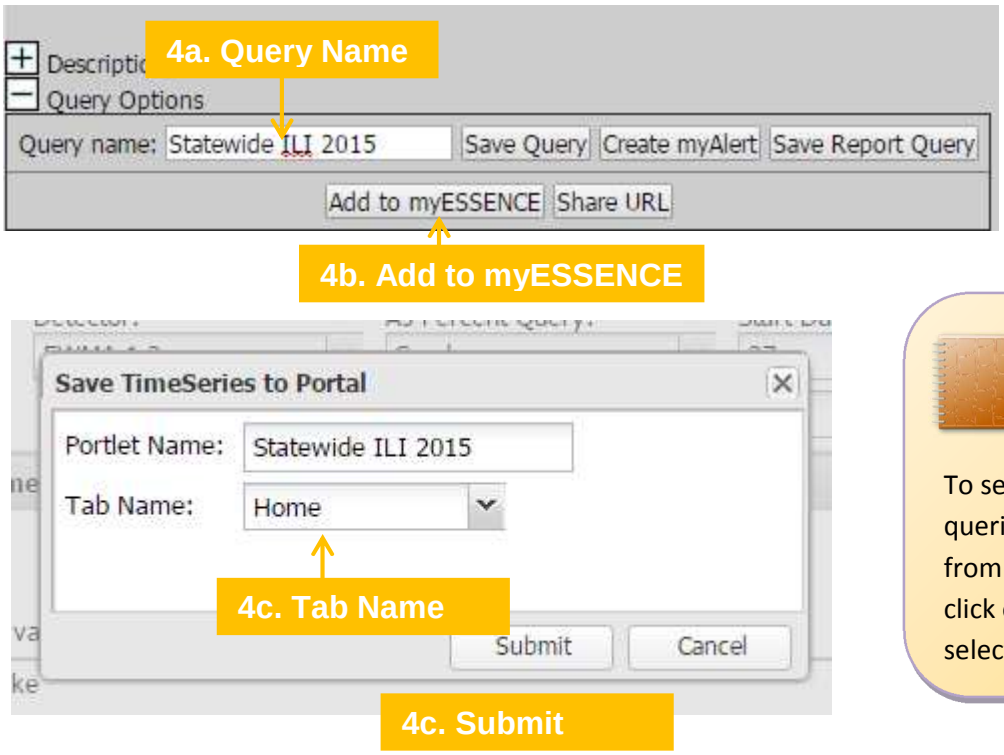
4. Save Query. It's always a good idea to save your query.

   4a. Type the name of your query

   4b. Click **Add to myESSENCE**.

   4c. Next, a pop-up box will appear and you will be prompted to decide the **Tab Name.**

   - Click **Submit** when finished



NOTE

To see all of your saved queries, go to **myESSENCE** from the home page and click on the tab you selected.

USING ESSENCE: MAKING A QUERY THAT SHOWS PROPORTIONS (NOT COUNTS)

Objective 1: User will know how to modify a basic query using ESSENCE Syndromes to create a query showing proportions instead of counts.

Objective 2: User will know how to interpret the Times Series Graph generated by the query.

Objective 3: User will know best practices for saving queries.

1. Start with creating a time series chart from a basic query (such as the ILI Syndrome query in the previous example).

2. Open **Configuration Options** and select a variable for **As Percent Query**

   2a. Click the plus sign (⊞) next to **Configuration Options** to view your initial query selections.

   2b. Confirm that your query options haven't defaulted to all visits statewide (this is a Fall 2015 bug).

   2c. Identify your main query variable (besides geography or hospital location)
   - E.g., Syndrome if you have selected a syndrome for your query or CC and DD if you have created a free text query.

