



PUBLIC USER GUIDE

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Introduction:

The CMS Data Navigator is an easy-to-use, menu-driven search tool that makes the data and information resources of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) more easily available. Use the Data Navigator to find data and information products for specific CMS programs, such as Medicare and Medicaid, or on specific health care topics or settings-of-care. Navigator displays search results by data type making it easier to locate specific types of information (e.g., data files, publications, statistical reports, etc.).

Before You Begin:

To optimize your Data Navigator experience we recommend that users should:

- Use Internet Explorer 6.0 or higher.
- Disable pop-up blockers.
- Set their screen resolution to a minimum of 800 x 600.

Getting Started:

1. To access the CMS Data Navigator, navigate your web browser to <http://dnav.cms.gov/> (Feel free to bookmark this page or add it to your favorites).

The screenshot displays the CMS.gov website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, About CMS, Newsroom Center, FAQs, Archive, Share, Help, Email, and Print. Below this is the CMS.gov logo and the text "Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services". A search bar is present with the text "Learn about your healthcare options" and a "Search" button. A horizontal menu contains categories: Medicare, Medicaid/CHIP, Medicare-Medicaid Coordination, Insurance Oversight, Innovation Center, Regulations and Guidance, Research, Statistics, Data and Systems, and Outreach and Education. The main content area features the "CMS DataNavigator" logo, a "Home Search Help" navigation bar, and a large graphic of a compass with the text "Connecting People with Data" and a prominent green "Start" button. Below the graphic, there is an "About Us" section with text describing the application and a "Help" section with buttons for "FAQs", "Glossary", and "Submit Question". At the bottom, there are "Quick Links" for Home, Search, and Help.

2. Click the "Start" button to access the Data Navigator search interface.

Conducting a Search:

1. The Data Navigator search interface consists of categories that can be expanded or collapsed using the plus (+) and minus (-) buttons. For users who are not using a mouse, the buttons can be expanded or collapsed using the Enter key.

The screenshot displays the CMS.gov website header and the Data Navigator search interface. The header includes the CMS.gov logo, navigation links (Home, About CMS, Newsroom Center, FAQs, Archive), and utility links (Share, Help, Email, Print). A search bar is present with the text "Learn about your healthcare options" and a "Search" button. Below the header is a row of yellow navigation buttons: Medicare, Medicaid/CHIP, Medicare-Medicaid Coordination, Insurance Oversight, Innovation Center, Regulations and Guidance, Research, Statistics, Data and Systems, and Outreach and Education.

The Data Navigator interface features a blue navigation bar with "Home", "Search", and "Help" buttons. The main content area is titled "WELCOME TO THE CMS DATA NAVIGATOR" and shows "337 data sources found. Show or Clear". On the left, there are five expandable categories, each with a plus sign icon: Program, Setting/Type of Care, Topic, Geography, and Document Type. The right side of the interface provides instructions on how to structure searches and offers links to the Data Glossary and Frequently Asked Questions. At the bottom, there are "Quick Links" for Home, Search, and Help, and a copyright notice for 2014.

2. When a category is expanded, keyword checkboxes are revealed. The numbers next to the keyword give a preview of how many results are associated with that keyword. Keywords can be selected and unselected by clicking these boxes. Keywords will remain selected even if a category is collapsed. For keyword definitions, hover over the keyword to see the pop-up tooltip or consult the Glossary which can be found on the Help page. When a keyword is selected, the numbers will update to show how many results will be displayed with the current search.

The screenshot displays the CMS DataNavigator interface. At the top left is the CMS DataNavigator logo, and at the top right is the CMS logo with the text 'CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES'. Below the logos is a navigation bar with 'Home', 'Search', and 'Help' buttons. The main content area is titled 'WELCOME TO THE CMS DATA NAVIGATOR'. On the left, there are four expandable filter categories: 'Program', 'Setting/Type of Care', 'Topic', and 'Document Type'. The 'Program' category is expanded, showing a list of programs with checkboxes and result counts. The 'Medicare' program is selected, indicated by a checked checkbox and a count of 229. Below the filters, it says '229 data sources found. Show or Clear'. On the right, there are three paragraphs of text providing instructions on how to use the search filters and how to view data sources.

