

All Payor Claims Database Stakeholder Advisory Group Notes

June 29, 2023 – 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Attendees:	
Dr. Cecilia Ganduglia Cazaban, UTHealth	Kara Crawford, UTHealth
Dr. Trudy Krause, UTHealth	Jimmy Blanton, Texas Health and Human Services Commission
Dr. Bob Morrow, UTHealth	Dr. Bob Town, University of Texas Austin
Lee Spangler, UTHealth	Dr. Lane Aiena, Huntsville Family Medicine
Devin York, UTHealth	Blaise Duran, Employee Retirement System of Texas
Donna Alexander, UTHealth	Dr. Rick Snyder, Texas Medical Association
Joseph Harrison, UTHealth	Monica Thyssen, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute
Jodie Nassar, UTHealth	Holly Holcomb, Childress Regional Med Center
Gladys Rodriguez, UTHealth	Kyle McKay, Teacher Retirement System

1. Welcome and Introduction of New Members

Robert Morrow, MD; Executive in Residence & Associate Professor, UT Health School of Public Health

- Dr. Bob Morrow commenced the meeting with a reminder for the Stakeholder Advisory Group members on declaring conflicts of interest when applicable. Dr. Morrow followed with an introduction of the new Stakeholder Advisory Group member, Monica Thyssen of the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute (MMHPI). Ms. Thyssen serves as the Senior Vice President of Finance and Implementation for MMHPI.

2. Data Submission:

Lee Spangler, JD; Associate Professor, MPACH, & Executive Director, Texas APCD

- Dates**
 - Extensions/Continued Testing**
 - Medicaid Data**
- Monthly Data submissions (July 01, 2023). Submitters will be able to officially submit their data starting on July 01. There is a 7-day window as defined by the TDI rules (*e.g., carriers will have July 01 – July 07 to submit for the July 01st submission*). This initial submission will be comprised of March 2023 data due to there being a 90-day lag between the adjudication date and the monthly submission date from the carrier.
 - Historical Data submission window (August 01, 2023 – December 31, 2023): Submitters will be able to begin their historical data submissions on August 01. Historical data will include data that spans the first of January 2019 through the date of the first monthly submission of data. Due to the extensive years covered, submissions of historical data are performed by individual month and year (*e.g., January 2019; Feb 2019; etc.*).

- Mr. Spangler reminded the audience of the parameters for extension request(s) that allow carriers more time for their data submissions. The center has received some requests that have been approved for extensions. Some common justifications for the extension requests include: (1) server upgrade and maintenance; and (2) payors that need additional time to test data submission. In closing, Mr. Spangler did share that all the largest carriers in the state are ready to submit regularly and on-schedule.
- Comments/Questions:
 - Mr. Jimmy Blanton (Texas Health and Human Services Commission) thanked the data center for the work on the agreement for the Medicaid Data and shared that the review is ongoing.
 - Dr. Trudy Krause (UTHealth) updated the group on the data center's current application for Medicare data from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The center's application is pending final approval and next steps for the receipt of the data.

3. Legislative Update

**Lee Spangler, JD; Associate Professor, MPACH, &
Executive Director, Texas APCD**

a. HB 3414

b. State Appropriations

- HB 3414 was passed and made effective immediately on this most recent legislative session. The bill was authored by Chair Oliverson and the bill modifies the initial statute that established the TX APCD. A summary of the modifications Mr. Lee Spangler discussed are as follows:
 - New language to expressly clarify that payor(s) under Chapter 16.01 of the Insurance Code entities i.e., the employee benefit programs of the University of Texas and Texas A&M University are to submit data to the TX-APCD.
 - The addition of a new Stakeholder Advisor Group (SAG) member. This new member shall represent an institution of higher learning. The Higher learning representative will only have a one-year term which will allow for a more frequent rotation of Higher learning members on the advisory group.
 - The third section of the bill introduces a new limitation to the TX APCD. The data center cannot mandate a payor to collect information from individuals covered by that payor if the information is not already identified on a claim form (*e.g., employment status of dependents*). A prior version of the bill contained language that would have prevented the TX APCD from collecting eligibility and network provider information.
 - Modifications to the Public Access portal provisions will allow for the TX APCD to report data at the metropolitan-systemic and zip code level. There are circumstances where the center may opt not to report at this level (*e.g., so as to avoid the identification of a particular payor, member, or plan*).
 - An established set of minimum requirements for applications for requesting access to the TX APCD. This list allows the center to ask for information such as fund sources being used, other individuals (*i.e., Co-principal investigators and research staff*) needing access to the data, research questions, research methodology, plans for publishing of the research, and IRB determination letters.

