

All Payer Claims Database Workgroup Charge

Background

The 2015 Legislature directed the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to develop a Public Use File (PUF) or multiple files containing summary information from the Minnesota All Payer Claims Database (MN APCD).¹ The purpose of the PUFs is to make MN APCD data more widely available for research and care improvement initiatives, while maintaining safeguards to protect sensitive information. MDH was charged with consulting the APCD workgroup formed in 2014 on technical issues related to the development of these summary files or data tables. The legislation requires that a first PUF be available by March 1, 2016, with annual updates and full development of an online access solution by June 2019.

APCDs are large-scale databases that collect administrative health care transaction data from health plans, third party administrators and pharmacy benefit managers, including eligibility, pharmacy and medical claims files, as well as information on actual transaction prices. Minnesota collects information on commercial, Medicare and Minnesota public program enrollees through this process. Data in the MN APCD are de-identified, which means identifying information such as names or birth dates are not included in the data.²

Workgroup Charge

The workgroup will share insight and provide technical expertise in the following areas to assist in the development of the required content and explanatory materials for the PUFs:

- The number, size and content of summary PUFs or data tables to be made available in 2016;
- The level and type of aggregation of PUFs;
- The pathway to maturing the availability of PUFs;
- Necessary and appropriate measures to safeguard patient, provider and payer identities; and
- Background information to make available to users of PUFs or data tables.

Duration

The MDH expects to conduct two to four meetings between November 2015 and June 2016

Champion: Stefan Gildemeister, Director, Health Economics Program, MDH

Team Leader: Leslie Goldsmith, Manager, Health Care Data Service, Health Economics Program, MDH

MDH responsibilities

- 1) Provide timely information to the workgroup regarding:
 - Current operations of the MN APCD,
 - Similar activity in other initiatives both in Minnesota and nationally, and
 - Research on issues raised by the group.
- 2) Produce initial public use files and explanatory materials by March 1, 2016.

Level of Agreement

This workgroup is advisory to MDH. The goals and objectives of the workgroup are not dependent upon group consensus. Although consensus would be optimal, it may not be attainable given the timeframe and the nature of the questions that the workgroup will be discussing. For the topics and issues where the workgroup members do not reach consensus, members will have an opportunity to express their opinions.

¹ [Laws of Minnesota 2015, chapter 71, article 8, section 8](#)

² For additional information see: MDH (2014), "Minnesota All Payer Claims Data: State Repository of Health Care Claims Data". http://www.health.state.mn.us/healthreform/allpayer/mn_apcd_overviewreport_031715.pdf