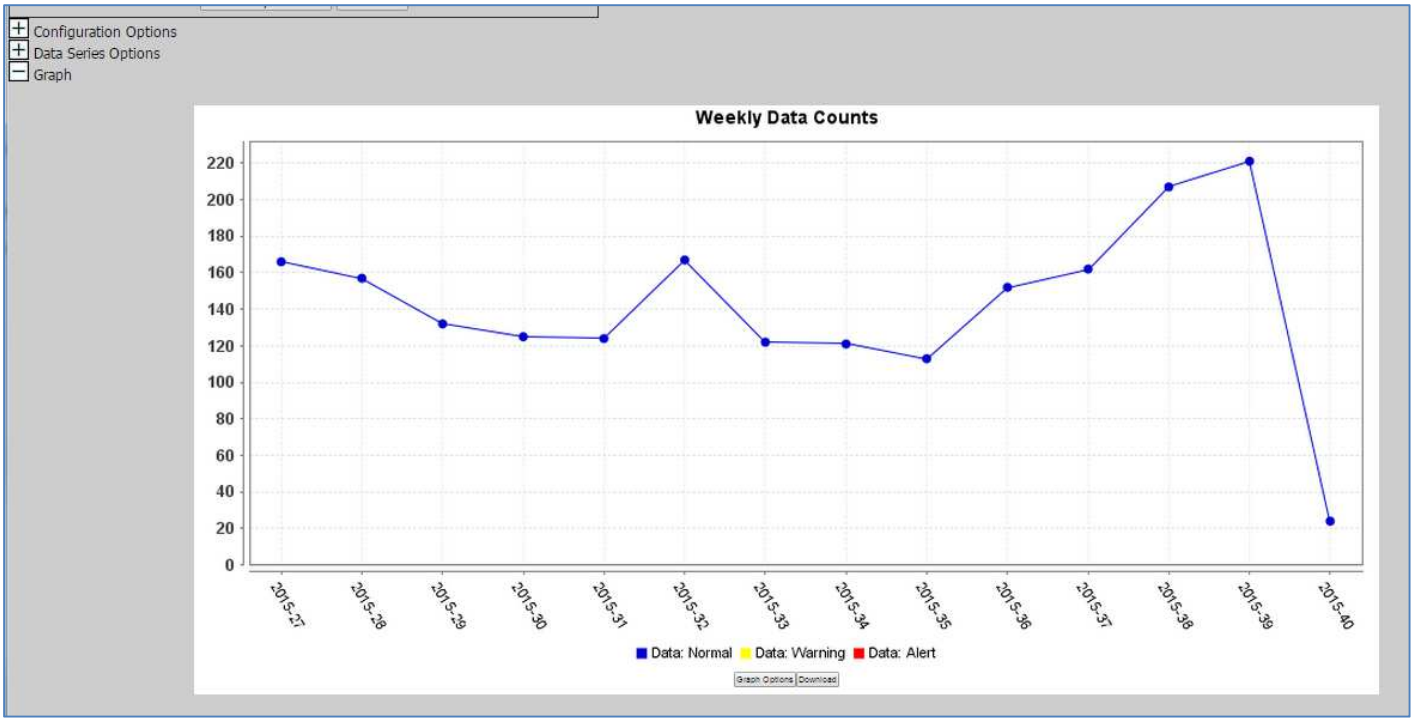
   2d. Select a variable for **As Percent Query**
   - Select the same main variable you used for your query

   2e. After you have selected your variables, click on **Times Series**.

