



Georgia All-Payer Claims Database (APCD) Advisory Committee

Minutes

Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, July 31st, 2024 | 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Virtual Meeting | apcd@opb.georgia.gov

Attendees

Committee Members

p	Dr. Gregory Esper	p	Mr. Rick Dunn	p	Commissioner Kathleen Toomey
a	Senator Ben Watson	p	Mr. Matthew Hicks	p	Representative Darlene Taylor
p	Dr. Jon Duke	a	Ms. Crysty Odom		
p	Ms. Elizabeth Holcomb (Chair)	a	Mr. Chad Purcell		(p)resent; (a)bsent

Supporting Leadership/ Facilitation Present

Office of Health Strategy and Coordination (OHSC): Elizabeth Holcomb, Anelia Moore, Jodi Wooten

Georgia Technology Authority (GTA): Jake Star

Georgia Tech Research Institute Center for Health Analytics & Informatics (GTRI-CHAI): Dr. Jon Duke, Megan Denham, Victoria Razin

Discussion Notes

Opening and Introduction

The July quarterly meeting began with a welcome from Ms. Elizabeth Holcomb, Director of Office of Health Strategy and Coordination and Service Chair for the APCD Advisory Committee. The meeting was recorded, open to the public and hosted via Zoom. Public comments were received by email at APCD@OPB.GEORGIA.gov, which was monitored during the meeting. Committee members were encouraged to come off mute during the meeting for discussion.

Chair Holcomb reminded participants that minutes from the April meeting were emailed the prior week and then asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the April minutes. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved and stated that they would be posted to the APCD website following the meeting.



Meeting Overview

Chair Holcomb gave an overview of the agenda for the meeting. She stated that the July meeting would give an update on data milestones and submitter status, analytics updates and an overview of the new data request process that debuted July 1, 2024.

Advisory Committee Members Update

Chair Holcomb provided an update that the Advisory Committee list had not changed since the April meeting and that she was working to fill the two vacancies. Dr. Esper noted that his title should be updated in the slide deck, so that change request was noted and updated in the slide deck before it was published following the meeting.

Key Milestones

Chair Holcomb then provided an update on key milestones for the APCD. She highlighted that the team has completed and published all twelve initial use cases and continues to collect data from the outstanding submitters.

The fourth production extract was published mid-April, and all the data has been updated to reflect six years of historical data. The fifth production extract was published mid-July, and the team is in the process of updating the analytics with the data from first quarter of 2024.

Chair Holcomb highlighted to the audience that on the data collection side, all milestones for medical, pharmacy and dental data submissions have passed. The team continues to see production data flow into the APCD and pass our regular rigorous data validation checks. She commented that a few mandatory submitters are overdue on milestones which was then highlighted in the following slide.

Chair Holcomb then asked the group if there were any questions regarding the project milestones. There were no questions from committee members.

Project Updates

The presentation was then turned over to Mrs. Jodi Wooten, OHSC Technical Project Manager for the APCD. Ms. Wooten gave an overview of the data currently available in the APCD tool. She highlighted that there are six years of historical data from thirty-one medical and pharmacy submitters and five dental submitters. Data for 2024 is submitted monthly, ensuring it is updated on a continuous schedule.

There are five additional submitters who have been delayed in submitting historical and monthly data due to data formatting issues: Delta Dental, Express Scrips, Guardian Dental, Luminare (formerly known as Trustmark) and Department of Community Health (DCH). The team meets with many of these submitters on a weekly basis and anticipate their data being available in the tool after the next extract in October.



Ms. Wooten also mentioned a few new submitters the team as started onboarding, Merchants Benefit Administration and Nationwide, and hopes to have their data available in the tool at the end of the year.

Ms. Wooten then reviewed the extract timeline with the audience. The data collection phase was broken out in various timelines by medical, pharmacy and dental data submissions with an initial goal to collect five years of historical data and from there collect data monthly moving forward. Since the last advisory meeting, two quarterly data extracts have been received from OnPoint. The first data extract, released mid-April, included six complete years of medical and pharmacy data and the addition of historical dental data from December 2020 to December 2023. The second extract, released a few weeks ago, included medical and pharmacy dental data from the first quarter of 2024.

