

Texas All-Payor Claims Database – Technical Work Group Notes

February 27, 2024 – 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm CT

Attendees:	
Wesley Davie, Devoted	Jaymes Barcenas, UTHealth
Alex Goldson, Centene	Joe Harrison, UTHealth
Savannah Williams, American Specialty Health Group, Inc.	Dr. Trudy Millard Krause, UTHealth
Bernadette Inskeep, UnitedHealthcare	Jodie Nassar, UTHealth
Jesse Pannell, Aetna/CVS	Gladys Rodriguez, UTHealth
Donna Salt, UnitedHealthcare	Lee Spangler, UTHealth
Elizabeth Thurman, Centene	Devin York, UTHealth
Louanne Westmoreland, Aetna/CVS	

1. Welcome and Introduction

Joe Harrison; Data Architect, Center for Health Care Data & TX-APCD

- Joe Harrison commenced the meeting with a brief introduction on the focus for the group: Leveraging knowledge and building deeper partnerships in support of the Texas All-Payor Claims Database (TX-APCD).

2. APCD Research Program

Trudy Millard Krause, DrPH; Professor, MPACH & Co-director, Center for Health Care Data

- The Center for Health Care Data (CHCD) has been receiving a lot of interest from researchers on the utilization of TX-APCD data for various research topics and questions. However, the TX-APCD data is yet not ready to be made available for research.
- Allowable purposes for research and other analysis conducted by Qualified Entities and CHCD
 - Improving Health Care Quality
 - Controlling Health Care Costs
 - Improving Health Care Outcomes
 - Increasing Transparency of Health Care Cost, Utilization, & Access
 - Improving the Availability of Health Care
 - Improving Population Health
- Opportunities for the Center for Health Care Data:
 - CMS Certified Qualified Entity (QE): CHCD has been certified by CMS as a QE since 2019.
 - The CHCD is permitted to receive Medicare FFS claims data.
 - The CHCD is required to report on quality and performance measures for the state.
 - Academic and Clinical Research
 - Costs, quality, utilization, outcomes, disparities related to any clinical condition or pharmaceutical use.
 - Clinical outcomes specific to a cohort to patients, i.e., those treated by a provider or provider group, health plan, or members of an employer plan.
 - Establishment of benchmarks (cost, utilization rates, prevalence, and incidence).

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- Public health conditions surveillance.
 - Population health, i.e., geographic disparities in relation to disease rates and access to treatment.
 - Health care services availability.
 - Grant-Funded Projects
 - Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas [CPRIT] Core: Childhood and Adolescent Cancer data across the state for tracking individuals longitudinally across carriers and providers.
 - Colorectal Cancer Costs: leveraging TX-APCD data to update the CPRIT reporting on Colorectal Cancer.
 - Alzheimer’s and Alzheimer Related Disease Disparities in Treatment.
 - Association of Environmental Exposure and Parkinson’s Disease.
 - Contracted Services and Research.
 - Sickle Cell Surveillance with the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
 - Texas Epidemic Public Health Institute (TEPHI)
 - Texas Medical Association (TMA)/Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Maternal Health tracking and measuring targeted issues
- Expected Timeline
 - Data Quality, Integrity, and Validity – in progress.
 - Building the Master Patient Index (MPI) and Master Provider Registry (MPR).
 - Data Enhancements. The CHCD has to curate the data to be ready for researchers to utilize.
 - Production Site – Authorized researchers will be able to access a data extract in a secured server. The data extract will only provide data that is de-identified and will contain the minimal amount of data that is necessary to help answer the research question.
 - Estimated date for production is currently December 2024.
- Questions:
 - Alex Goldson, Centene: Will Medicaid IDs received from state data and carrier data be treated differently? Dr. Trudy Krause reaffirmed that the CHCD will be obtaining Medicaid and Medicare FFS (not Medicare Advantage) data from the state. The CHCD will not be treating Medicaid IDs differently as we want to be able to track patients appropriately.

3. Technical Work Group Charter

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

- Mr. Lee Spangler presented the Technical Work Group (TWG) charter. The goal is to engage with the TWG to solve problems and solicit the expertise of its members to help answer technical questions that arise. This work group aims to address technical challenges, ensure data accuracy, and promote interoperability through collaboration and consensus building.
 - Some example areas that the TWG will focus on include: data standardization, data transmission, data protection, and data quality assurance.
- There are no quorum requirements but we do seek active participation.
- Meeting cadence: Bimonthly on days where a Submitter Forum is not taking place (i.e., January 2024: Submitter Forum; February 2024: Technical Work Group; March 2024: Submitter Forum; etc.)
- TWG members can send questions and agenda items in advance of an upcoming meeting to the TX-APCD email inbox (TXAPCD@uth.tmc.edu).

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- Meeting notes will be published on the TX-APCD website.
- Questions:
 - Alex Goldson, Centene: Is there a designated end date for submitting data to the TX-APCD? Lee Spangler confirmed that the TX-APCD is indefinite as is defined by the statute. Can TWG members assign an alternate to attend meetings if the TWG member is unavailable for a given meeting?
 - During the meeting it was decided this question would be addressed/followed up on after the meeting. After the meeting, Lee Spangler determined that it is okay for a TWG member to assign an alternate to attend a TWG meeting in their absence, if needed.

4. Coordination and Logistics

Jodie Nassar; Data Operations Manager, Center for Health Care Data & TX-APCD

- Ms. Jodie Nassar provided an overview of the cadence of future meetings and administrative functions.
 - 4th Tuesday at 12:00pm CT (alternating with the Submitter Forum).
 - Members are asked to please email the TX-APCD inbox (TXAPCD@uth.tmc.edu) if the day/time above does not work.
 - Notes will be posted on the TX-APCD website. We will be publishing the notes on the same webpage as we publish the Submitter Forum notes.
- Comments:
 - Collective: On the call, TWG members discussed moving the TWG meetings to start at 12 pm CT (1 pm ET). Most members agreed on the call.
 - Bernadette Inskip, UnitedHealthcare: Suggested that the publication of level 1 and level 2 edits be added as an agenda item for the next meeting.
 - Alex Goldson, Centene: Will the TWG be primarily focused on the technical functions or will there be operational, business topics being discussed at the meetings? Mr. Joe Harrison affirmed that discussion topics will likely encompass both areas.
 - Joe Harrison, UTHealth: A proposed agenda will be sent out two weeks in advance of the meeting to elicit thoughts and recommendations for additional topics from the TWG. A finalized agenda will be shared before the call.