Federal Public Data

A Guide for Navigating Publicly Available Files
For those Developing
Physician-Focused Payment Models

Version 1.0

September 16, 2016

Introduction

This document highlights publically available data sources that could be used in the development of Physician-focused Payment Model (PFFM) proposals.   The majority of these sources are derived from Medicare administrative data, such as information about the services provided to the fee-for-service Medicare beneficiary population and about the medical providers serving this population.   In addition, several survey-based sources provide additional information on the beneficiary population, such as self-reported health status, difficulties with the activities of daily living and other information relevant to characterizing this population.   A more extensive listing of the available CMS PUF, LDS, and RIF file can be found at: http://www.resdac.org/cms-data/file-availability

The degree of accessibility to these data varies according to the amount of personally identifiable information they contain. This paper is organized by these 3 types of files. The data are available as:

(1) **Public use files (PUF)** available for immediate download; all personal identifying information has been removed from these files;
(2) **Limited data sets (LDS)** that have encrypted identifying personal information and require a data use agreement and may involve review; and
(3) **Restricted access files**, or research identifiable files (RIF), that contain identifying personal information and require approval from a review board. Researchers must access some data files through resources such as the research data assistance center (ResDAC).

Resources for Accessing Data Sets and Data

Research Data Assistance Center (ResDAC)
https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Research/ResearchGenInfo/ResearchDataAssistanceCenter.html
Description: Provides free assistance to academic and non-profit researchers interested in using Medicare, Medicaid, SCHIP, and Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS) data for research; services include technical data assistance, information on available data resources, and training. ResDAC assists researchers with the CMS research data request process.

CMS Data Navigator

https://dnav.cms.gov/

Description: The Data Navigator is a menu-driven search tool that makes CMS's data and information resources more easily available to the public. The Navigator can be used to find data and information for specific CMS programs, such as Medicare and Medicaid, or on specific health care topics or settings-of-care. Examples of data that might be of interest to PFPM proposal submitters include setting/type of care, Medicare population, Medicare spending, and existing CMMI models.

Qualified Entity Program (QE)

https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/QEMedicareData/index.html

Description: Qualified Entities are certified to produce publicly available reports in aggregate form from Medicare and Medicaid data. They represent a particular geographic region and evaluate providers in that region. They are designed to increase the transparency of provider and supplier performance and inform beneficiaries about available healthcare opportunities. By law, QEs cannot provide data directly to researchers but may provide/sell analyses to providers, issuers, employers, medical societies, hospital associations, and state agencies for non-public use. They may also provide/sell combined data (or provide Medicare claims data at no cost) to providers, medical societies, and hospital associations for non-public use.

Public Use Files
Available for Immediate Download

Data from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

High Level Data Sets

CMS Fast Facts

https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/CMS-Fast-Facts/index.html

Years: periodically updated – most recent contains info for 2014-2016

Content: includes summary information on total program enrollment, utilization, expenditures, as well as total number of Medicare providers including physicians by specialty area.

Status: PUF – available for immediate download

Keywords: Medicare populations, pre-paid contracts, durable medical equipment, providers, specialties

CMS Statistics Reference Booklet

https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/CMS-Statistics-Reference-Booklet/index.html

Years: 2003-2015

Content: The annual CMS Statistics reference booklet provides a quick reference for summary information about health expenditures and the Medicare and Medicaid health insurance programs.

Status: PUF – available for immediate download

Keywords: Medicare enrollment/demographics, administrative/contractor expenses, ESRD enrollment/expenses, life expectancy, persons served, long term care, providers, Medicaid eligible/beneficiaries.

Medicare Provider Utilization and Payment Data

Medicare Provider Utilization and Payment Data: Physician and Other Supplier

https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/Medicare-Provider-Charge-Data/Physician-and-Other-Supplier.html

Years: 2012-2014

Content: information on services and procedures provided to Medicare beneficiaries by physicians and other healthcare professionals

Status: PUF - available for immediate download

Keywords: utilization; payment; place of service; Part B; fee-for-service; Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code; estimated charges; number of services; number of unique

beneficiary/provider interactions; number of distinct Medicare beneficiary/per day services; average submitted charge; Allowed amount; payment amount; number of providers; standardized payment amount