NOTE

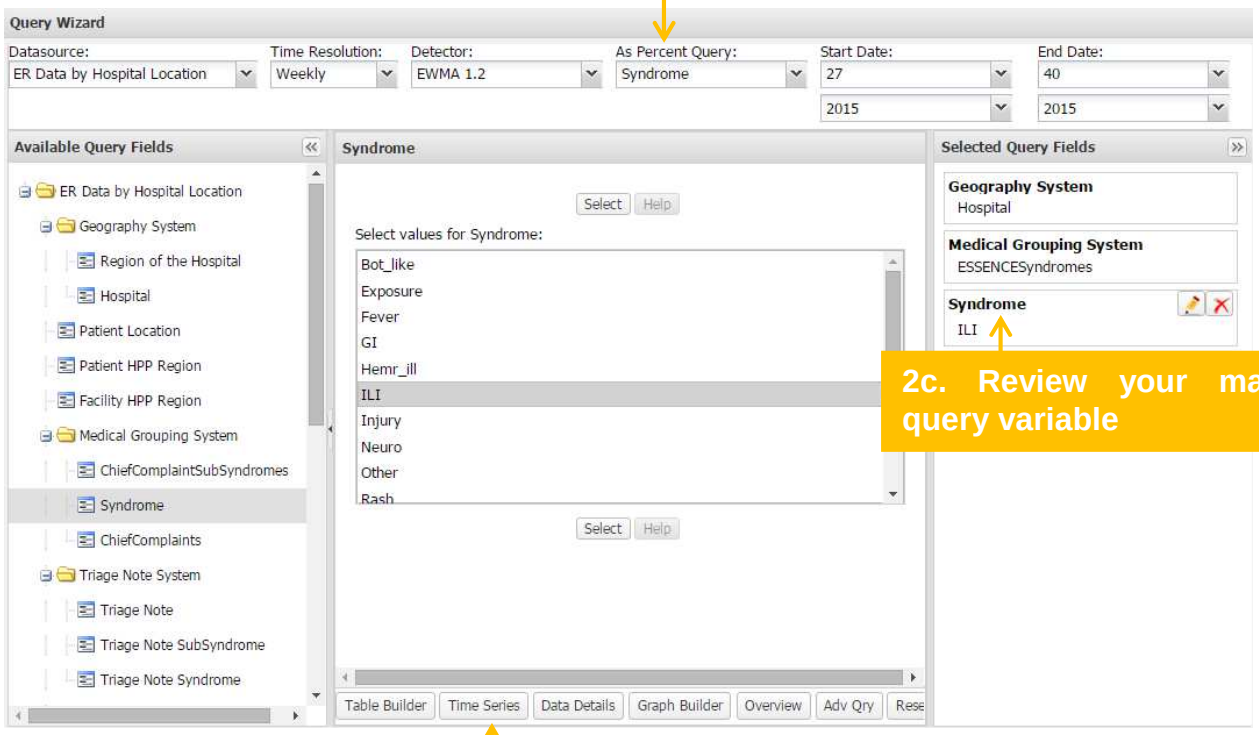
You can select only one variable for As Percent Query. This variable will identify your numerator for your proportion query.

2a.Configuration Options



2d. Select As Percent Query

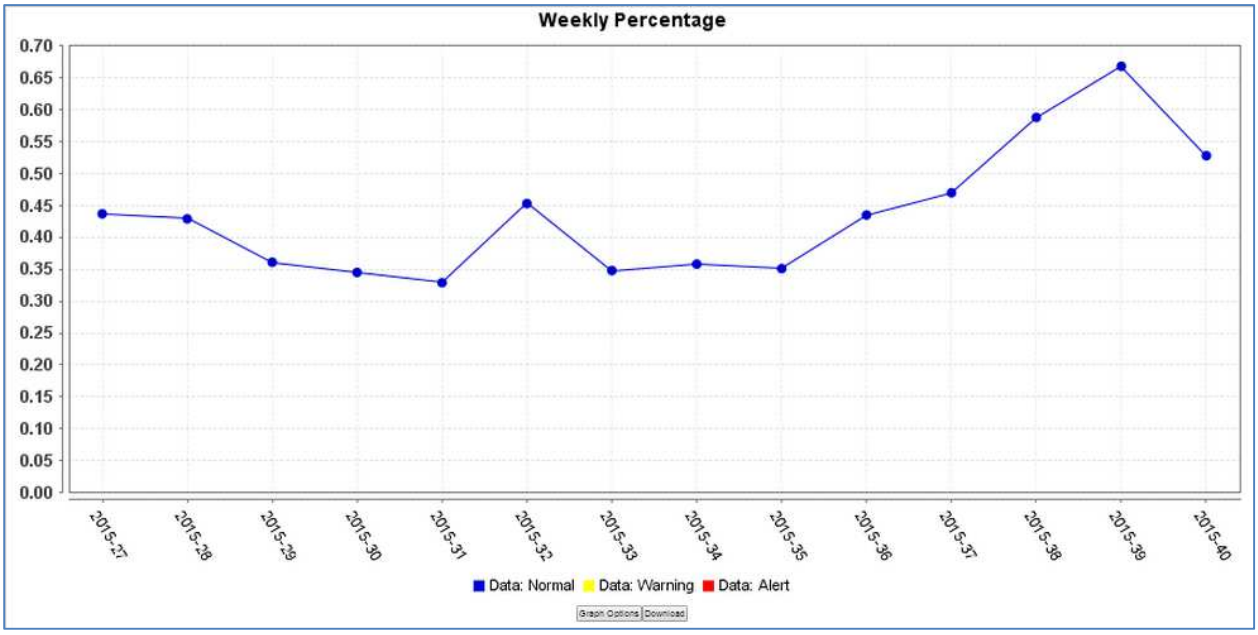
2b.Confirm your query options haven't changed