Future Submitters

Ms. Wooten also gave an update on the three additional mandatory submitters per statute. The team expects to bring in Traditional Medicare data sets into the tool in late 2024 or early 2025, and Georgia Department of Corrections and the Cannabis Commission data sets in 2025 or 2026. Traditional Medicare data will be purchased from CMS as soon as our ResDAC application is approved.

Then presentation was then turned over to Dr. Duke.

Data Analytics

Dr. Duke opened his analytics presentation thanking the committee for their support. He shared that the six years of public data in the APCD tool represents 11.7 million patients across ~1.2 billion medical claims, 572 million pharmacy claims and 52.5 million dental claims.

He highlighted the various formats of data being analyzed, including infographics and detailed reports. He emphasized how important it is to make these data forms consumable and relevant to stakeholders.

Dr. Duke then presented an infographic on infant health outcomes. Key findings included an increase in low birth weight, premature births, and NICU admissions over six years. Urban counties showed higher levels of NICU admissions and social vulnerability indices, such as transportation and housing, were linked to higher levels of low birth weight.

Next, Dr. Duke presented the results from the use cases for Opioids for Low Back Pain and Breast Cancer Screening guidelines. Key findings for the Opioids for Low Back Pain study included a reduction in prescribing opioids for low back pain since 2018, aligning with national trends, and a gender disparity showing that males were more likely to be prescribed opioids for acute low back pain. For the US Breast Cancer screening guidelines, the data showed screening rates were higher in urban areas and a notable drop in screening during the COVID-19 pandemic but returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Next, Dr. Duke discussed the public data sets that are being made public to enable users to explore the APCD data, and the previously released dashboards have been updated to include data up to 2023. He reminded the audience this data includes disease prevalence, procedure costs, health equity factors, and more.



He also presented three new APCD analytics capabilities: distance to care, the effect of weather on care, and unusual claims patterns.

Update on Data Use Cases

Dr. Duke reviewed the twelve initial used cases and reminded the audience that these have all been completed. The process to create new use cases for FY25 is starting, and the team invites stakeholder recommendations.

Data Request Process

Dr. Duke gave an update on the data request process and announced that data requests for non-public data are now open. The application process involves a detailed review by the Data Release Review Committee (DRC). Data requesters must align with APCD objectives, demonstrate methodological expertise, and ensure data privacy and security.

Data access fees vary based on the type and complexity of the data request. State agencies should contact Elizabeth Holcomb for data access. Dr. Duke reported that they have had seven requests for applications as of this presentation. Completed applications can expect a 30 to 60 day turnaround time.

Dr. Duke then opened the floor for any questions from the committee. There were no questions from the committee.

Budget update:

Following Dr. Duke's presentation, the meeting was turned back over to the OHSC Project Manager, Mrs. Wooten, who gave an update on the APCD budget process. Ms. Wooten stated that the team is preparing to send in their annual APD update this fall. The high-level changes they plan to incorporate include updated estimates for future spending as the project prepares to move into the operations and maintenance phase next year. She also stated that they do not anticipate the need to request additional state funds.

Closing Remarks:

The presentation was turned back over to Chair Holcomb, who thanked the team for all their work with the project. She then communicated that during the next few months, the team will continue to work with the few outstanding data submitters and continue to bring in monthly production data to ensure we have complete data in the APCD. For analytics, we will empanel another workgroup of state partners and stakeholders to identify new use cases that will be presented at our next meeting. We will also work with the DCH team to go through the requirements for CMS enhanced funding. Chair Holcomb then opened the floor for any questions from the committee. There were no questions from the committee.

Adjournment

Hearing no questions, Chair Holcomb thanked all the attendees for their active participation and valuable contributions throughout the day's discussion. She reiterated the intention to hold the next Advisory Committee meeting in October 2024.