Medicare Provider Utilization and Payment Data: Inpatient

https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/Medicare-Provider-Charge-Data/Inpatient.html

Years: 2011-2014

Content: hospital-specific charges for the more than 3,000 U.S. hospitals that receive Medicare Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) payments for discharges paid under Medicare

Status: PUF - available for immediate download

Keywords: amount charged; individual hospitals; inpatient stay; Medicare Severity Diagnosis Related Group; bill total per diem; beneficiary primary payer claim payment amount; beneficiary Part A coinsurance amount; beneficiary deductible amount; average covered charges; average total payments; hospital region; procedure

Medicare Provider Utilization and Payment Data: Outpatient

https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/Medicare-Provider-Charge-Data/Outpatient.html

Years: 2011-2014

Content: estimated hospital-specific charges for select Ambulatory Payment Classification (APC) Groups paid under the Medicare Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS)

Status: PUF - available for immediate download

Keywords: Ambulatory Payment Classification payment amount; Part B coinsurance amount; beneficiary deductible amount; individual hospital; average charge; average Medicare payments; outpatient services; procedure; hospital region

Medicare Provider Utilization and Payment Data: Part D Prescriber

 https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/Medicare-Provider-Charge-Data/Part-D-Prescriber.html

Years: 2013

Content: information on the prescription drugs that individual physicians and other health care providers prescribed in 2013 under the Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Program

Status: PUF - available for immediate download

Keywords: Prescription Drug Event Standard Analytic File; Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug plans; drug name; name; drug cost; Part D plan; generic name; provider name; provider city; provider specialty

Medicare Provider Utilization and Payment Data: Referring Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics and Supplies

https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/Medicare-Provider-Charge-Data/DME.html

Years: 2013

Content: information on durable medical equipment, prosthetics, and orthotics products and services provided to Medicare beneficiaries ordered by physicians and other healthcare professionals

Status: PUF - available for immediate download (requires software or usage of interactive database)

Keywords: utilization; payment; submitted charges; Health common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS); supplier rental indicator; provider name; provider city; BETOS classification

Medicare Provider Utilization and Payment Data: Home Health Agencies

https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/Medicare-Provider-Charge-Data/HHA.html

Years: 2013

Content: information on services provided to Medicare beneficiaries by home health agencies

Status: PUF - available for immediate download

Keywords: utilization; Medicare payment; standard payment; submitted charges; Chronic Conditions Data Warehouse (CCW); Home Health Resource Group (HHRG); state of service; provider; state; Agency name; agency location; total Medicare payment amount; LUPA

Medicare Provider Utilization and Payment Data: Skilled Nursing Facilities

https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/Medicare-Provider-Charge-Data/SNF.html

Years: 2013

Content: information on services provided to Medicare beneficiaries residing in skilled nursing facilities

Status: PUF - available for immediate download

Keywords: Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF); utilization; allowed amount; Medicare payment; standard payment; submitted charges; state of service; Resource Utilization Group (RUG); Chronic Conditions Data Warehouse; Facility name; Facility location; Average length of stay; distinct beneficiaries per provider

Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS)

MCBS Public Use File

https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Downloadable-Public-Use-Files/MCBS-Public-Use-File/index.html

Years: 2013

Content: leading source of information on expenditures and sources of payment for all services used by Medicare beneficiaries and outcomes over time

Status: PUF - available for immediate download

Keywords: demographic; income; relative health; activity; vision; hearing; weight; blood pressure; procedures; cancer; flu; pneumonia; smoking; strength; diagnosis; heart disease; skin; diabetes; arthritis; Alzheimer's; dementia; mental health; muscles; joints; alcohol; instruction; compliance; medical condition; surgery; shot; check up; medication; wait time; cost; satisfaction; patient reported; payment;

out-of-pocket; visit frequency; motivation; enrollment; survey-reported data; household; language; Medicare status; claims; charges; dual eligibility

Medicare Geographic Variation

Geographic Variation Public Use Files
https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/Medicare-Geographic-Variation/GV_PUF.html
Years: 2007-2014
Content: demographic, spending, utilization, and quality indicators at the state level (including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands), hospital referral region (HRR) level, and county level

> *"Table" files = can easily be exported from Excel to another data analysis program for additional analysis, "Report" files = allow users to compare a specific state, county, or HRR to national Medicare benchmarks*