2c. Review your main query variable

2e. Time Series

The **Time Series Graph** displays the number of visits matching your query out of total visits for your region or hospital.



Best Practices for Analyzing Proportion Time Series Graphs

As Percent Query will show proportion (or percentage) of all ED visits in your selected region or hospital which match your query out of total. Consider the y-axis has changed from number of visits to proportion of visits, but the interpretation of the color of the dots is the same for count and proportion queries.

A sample interpretation (for the above chart) might be:

Over the last 90 days, the proportion of ILI-related visits out of total ED visits statewide has been below 1% of total visits (ranging from 0.3%-0.65%). Starting on week 36 (9/6), the proportion of these visits has been increasing, although these increases are not statistically significant.

To determine if unusual seasonal activity is occurring, compare the graph to the same time period for the previous year in ESSENCE or by using state data sources:

- Oregon Norovirus Watch
- Oregon Flu Bites

5. Save Query. It's always a good idea to save your query.

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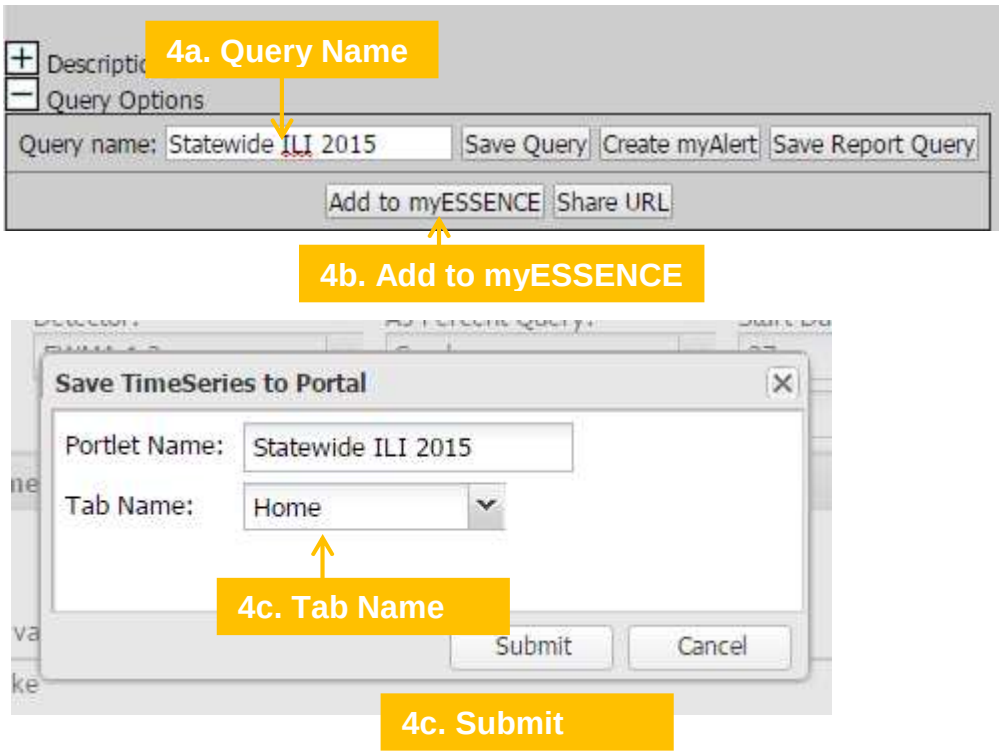

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