Release Notes for APCD Release 4.0

CY2010-2014

Center for Health Information and Analysis

Massachusetts All-Payer Claims Database
Release 4.0 - Release Notes – March 2015

The release includes medical, pharmacy and dental claims with dates of service between January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2014 (paid through June 30, 2015)and information for the same period about member eligibility, providers, products, and benefit plans.

Documentation Guides for this release can be found at http://chiamass.gov/ma-apcd . This release also includes data from Medicaid (MassHealth) and Medicare in addition to data from private payers.

Questions concerning MA APCD Release 4.0 may be directed to apcd.data@state.ma.us .

Updated application materials reflecting the new data elements in Release 4.0 can be found on the CHIA website http://chiamass.gov/application-documents .

MA APCD data collection and data release are governed by regulations which are available on the MA APCD website (see http://chiamass.gov/publications-and-regulations/).

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MA-APCD 4.0 RELEASE

The MA APCD contains data elements collected from all private and public payers of eligible health care claims for Massachusetts Residents. The data is collected in eight file types:

1. Dental Claims (DC),
2. Medical Claims (MC),
3. Pharmacy Claims (PC),
4. Member Eligibility (ME),
5. Product (PR),
6. Benefit Plan (BP) Control),
7. Provider (PV), and
8. MassHealth Enhanced Eligibility (MHEE).

Each file has specific areas of interest; data element and additional file documentation can be referenced by visiting http://www.chiamass.gov/ma-apcd/

Highlights of the release include:

- Data is available for dates of service from January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2014 as paid through June 30, 2015. Data submitted to CHIA after June 2015 is not included in the files.

- Release 4.0 contains more comprehensive and recently updated data, including resubmissions from several large carriers.

- Data elements are classified as either Level 2 or Level 3 data elements. Level 2 include data elements that pose a risk of exposing the identity of an individual patient. Level 3 data elements can contain either direct personal information, such as name, social security number, and date of birth that uniquely identifies an individual or contains one or more of the 18 identifiers specified by HIPAA that comprise confidential data. Refer to the *MA APCD Release 4.0 Data Elements Specification* for listings of Level 2 and Level 3 data elements for each file. You can find the specification at:

- Government users, as defined by CHIA's data release regulation (957 CMR 5.00) may request both Level 2 and Level 3 elements depending on their research needs. Non-government users may request groups of Level 2 data elements, as curated by CHIA into Limited Data Sets. See Non-Government Documentation Guide and Data Elements Specifications publications for details.

- Certain identifying or sensitive data elements are masked in the release in order to protect patient privacy and allow for the linkage of data elements within the same file.

- Some data elements have been derived by CHIA from submission data elements or have been added to the database to aid in versioning and identifying claims (e.g. Unique Record IDs and status flags). Please refer to the *MA APCD Release 4.0 Data Elements Specification* for additional details.

- CHIA data now contains information from the MassHealth Medicaid program.