



CENTER FOR IMPROVING
VALUE IN HEALTH CARE

Colorado All Payer Claims Database

FAQs - Data and Types of Reports

What can we do with claims data?

Claims data includes information such as costs, facility type and diagnosis that allow us to identify areas for improvement across our health care system. Consumers and employer purchasers can use this comparative data to make informed choices about purchasing health care and coverage. It enables providers to compare their performance across payers, and it provides policymakers and researchers an in-depth picture of health care spending trends to inform policy and public health initiatives.

Examples of questions we can answer with this data include:

- Which hospitals have the highest prices?
- Which part of the state has the lowest obesity rate?
- What is the variation in cost for the most common procedures?
- What is driving Emergency Room visits?
- What is the average length of time people use antidepressant medications?
- How far do people travel for health care services?

The accuracy and fairness of comparisons are vastly better when there are more examples to assess, which is why it's important to have claims information from all major payers. One of the uses of the data is to inform patients and employers about where to find the highest quality, best value care. We need to ensure that reports reflect a provider's overall care for as many patients as possible and that they are statistically accurate and methodologically sound. The goal is to create reports that Coloradans can rely upon to make choices about their health care.

There are websites and services that tell me the cost of medical procedures and the quality of care at hospitals or by provider; how is this different?

There are multiple websites and services that attempt to provide data on the price of various services. However, information from such websites most often utilizes very limited data sets that are based on approximations of public Medicare reimbursement data that is several years old. The CO APCD can return a much more accurate picture of health care costs and quality using claims data from all payers that is both current and more comprehensive.

What data is currently included in the CO APCD?

For the most up-to-date information on current data in the CO APCD, please contact us at ColoradoAPCD@civhc.org.

What kind of reports does CIVHC produce using the CO APCD?



Reports generated from the CO APCD provide all key stakeholders (consumers, businesses, providers, insurers and policy makers) with high-level cost and utilization comparisons that begin to identify potential areas of improvement.

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The initial launch of the CO APCD in November 1, 2012, was targeted to be meaningful to the broad policy, public health and provider communities, and supports health care reform policy activities. Reports in this category present information at an aggregated level and describe patterns such as the incidence and variation of targeted medical conditions, state and regional cost patterns, and utilization of services. Examples include total cost of care, provider density, readmission comparisons and inpatient and outpatient cost of care by county. In addition, more detailed reports like variation in imaging costs by facility (names are blinded) are available as "snapshot" reports on the [reports tab](#) of comedprice.org.

Currently, comedprice.org allows for more sophisticated analysis of overall value and performance of health care providers. Consumers are able to compare providers' reported cost of a procedure and obtain an estimate of the out of pocket cost. Employers can begin to understand the factors driving the cost of providing coverage to their employees. Health care purchasers can compare hospital and physician providers to find high value services and receive better information on how to spend their health care dollars more efficiently.

Reports will continue to become more advanced and informative through and beyond as more robust data from a wide array of health plans becomes available and validated. Part of the development of more advanced reports will include responding to the users of the data to make it increasingly meaningful.

I can't see the interactive maps on my iPad or iPhone, will this be possible in future releases?

We plan to address this issue in future releases. In the meantime, those without Flash capability can access the underlying data in the maps by clicking on the Data Sheet within the [Maps Tab](#), or by clicking on the [Reports Tab](#).

Are reports available for specific diagnoses?

Yes. [Comedprice.org](http://comedprice.org) includes reports on the incidence/prevalence and costs to treat common chronic diseases (such as diabetes and asthma). Entities with an interest in a specific diagnosis or set of diagnoses can request a specialized report through the [Data Release Process](#).

Is risk adjustment based on the same methodology used by Medicare?

Risk adjustment of CO APCD data is currently performed using tools developed by 3M. The CO APCD has the ability to use other tools for risk adjustment as well, including the Hierarchical Condition Categories (HCCs) currently used by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).