State of Georgia
Office of Health Strategy and Coordination
All-Payer Claims Database

Introduction to APCD

An All-Payer Claims Database (APCD) is a repository of health care, pharmacy, and dental claims data from both private and public payer sources across the state. An APCD also includes eligibility and other publicly available data to create a comprehensive, longitudinal multi-payer dataset in order to provide the greatest opportunities for improving the health care delivery system.

An APCD will allow public and private health care purchasers and consumers to identify and compare health plans, health insurers, health care facilities, and health care practitioners. Georgia's APCD will promote cost and quality transparency, assess geographic variations in price and utilization, track healthcare spending drivers and trends, and promote public health.

Examples of APCD Usage

The following examples are a limited number of sample uses of data generated from an APCD:

Pricing Transparency

An APCD may be used to identify variations in the cost of common procedures by region and provider. For example, many APCDs provide a tool to allow consumers to track the costs of hip replacements, C-Sections, bariatric surgery, and many other procedures.

Quality Measures

Preventative care measures, such as a breast cancer screening, help populations remain healthy. Appropriate treatment measures, such as A1c testing for individuals with diabetes, helps prevent complications in populations who already have a disease. Using APCD data, we can evaluate progress in these key measures which reflect the quality of health care services.

Avoidable Emergency Department Usage

By identifying conditions treated in avoidable Emergency Department visits and the costs associated with those visits, an APCD can help the health care system find ways to provide those visits in alternative settings.

Opioid Prescriptions

While opioid prescriptions are decreasing, it remains critical to identify prescribing trends which create higher risk of addiction. An APCD can assist in evaluating areas where longer prescriptions are above average, especially when data from the state's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) is incorporated into the APCD.

Prescription Drug Spending

By identifying the amount payers spend on prescription drugs and the impact of drug rebates and concessions, an APCD can provide transparency on prescription pricing trends. Combined with data from the PDMP, the APCD can identify waste in prescribing programs.

Low Value Care
The vast majority of treatments, tests, and screenings benefit patients. An APCD can help to identify the costs associated with treatment where the risk of harm or cost exceeds the likely benefit for patients.

Surprise Billing
The price a consumer can be charged and how much a health insurer must pay a provider for out-of-network services is now guided by state and federal statutes. An APCD becomes the baseline for determining the median rates which dictate the allowed charges for those services.

Sources of APCD Data
Many different entities may submit data to the APCD, either voluntarily or through a statutory requirement. Insurance companies, medical services plans, hospital plans, hospital medical service corporations, health maintenance organizations, and fraternal benefit societies with at least 1,000 covered lives in the previous calendar year will submit data. The Department of Community Health and Medicaid Care Management Organizations, the State Health Benefit Plan, and numerous other agencies are required to submit data. While certain entities, such as insurers regulated by the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act (frequently referred to as ERISA plans), are not required to submit data, they may choose to do so voluntarily.

How will the APCD be administered and governed?
The Office of Health Strategy and Coordination (OHSC), a division of the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, leads an APCD Advisory Committee consisting of representatives of state agencies, the insurance industry, the hospital industry, medical providers, and the healthcare philanthropic community. The APCD is administered by the Center for Health Analytics and Informatics at the Georgia Institute of Technology (GTRI).

Learn More
More than twenty states have All-Payer Claims Databases. The APCD Council (https://apcdcouncil.org) maintains a database of each state's efforts and provides a showcase of examples of APCD usage.

More information can be found at https://opb.georgia.gov/planning-and-evaluation/georgia-all-payer-claims-database-advisory-committee or by emailing APCD@OPB.Georgia.Gov

Referenced Websites
https://www.apcdcouncil.org/publication/all-payer-claims-databases-unlocking-potential
https://www.apcdcouncil.org/publication/informing-health-system-change-use-all-payer-claims-databases
https://www.civhc.org/get-data/publications/