Status: PUF - available for immediate download
Keywords: State; Part A; Part B; FFS; MA; beneficiaries; participation rate; age; demographics; Medicaid eligibility; HCC score; total costs; standardized costs; risk adjusted costs; per capita; In patient costs; cost per user; covered stays; Long term care hospital; inpatient rehabilitation facility; skilled nursing facility; home health; hospice; hospital outpatient; federally qualified health center; rural health center; outpatient dialysis center; ambulatory surgery center; evaluation and management; procedures; imaging; durable medical equipment; tests; Part B Drugs; ambulance; hospital readmission; emergency department; prevention quality indicator; service level costs and utilization; national average comparison; hospital referral region (HRR); percent utilization; county

Chronic Conditions

Chronic Conditions
https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/Chronic-Conditions/CC_Main.html
Years: 2007-2014
Content: Prevalence and Medicare utilization and spending are presented for 19 chronic conditions and are shown by (1) U.S. counties, (2) U.S. states, and (3) hospital referral regions (HRR)
Status: PUF - available for immediate download
Keywords: age; state; county; hospital referral region; FIPS code; Alzheimer's; dementia; arthritis; asthma; atrial fibrillation; autism spectrum disorders; cancer; chronic kidney disease; chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; depression; diabetes; heart failure; hepatitis; HIV/AIDS; hyperlipidemia; hypertension; ischemic heart disease; high cholesterol; high blood pressure; osteoporosis; schizophrenia; psychotic disorders; stroke; sex; race; ethnicity; utilization; prevalence; chronic conditions

Chronic Conditions PUF

https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/BSAPUFS/Chronic_Conditions_PUF.html

Years: 2008, 2010

Content: an aggregated file in which each record is a profile or cell defined by the characteristics of Medicare beneficiaries. A profile is defined by all combinations of age category, gender, various chronic conditions, and dual-eligibility status of the beneficiaries

Status: PUF - available for immediate download

Keywords: sex; age; Alzheimer's; cancer; heart failure; chronic kidney disease; depression; chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; diabetes; ischemic heart disease; osteoporosis; rheumatoid arthritis; stroke; dual eligibility; count of beneficiaries; months of enrollment; Part A; inpatient; SNF; Part B; outpatient; number of visits; part C; Part D; number of prescriptions

Medicare Beneficiaries

Medicare Beneficiary Enrollment and Characteristics

https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/Chronic-Conditions/Medicare_Beneficiary_Characteristics.html

Years: 2007-2014

Content: Information on beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare Parts A & B, Medicare Advantage, and Original Medicare based on age, sex, race/ethnicity, state, county, and hospital referral region.

Status: PUF - available for immediate download

Keywords: Part A; Part B; age; state; county; FIPS code; participation rate

Medicare Enrollment Dashboard

https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/CMSProgramStatistics/Dashboard.html

Years: 2011-2016

Content: provides maps, charts and tables on annual and monthly enrollment trends by geography and coverage type (Parts A/B and D)

Status: PUF - available for immediate download

Keywords: Beneficiary, enrollment, trends, state, geography, Part A, Part B, Part D, disabled, aged

Provider of Services

Provider of Services Current Files

https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Downloadable-Public-Use-Files/Provider-of-Services/index.html

Years: 2006-2015

Content: data on characteristics of hospitals and other types of healthcare facilities, including the name and address of the facility and the type of Medicare services the facility provides, among other information

Status: PUF - available for immediate download

Keywords: hospital; skilled nursing facility; home health agency; psychiatric residential treatment facility; portable x-ray supplier; outpatient physical therapy; end stage renal disease; rural health clinic; ambulatory surgical center; hospice; organ procurement organization; community mental health center; federally qualified health center; city; certification; eligibility; state; street address; services provided

Accountable Care Organizations (ACO) PUF

Shared Savings Program Accountable Care Organizations (ACO) PUF

https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Downloadable-Public-Use-Files/SSPACO/index.html

Years: 2013-2014

Content: contains ACO-specific metrics as well as summarized beneficiary and provider information for each performance year of the SSP program; contains mean final prospective CMS-HCC risk score for the four Medicare enrollment types (ESRD, disabled, aged/dual, aged/non-dual) for each of the three benchmark years

