

# Chronic Conditions Warehouse

*Your source for national CMS Medicare and Medicaid research data*



**Chronic Conditions Warehouse Virtual Research Data Center**

## Databricks Credit Upgrade and Purchase Policy

MARCH 2026 | VERSION 1.4

## Revision Log

Date	Changed by	Revisions	Version
March 2026	D. Happe	Updated ResDAC email to <a href="mailto:DataRequests@cms.hhs.gov">DataRequests@cms.hhs.gov</a>	1.4
March 2025	K. Pandullo	Added information about Databricks Self-Service Application (DSSA)	1.3
April 2024	D. Taylor	Cluster specifications updated	1.2
March 2024	A. Arens	Edited text due to changes in policies with the launch of the new VRDC Order Application (VOA)	1.1
July 2023	CMS OEDA D. Taylor	Created initial document	1.0

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## 1.0 Policy Statement

This document provides Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) Databricks use policies within the Chronic Conditions Warehouse (CCW) Virtual Research Data Center (VRDC) environment and specifically identifies the policies related to Databricks Unit (DBU) credit purchases, Databricks cluster upgrades, and Databricks package requests.

## 2.0 Databricks Credit Purchases

A Databricks credit, also known as a DBU, is a normalized unit of processing power on the Databricks platform used for measurement and pricing purposes. Processing metrics drive the number of DBUs a workload consumes, which may include the compute resources used and the amount of data processed.

CCW VRDC seat holders may purchase DBUs up to two times during their project year — at the time of the DUA's project renewal and one additional purchase during the project year. Users may purchase additional DBUs for eligible DUAs by using the [VRDC Order Application](#) to create an invoice or by contacting the Research Data Assistance Center (ResDAC) at [DataRequests@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:DataRequests@cms.hhs.gov) or 1-888-973-7322 for assistance with submitting a DUA amendment request.

## 3.0 Databricks Cluster Upgrades

A Databricks cluster is a set of computational resources users can execute within their Databricks notebook. Users need to attach a notebook to a cluster before executing their code. As stated in the [CCW VRDC Databricks User Guide](#), CCW VRDC users consume Databricks units at 1.38 DBU per hour per node. The default Databricks cluster in the CCW VRDC running all five nodes consumes 6.90 DBUs per hour with a node type of i4i.xlarge.

In addition to the default cluster, three additional cluster configuration options, described in [Table 1](#), are available. Upon initial DUA request, the CCW team will assign the DUA to the default cluster.

CCW VRDC users with active remaining DBU allocations may request cluster size and runtime version changes using the Databricks Self-Service Application (DSSA). CMS contractors do not have access to the DSSA and should submit requests for cluster changes by contacting the CCW Help Desk at [ccwhelp@ccwdata.org](mailto:ccwhelp@ccwdata.org) or 1-866-766-1915. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8:00 am–5:00 pm ET (excluding most federal holidays). Users can find instructions and additional information by clicking the [Help \(🗉\) icon](#) in the application or the [DSSA frequently asked questions](#) on the CCW secure website.

**Table 1.** Databricks cluster configuration options

Cluster type	Node details	DBU consumption
<b>Standard data analysis cluster (default)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Driver Node — one i4i.xlarge (4 vCPU, 32 GB memory)</li> <li>Worker Nodes — up to 4 i4i.xlarge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This cluster consumes 1.38 DBU per hour per node</li> <li>A cluster running all five nodes consumes 6.90 DBUs per hour</li> </ul>
<b>Enhanced data analysis cluster</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Driver Node — one i4i.8xlarge (32 vCPU, 256 GB memory)</li> <li>Worker Nodes — up to 4 i4i.8xlarge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This cluster consumes 11.00 DBUs per hour per node</li> <li>A cluster running all five nodes consumes 55.00 DBUs per hour</li> </ul>
<b>Artificial intelligence (AI)/Machine Learning cluster</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Driver Node — one c5ad.8xlarge (32 vCPU, 64 GB memory)</li> <li>Worker Nodes — up to 8 c5ad.8xlarge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This cluster consumes 5.48 DBUs per hour per node</li> <li>A cluster running all nine nodes consumes 49.32 DBUs per hour</li> </ul>
<b>Graphic processing unit (GPU) cluster</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Driver Node — one g4dn.8xlarge (32 vCPU, 1 GPU, 128 GB memory)</li> <li>Worker Nodes — up to 8 g4dn.8xlarge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This cluster consumes 5.7 DBUs per hour, per node</li> <li>A cluster running all nine nodes consumes 51.3 DBUs per hour</li> </ul>

## 4.0 Databricks Package Requests

CCW VRDC Databricks users must follow the CCW software request process and adhere to the [CCW Software Request End-User Guidelines](#). Refer to the [CCW VRDC Databricks User Guide](#) for additional information on requesting Databricks packages.

## Appendix A — List of Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
AI	Artificial Intelligence
CARS	CCW Access Request System
CCW	Chronic Conditions Warehouse
CMS	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
DART	Data Access Request Tracking
DBU	Databricks Unit
DSSA	Databricks Self-Service Application
DUA	Data Use Agreement
HI	Health Informatics
ML	Machine Learning
OY	Option Year