

New Initiatives for the Minnesota All Payer Claims Database (MN APCD)

SUMMER 2023

The Minnesota All Payer Claims Database (MN APCD) is a state repository of de-identified health care claims data that is derived from billing records sent by medical providers to insurance companies, plan administrators, and public payers. In 2008, a bipartisan Minnesota legislature directed the creation of the data system to increase transparency about value in health care, as part of a broad, forward-thinking set of health care reforms. The MN APCD is currently being used primarily to analyze variation in health care costs, quality, utilization, and illness burden across Minnesota, and to inform health care planning and policy.

Summary of New Legislation

The 2023 legislative session in Minnesota concluded with the adoption of numerous new initiatives that impact the [Minnesota All Payer Claims Database \(MN APCD\)](#), including expanded data sharing and new data collection. The MN APCD remains de-identified, but provider organizations may now be identified in reporting. The legislature eliminated the sunset on research activities, thereby permitting ongoing research and analysis using the MN APCD.

The full legislation can be viewed here: [Laws of Minnesota 2023, chapter 70, article 2, sections 35-41](#). MDH will work closely with stakeholders and partners in the months to come to implement this new legislation.

New Initiatives

Race and ethnicity data

In addition to standard eligibility information, the new legislation requires that race and ethnicity data be submitted for claims incurred on or after January 1, 2023.

Collecting race and ethnicity data will strengthen MDH's capacity to identify and understand the impact of disparities along racial and ethnic lines, as we measure health care use, prices, disease burden, and spending patterns among Minnesota residents.

Next steps: MDH is working with our data vendor to develop a draft data submission guide and obtain feedback on how MDH proposes to collect the information. Additional detail will be available by the Fall of 2023.

Expanded access to the MN APCD

Aligning with data access provisions in other states, the Minnesota legislature required MDH to develop a process for making the MN APCD available to researchers outside of MDH, so long as proposed research serves a public benefit.

Expanding access will maximize the return-on-investment Minnesota made in establishing these data to inform key health policy issues—including cost, quality, and access.

To enable a carefully curated expanded access, MDH will develop detailed requirements for data use, establish a fee schedule, and create a research advisory group to assist the commissioner in implementing this provision.

Next steps: MDH will release more information by the end of 2023 for research entities to begin the process to access MN APCD data safely and securely.

Dental claims

The legislature authorized the collection of dental claims in the MN APCD. Collecting dental claims data—in addition to existing data on medical services and prescription drugs—will provide a more complete understanding of access to and use of dental care in the state, as well as barriers Minnesotans might be experiencing.

Next steps: To implement the new law and collect and integrate dental claims data into the MN APCD, MDH anticipates amending the established rules (Minnesota Rules, chapter 4653).

Data from employers

The legislation includes a new notification process for third-party administrators (TPAs) to ensure self-insured employers are aware of their option to share claims data with the MN APCD. The legislation also requires the reporting of summary data by TPAs concerning the choices self-insured employers made.

Next steps: MDH will provide a notice for TPAs to issue to self-insurers in the Fall 2023. More information will be available on the MDH website in the coming months.

Collection of non-claims-based payment data & reporting

The legislation requires health plan companies and TPAs to begin reporting non-claims-based payment data beginning January 1, 2025.

To inform how Minnesota will collect these data over the long term, MDH will collect summary data on non-claims-based payments and their role in primary care spending and produce a report to the legislature.

Next steps: MDH will engage with health plans and TPAs in late summer and early fall about the collection of data needed to prepare the February 2024 report on health care payments. MDH may pursue rulemaking in 2024 to amend established rules (Minnesota Rules, chapter 465)

Authorized use of MN APCD data

New uses for MN APCD data to inform health policy initiatives and legislative studies were authorized and enabled by the legislature. This includes analyses for the new Center for Health Care Affordability, analyses of health care transactions on costs and market consolidation, and evaluation of the grants and contracts awarded through the drug overdose and morbidity program.

Questions and More Information

In the weeks and months to come, the [HEP website](#) will be updated periodically with more information about progress made. If you are not yet subscribed for our GovDelivery messages and would like more regular updates on all of our work, you can [sign up using this link](#).

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