Status: PUF – available for immediate download

Keywords: ACO name; ACO state; savings rate; benchmark minimum; quality score; advanced payment; per capita; risk score; dual eligibility; age;

Pioneer ACO PUF

https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Downloadable-Public-Use-Files/Pioneer/index.html

Years: 2012-2014

Content: contains information on the ACO and its providers, expenditures, and attributed population, including ACO name, number of participating providers (by provider type), number of enrollees (by age group), expenditures by service category

Keywords: ACO name; ACO state; savings rate; benchmark minimum; quality score; advanced payment; per capita; risk score; dual eligibility; age

Medicare Quality Data

Hospital Compare datasets

Hospital Compare
https://data.medicare.gov/data/hospital-compare
Years: 2005-2016
Content: data that allows you to compare the quality of care at over 4,000 Medicare-certified hospitals across the country by facility and state; includes measures such as ambulatory surgical measures, complications, healthcare associated infections, hospital value-based purchasing, inpatient psychiatric facility quality, medicare hospital spending, outpatient imaging efficiency, patient satisfaction, readmission and deaths, and timely and effective care
Status: PUF - available for immediate download
Keywords: ambulatory surgical measures; facility; national; state; hip/knee complication measure; healthcare associated infections; readmissions reduction program; hospital value-based purchasing; acute myocardial infarction; efficiency scores; outcome scores; patient experience of care domain scores; healthcare-associated infection scores; pneumonia scores; preventive care scores; surgical care improvement scores; inpatient psychiatric facility quality; total performance score; medicare hospital spending by claim; Medicare hospital spending per patient; outpatient imaging efficiency; patient survey (HCAHPS); payment measures; value of care; readmissions and death; structural measures; timely and effective care; value of care;

Nursing Home Compare
https://data.medicare.gov/data/nursing-home-compare
Years: 2013-2016
Content: These data allow you to compare the quality of care at every Medicare and Medicaid-certified nursing home in the country, including over 15,000 nationwide
Status: PUF - available for immediate download
Keywords: deficiencies; fire safety deficiencies; health deficiencies; inspection cycle; reshospitalization; emergency room visit; community discharge; penalties; provider info; number of beds; staffing; quality measure; short stay; long stay; star ratings; state averages; survey summary

Physician Compare
https://data.medicare.gov/data/physician-compare
Years: 2014-2016
Content: information about group practices, physicians, and other health care professionals currently enrolled in Medicare
Status: PUF - available for immediate download

Keywords: eligible professionals; demographic; medicare quality program participation; clinical quality of care; performance rates; public reporting; claims reporting; web interface reporting; patient experience; consumer assessment of healthcare providers and systems (CAHPS)

Home Health Compare

https://data.medicare.gov/data/home-health-compare

Years: 2003-2016

Content: These data allow you to compare the quality of care provided by Medicare-certified home health agencies throughout the nation

Status: PUF - available for immediate download

Keywords: measure data range; national data; patient survey (HHCAHPS); state; zip codes; quality measure; phone numbers; addresses; critical quality measure; timely care; taught family about drugs; checked risk of falling; flu shot; pneumococcal vaccine; diabetes foot care; checked for pain; heart failure; prevent pressure sores; walking; functional status; moving around; breathing; correct drugs; emergency room care;

Data from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

National Center for Healthcare Statistics

National Health Interview Survey

http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/nhis_2015_data_release.htm

Years: 2004-2015

Content: Survey responses involving families and healthcare; 2015 survey emphasizes health care access and utilization, food security, occupational health, epilepsy, Crohn's disease and colitis, hepatitis B and C screening, immunization, internet access and email usage, mental health, infrequent tobacco use, and e-cigarette; comprised of 8 surveys: Family Disability Questions, Functioning & Disability Compressed, Family Compressed, Household Compressed, Injury/Poison Episode Compressed, Person Data Compressed, Sample Adult Compressed, Sample Child Compressed, Paradata Compressed, Sample Adult Cancer

Status: PUF - available for immediate viewing (may require SAS, STATA)

Keywords: family number; language; family structure; education; functionality; walking; memory; health; finances; food security; meals; home care; health insurance coverage; office visit; Medicare; Medicaid; SCHIP; Indian Health Service coverage; cost of medical care; affordable coverage; head Start; wages; retirement pensions; income sources; welfare; WIC; SNAP

