Medicare Data on Provider Practice and Specialty (MD-PPAS)
Versions Changes and Data Layout

Version 2.4

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

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Version Updates

Version 2.4 introduces the following changes from version 2.3

- The MD-PPAS data include a modified broad specialty variable that provides a more detailed breakdown of non-physician specialties.

- The data also include two additional variables related to the percent of providers' line items that are performed in a given place of service (POS). Specifically, MD-PPAS data now include variables that report the percent of line items performed in urgent care centers and retail clinics. Internal analyses revealed that providers affiliated with large retail clinics or urgent care centers listed the place of service as "office" as well as "retail clinic" or "urgent care center". Therefore, to help data users more accurately capture the POS for these providers, the data now report service lines associated with retail clinics and urgent care centers separately rather than collapsing them into the other POS category.

- The data use a new methodology to assign providers to CBSAs based on the zip code reported on their submitted claims.

- Finally, the naming conventions for the MD-PPAS data sets were changed in order to conform to new internal documentation standards.

MD-PPAS File Layout

ID variables	Description	Data Source
npi	National provider identifier (NPI)	Claims
name_last	Provider last name	NPPES
name_first	Provider first name	NPPES
name_middle	Provider middle name	NPPES

Demographic variables	Description	Data Source
sex	1=Male; 2=Female	NPPES
birth_dt	Birth date	PECOS

Specialty variables	Description	Data Source
spec_broad	Broad specialty based on spec_prim_1 . 1 = Physician - Primary care 2 = Physician - Medical specialty 3 = Physician - Surgical specialty 4 = Physician - Obstetrics/gynecology with no primary care specialty. 5 = Physician - Hospital-based specialty (includes designated hospitalists) 6 = Physician - Psychiatry 7 = Non-physician – Nurse Practitioner and Physician Assistant 8 = Non-physician – Other Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) 9 = Non-physician – Limited Liability Physicians (LLP) 10 = Non-physician – Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapists 11 = Non-physician – Other 99 = Specialty Unknown	PECOS/claims
spec_prim_1	Primary specialty (the most recently reported in PECOS)	PECOS/claims
spec_prim_1_name	Name of primary specialty	
spec_prim_2	Concurrently reported primary specialty	PECOS/claims
spec_prim_2_name	Name of concurrently reported primary specialty	
spec_source	Source data for specialty 1=PECOS 2=claims	PECOS/claims
spec_source_hosp	Source data for hospitalist specialty designation 1=PECOS 2=claims	PECOS/claims

Place of service (POS) variables	Description	Data Source
pos_office	% of line items delivered in office	Claims
pos_retail	% of line items delivered in retail clinics	Claims
pos_urgent	% of line items delivered in urgent care centers	Claims
pos_inpat	% of line items delivered in inpatient hospital	Claims
pos_opd	% of line items delivered in hospital outpatient department (OPD)	Claims

Place of service (POS) variables	Description	Data Source
pos_er	% of line items delivered in emergency room (ER)	Claims
pos_nursing	% of line items delivered in nursing facility or skilled nursing facility	Claims
pos_asc	% of line items delivered in ambulatory surgery center (ASC)	Claims
pos_resid	% of line items delivered in the patient's residence (i.e., home, assisted living facility, custodial care facility, or group home)	Claims
pos_other	% of line items delivered in other places of service	Claims

Geographic location	Description	Data Source
state	State abbreviation with the most line items for that NPI 99=missing	Claims
state_multi	Multiple state indicator (1=multiple states; 0=single state)	Claims
cbsa_type	Type of CBSA for physician 1=Metropolitan area 2=Micropolitan area 3=non-CBSA 9=missing CBSA code	Claims
cbsa_cd	CBSA code with the most allowed line items for that NPI 00000=non-CBSA 99999=missing CBSA code	Claims
cbsa_name	CBSA name	Claims
cbsa_multi	Multiple CBSA indicator (1=multiple CBSAs; 0=single CBSA)	Claims

Utilization summary measures	Description	Data Source
npi_srvc_lines	Count of line items billed by NPI	Claims
npi_allowed_amt	Total allowed charges billed by NPI	Claims
npi_unq_benes	Number of unique beneficiaries for whom the NPI billed	Claims

TIN1 variables	Description	Data Source
tin1	Tax identification number (TIN) with the most service lines	Claims
tin1_legal_name	TIN1 legal name	PECOS
tin1_srvc_month	Twelve monthly flags for whether the NPI billed for any services under TIN1. Position 1 pertains to January; position 12 to December. 1= billed 0=did not bill	Claims
tin1_srvc_lines	Count of line items billed under TIN1	Claims
tin1_allowed_amt	Total allowed charges billed under TIN1	Claims
tin1_unq_benes	Number of unique beneficiaries for whom the NPI billed under TIN1	Claims

TIN2 variables	Description	Data Source
tin2	Tax identification number (TIN) with the most service lines	Claims
tin2_legal_name	TIN2 legal name	PECOS

TIN2 variables	Description	Data Source
tin2_srvc_month	Twelve monthly flags for whether the NPI billed for any services under TIN2. Position 1 pertains to January; position 12 to December. 1= billed 0=did not bill	Claims
tin2_srvc_lines	Count of line items billed under TIN2	Claims
tin2_allowed_amt	Total allowed charges billed under TIN2	Claims
tin2_unq_benes	Number of unique beneficiaries for whom the NPI billed under TIN2	Claims