

Dear Colleagues:

I'd like to share with you information about some of the recent work we've undertaken in ORDI and the results we've produced. I hope you find this information helpful, and I encourage you to forward this message to your staff.

-- Tim Love

Director, Office of Research, Development, and Information (ORDI)
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

LATEST NEWS FROM ORDI

1. CMS Research Projects Database

ORDI regularly updates a user friendly searchable database, the *Active Projects Report (APR)* database, which can help you find information on current and past CMS research and demonstration projects. Visit

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/apr>.

Additionally, the 2006 edition of the *Active Projects Report*, an annual publication listing CMS research projects, is now available. In this edition, CMS research projects that were active during 2006 are aligned with the Agency's nine broad research themes. Projects under each theme be downloaded and can be made into a booklet by following the APR Booklet Creation Instructions document. Theme booklets and APR Booklet Instructions are available on line at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/ActiveProjectReports/03_APR_2006_Edition.asp#TopOfPage

2. Health Care Financing Review

Since our last newsletter, ORDI published the Spring 2006 edition of the *Health Care Financing Review*. This edition of our quarterly publication presents information and analyses on Medicare prevention services use and cost, as well as other featured articles. More recently, we published the Summer 2006 edition of the *Review*, a compilation of articles on a variety of topics. Both editions are available online at:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/HealthCareFinancingReview/09_2006%20Edition.asp#TopOfPage To request copies of the printed editions, please contact Patty Manger at X63253.

3. Medicare and Medicare Statistical Supplement, 2005

ORDI recently published this annual supplement to the *Health Care Financing Review* which provides Medicare, Medicaid and other CMS program data.

Updated tables can be viewed at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareMedicaidStatSupp/LT/list.asp#TopOfPage>. Hard copies of this Supplement edition are available in limited quantity. Please contact Patty Manger at X63253 for a copy.

Beginning with the 2006 edition, the Medicare and Medicaid Statistical Supplement will be provided to *Health Care Financing Review* subscribers as a CD-ROM, rather than a printed copy. The CD-ROM will include each table in both .pdf and .xls formats, which will allow readers to work easily with the data that are most relevant to them.

4. New Research Data Warehouse

ORDI is pleased to announce the establishment of a new research-oriented database, the Chronic Conditions Data Warehouse (CCW). Data on Medicare beneficiaries are now available to outside researchers for purchase from the CCW to support research studies.

Section 723 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 requires the Secretary to make Medicare data more readily available to researchers who are studying chronic illness in the Medicare population. In response to this requirement, CMS contracted with the Iowa Foundation for Medical Care (IFMC) to establish the CCW. The CCW is based on the 5 percent national Medicare sample of beneficiaries; however, unique to the CCW, any beneficiary that enters the cohort will remain in the cohort from that time forward to facilitate longitudinal studies. The sample allows researchers to follow an individual longitudinally or it allows the researcher the ability to calculate national rates by selecting only those beneficiaries in CMS's standard 5 percent sample. This allows for examination of claims data from all Medicare fee-for-service care settings, as well as nursing home and home health agency assessment data for the sampled beneficiaries.

The CCW data include Medicare claims, enrollment, and assessment (MDS and OASIS) data and can be linked by beneficiary across years and files. CCW data files are streamlined to include only those data fields determined by CMS to be useful for research purposes. Research cohorts can be extracted from the CCW data files as random samples, demographic cohorts, many custom cohorts or by a set of 21 predefined chronic health conditions. In addition to requesting data for these predefined conditions, researchers may submit *customized* data requests by specifying the applicable data files, time frames, diagnosis and/or procedure codes. Data are available in ASCII text files or in SAS[®] versions 6 or 9, datasets.

The CCW data may be requested from CMS by submitting a Research Identifiable File data request packet. The CCW data are considered *identifiable data files* because the source data contain protected health information, and consequently researchers must sign a Data Use Agreement covering the use and

protection of the data. For more information about the CCW data request process or file prices, please contact ResDAC at 888-973-7322 or resdac@umn.edu or through the Internet at www.resdac.umn.edu.

5. 2006 CMS Statistics

This useful publication provides significant summary information about health expenditures and CMS programs. You may view it online at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CapMarketUpdates/02_CMSStatistics.asp. Printed copies are not yet available, but may be requested now by contacting Patty Manger at X63253.

6. AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting 2006 (June 25-27, 2006)

Each year, CMS seeks to share key findings in research and policy with the community of health service researchers and policy analysts attending this meeting. This year, CMS presentations highlighted a variety of timely subjects including Medicare beneficiary knowledge, pay-for-performance initiatives, and a CMS research update.

A list of CMS presentations, with links to presentation slides, may be viewed at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/ResearchGenInfo/downloads/AcademyHealth06.pdf>

Other presentations from the AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting 2006 may be viewed at: <http://www.academyhealth.org/arm/agenda/sunday.htm>

7. ORDI Demonstrations

ORDI is responsible for a number of demonstration projects. Below are descriptions of two of our more recent projects.

- **Cancer Prevention and Treatment Demonstration for Ethnic and Racial Minorities**

The Medicare Cancer Prevention and Treatment Demonstration for Racial and Ethnic Minorities will use a randomized control design to study the impact of various evidence-based, culturally competent models of patient navigator programs designed to help minority beneficiaries navigate the healthcare system in a more timely and informative manner and facilitate cancer screening, diagnosis and treatment to improve health care access and outcomes, as well as lower total costs to Medicare. Approximately 13,600 Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries will be enrolled in the study during this four-year project. Six demonstration sites will begin recruiting people with and without cancer in their communities starting September 1, 2006 and will offer enrolled participants navigation services to facilitate screening, diagnosis and treatment for breast, cervical, colorectal, prostate and lung cancer. While the demonstration sites vary

in the implementation of their navigator models, proposed navigator services include: assistance in scheduling appointments with culturally sensitive caregivers, providing transportation assistance, coordination of care among providers, and arranging for translation/interpretation services, as well as providing other services to overcome the barriers encountered during cancer care.

Additional information about the demonstration can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/DemoProjectsEvalRpts/MD/itemdetail.asp?filterType=none&filterByDID=-99&sortByDID=3&sortOrder=ascending&itemID=CMS024067>

- **Medical Adult Day Care Services Demonstration.**

Mandated under Section 703 of the MMA, this 3-year demonstration allows home health agencies (HHAs) to provide Medicare beneficiaries a portion of their home health care services in medical adult day care centers. After a national solicitation, five HHAs were selected to participate as demonstration sites. The five sites are and Aurora Visiting Nurses Association of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Doctor's Care Home Health, McAllen, Texas; Landmark Home Health Care, Allison Park, Pennsylvania; Metropolitan Jewish Home Care, Brooklyn, New York; and Neighborly Care Network, St. Petersburg, Florida. HHAs receive 95% of the regular home health Prospective Payment System rate for treatment provided to beneficiaries enrolled in the demonstration. The demonstration was implemented August 1, 2006.

Additional information about the demonstration can be found at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/DemoProjectsEvalRpts/MD/list.asp> selecting "Demonstration Project for Medical Adult Day Care Services.

More information on research activities at CMS is always available at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/researchers>

To subscribe to or unsubscribe from the CMS_Research listserv, please use the following link: https://list.nih.gov/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=cms_research&A=1