- Research utilizing the TX APCD data may now have a commercial purpose. The data center cannot limit access to the TX APCD for this reason. All rejections for access to the TX APCD must be well-defined and disclosed to the requester.
- Qualified research entities will now be allowed to report and identify providers, plans, issuers, and required submitting payors in their research. Not permitted, however, is the identification of voluntary submitters (*e.g., voluntary, ERISA plans*).
- The data center will have a biannual report requirement that promotes greater transparency. The biannual report will define (a) who has been given access to the TX APCD, (b) who has been denied along with applicable justification(s), (c) and a list of any applications that have been pending for greater than 90-days.
- Lastly, the bill granted a level of discretion for how the data center may implement and manage the APCD when the state legislature does not fund TX APCD activities. The data center is only required to undertake an activity as defined by the act so long as there are state appropriations for those activities.
- **Comments/Questions:**
 - Kyle McKay (Teacher's Retirement System of Texas) sought clarification on (1) the entities that may have access to the data, (2) the addition of commercial purposes on the application for access to the TX APCD, and (3) if reporting by provider plan has to be approved by the data center or Stakeholder Advisory Group. Mr. Spangler responded and shared that the data center is still limited to providing access to Qualified Research entities of which include foundations, 501(C)(3), Institutions of Higher learning, and Healthcare providers. If a Qualified research entity discloses a commercial purpose on their application for access to the TX APCD, the data center can not deny for inclusion of this purpose. The data center will review all applicants for access to the TX APCD. If approved, the data center will grant access to a limited dataset that is applicable to applicant's research questions and scope. The data center will not be responsible for the Qualified research entity's conclusions from the data and the entities' research methodology. However, the data center will review the Qualified research entity's reporting and research to ensure the work is not outside the scope of the bill (*i.e., not identifying an individual payor, member, or physician; or research reporting not aligning with the approved application for access to the TX APCD and instead referring another research questions or access request*).

4. Implementation Timeline and Service-Oriented Approach

Trudy Krause, DrPH, MS, CPHQ; Professor, MPACH, & Co-Director Center for Health Care Data

Cecilia Ganduglia Cazaban, MD, DrPH; Associate Professor, MPACH & Co-Director Center for Health Care Data

- Dr. Cecilia Ganduglia Cazaban commenced the discussion by detailing the data center's efforts in prioritizing data acceptance from data submitters and ensuring both data security and privacy measures are in place. With the support of both UTHealth Houston and the UTHealth Houston's School of Public Health, the data center has been able to further the development of the TX APCD's infrastructure and building of the data submission environment. However, due to state funding not

being made available, some of the next steps and deliverables originally planned that require such support for quick implementation will need to occur on a much longer timeframe that previously anticipated (*i.e.*, *hiring of personnel; acquiring additional resources, where applicable, for (1) the creation of a deidentification version of the data; (2) data enhancements; (3) investments on infrastructure, software, and security processes, (4) creation of the public-facing portal and reporting site, and (5) the creation of and providing access to data extracts for external requestors*). As a next step, the data center will be taking on a service-oriented approach by using the data submitted to the TX APCD to develop and produce de-identified analytical information that may be useful for research of qualified research entities.

- Questions/Comments:
 - Dr. Rick Snyder (Texas Medical Association) enquired on the funding for all the activities centered around the APCD as it relates to the state appropriations act. Mr. Spangler reaffirmed the lack in state appropriations, but shared that there has been support to the data center made by the University system and UTHealth Houston. Dr. Krause added that the TX APCD has available resources at the Center for Health Care Data (CHCD) that has been well-established in its other research and center activities. The CHCD has an infrastructure for secure data storage and data warehouses with the inclusion of a team of 30 individuals (e.g., data scientists; programmers; biostatisticians; and staff) that support and propel the data center in its business outside of the scope of the TX APCD. Mr. Spangler shared that the initial funding requested for the implementation of the TX APCD was \$14 million per biennium. This funding would have allowed for the employment of subject-matter experts (*i.e.*, data engineers; web-developers; etc.). Dr. Snyder asked for more details on the data security resources and capabilities currently available. Mr. Spangler reassured the group that the CHCD already has a data security system in place and that the center also works in tandem with the data security policies and infrastructure of the (1) University of Texas System; (2) UTHealth Houston IT Security; and (3) the Texas Advanced Computing Center's security system.

5. Future Meetings

Robert Morrow, MD; Executive in Residence & Associate Professor, UT Health School of Public Health

- Dr. Morrow closed the discussion with noting that the next meeting will take place sometime in September and be held from the 3:30pm – 5pm CST timeslot. Meetings will be held virtually for the foreseeable future.

6. Adjourn

Robert Morrow, MD; Executive in Residence & Associate Professor, UT Health School of Public Health

General Attendees:

Rachel Bowden, TDI
Kenisha Schuster, TDI
Melissa Yung, TDI
Kevin Stewart, TAHP
Alex Goldson, Superior Health Plan
Will McGowan, Superior Health Plan
Elizabeth Moseley, Superior Health Plan
John Dowd, Superior Health Plan
Ben Wright, Texas Medical Association
Helen Kent Davis, Texas Medical Association
Angelina Melina, US Department of Labor
Ahreum Han, Trinity University
Galen Harris, Delta Dental
Chris Williams, Guardian Life
Jim Locke, Molina Healthcare