Data from Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP)

HCUPnet: Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project

http://hcupnet.ahrq.gov/HCUPnet.jsp?Id=E653E6ABE6DF0F5B&Form=SelPAT&GoTo=MAINSEL&JS=Y
Years: 1997-2012, 2013
Content: a free, on-line query system based on health statistics and information on hospital inpatient and emergency department utilization
Status: PUF - available for immediate download
Keywords: readmission; mental health hospitalization; state statistics; national statistics; hospital use; inpatient; Kids' inpatient database; ambulatory surgery; emergency department; quality indicators; county; region

Limited Access Datasets
Requires a Data Use Agreement—
Contact RESDAC for more information

Data from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS)

Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey
http://www.resdac.org/cms-data/request/medicare-current-beneficiary-survey
Years: 1991-2013
Content: a continuous multipurpose survey that determines expenditures and sources of payment for all services used by Medicare beneficiaries, and traces outcomes over time
Status: Limited access data – requires application and review by RESDAC
Keywords: demographic; income; relative health; activity; vision; hearing; weight; blood pressure; procedures; cancer; flu; pneumonia; smoking; strength; diagnosis; heart disease; skin; diabetes; arthritis; Alzheimer's; dementia; mental health; muscles; joints; alcohol; instruction; compliance; medical condition; surgery; shot; check up; medication; wait time; cost; satisfaction; patient reported; payment; out-of-pocket; visit frequency; motivation; enrollment; survey-reported data; household; language; Medicare status; claims; charges; dual eligibility

Health Outcomes Survey

Health Outcomes Survey (HOS)
http://www.resdac.org/cms-data/request/health-outcomes-survey
Years: 1998 -
Content: the first patient-reported outcomes measure used in quality improvement activities pay for performance, program oversight, public reporting, and to improve health
Status: Limited access data – requires application and review by RESDAC
Keywords: functionality; lifestyle; satisfaction; patient reported; survey; daily activities; health; emotions; anxious; depressed; cognitive state; emotional state; mental health; relative health; bathing; dressing; walking; chest pain; temperature; wound healing; digestion; heart disease; arthritis; diabetes; cancer

Restricted Access Datasets
Requires Approval from a Review Board and often Payment for Data Access
Contact RESDAC for more information

Data from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Master Beneficiary Summary File

Master Beneficiary Summary File

http://www.resdac.org/cms-data/files/mbsf

Years: 1999-

Content: a master claims data file that contains information on enrolled beneficiaries, chronic condition warehouse flags, other potentially disabling conditions, cost and utilization, and on the national death index

Status: Restricted Access data – requires approval from a review board

Keywords: zipcode; beneficiary unique identifier; state code; county; date of birth; date of death; monthly entitlement indicators; Part A; Part B; Part d; reasons for entitlement; chronic conditions; mental health; tobacco use; developmental disorder; disability-related conditions; service utilization; Medicare payments; national death index; dual eligibility; cause of death; myocardial infarction; alzheimer's; atrial fibriliation; cataract; chronic kidney disease; chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; heart failure; diabetes; glaucoma; hip fracture; ischemic heart disease; depression; osteoporosis; rheumatoid arthritis; breast cancer; stroke; colorectal cancer; prostate cancer; lung cancer; endometrial cancer; anemia; jyperlidemia; hypertension hypothryroidism; prostatic hyperplasia; ADHD; anxiety disorder; bipolar disorder; cerebral palsy; traumatic brain injury; cystic fibrosis; epilepsy; sensory; fibromyalgia; chronic pain; HIV/AIDS; learning disabilities; liver disease; multiple sclerosis; muscular dystrophy; obesity; schizophrenia; spinal cord injury; blindness; outpatient; inpatient; payments; readmissions; skilled nursing facility; hospice; home health; anesthesia; dialysis; durable medical equipment

Chronic Condition Warehouse (CCW)

https://www.ccwdata.org/web/guest/home

Description: CMS' research data warehouse designed to support external researchers and internal CMS research and analytic functions. It supports both virtual (via the Virtual research Data Center) and physical access to CMS data. The warehouse contains over 315B records with 1B records added monthly and unique beneficiary ID allows data linkages across all CCW data.