Program

<input type="checkbox"/>	Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight	(17)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovations	(7)
<input type="checkbox"/>	CHIP	(43)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Demonstrations	(9)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dual Eligibles	(32)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Medicaid	(104)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Medicaid Managed Care	(21)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Medicaid-Expansion	(12)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Medicare	(229)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Medicare Advantage	(43)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Medicare Qualified Entity Program	(2)
<input type="checkbox"/>	State Health Insurance Exchanges	(6)

Setting/Type of Care

Topic

Geography

Document Type

229 data sources found. [Show](#) or [Clear](#)

WELCOME TO THE CMS DATA NAVIGATOR

Structure your search by expanding the appropriate content labels on the left and selecting the key words that best describe the data you need. The more key words you select, the narrower your search results.

For more information about a keyword, hover over the keyword with your mouse to see the pop-up tooltip which will display the glossary definition.

For help structuring your search, or to view the Data Glossary or Frequently Asked Questions, click on [Help](#).

You can also view and download all of our active data sources by clicking [Here](#).

3. Multiple categories can be expanded and unlimited keywords can be selected. Multiple selections **within a category** are treated with **OR** logic, thereby expanding a search. Multiple selections **in separate categories** are treated with **AND** logic, thereby refining a search. For example, if a user selects both “Medicaid” and “Medicare” keywords under the “Program” category and both “Enrollment” and “Expenditures” keywords under the “Topic” category, the search results will contain data sources tagged with the keywords Medicaid or Medicare **and** Enrollment or Expenditures. If your search returns a small number of results, try removing some of your search selections to widen your search.
4. When you are finished making your selections, click the “Show” link to execute your search. If you want to clear your selections and start over, click the “Clear” link. These links are located at the top and bottom of the search categories.

Show or Clear

Navigating the Search Results:

- The selected keywords remain on the left while your results will be displayed on the right. Your search parameters, including logic, are also listed above the results.

The screenshot shows a search results interface with a blue header containing 'Home', 'Search', and 'Help' links. Below the header, there are navigation links for 'How to search for data sources?' and 'Show or Clear' for 27 data sources found. The search criteria are displayed as 'Program(Medicare) AND Setting/Type of Care(End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD))'. The results are sorted by 'Popularity (most popular)' and are displayed in a list of categories with expandable options. A link at the bottom allows users to view and download all active data sources.

Category	Count
Program	
<input type="checkbox"/> Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight	(0)
<input type="checkbox"/> Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovations	(0)
<input type="checkbox"/> CHIP	(3)
<input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrations	(1)
<input type="checkbox"/> Dual Eligibles	(2)
<input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid	(9)
<input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid Managed Care	(1)
<input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid-Expansion	(0)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medicare	(27)
<input type="checkbox"/> Medicare Advantage	(7)
<input type="checkbox"/> Medicare Qualified Entity Program	(0)
<input type="checkbox"/> State Health Insurance Exchanges	(0)
Setting/Type of Care	
<input type="checkbox"/> Accountable Care Organization	(3)
<input type="checkbox"/> Acute Care Hospital	(14)
<input type="checkbox"/> Ambulatory	(7)
<input type="checkbox"/> Ambulatory Surgical Center	(11)
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Health Center	(1)
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Treatment	(0)
<input type="checkbox"/> Dialysis Center	(8)
<input type="checkbox"/> Disproportionate Share Hospitals (DSH)	(7)
<input type="checkbox"/> Durable Medical Equipment (DME)	(18)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD)	(27)
<input type="checkbox"/> Federally Qualified Health	...

SEARCH RESULTS

Results Per Grouping: 27 data source(s) found

Page: 10

Sort by: Popularity (most popular)

- Expand All
- External Source (3)
- Interactive Tools (4)
- Publicly Available Data File - for download (11)
- Publicly Available Data File - for purchase (1)
- Publications (1)
- Reports (2)
- Restricted Use Data File (4)
- Statistics (7)

[View and download all active data sources from our database](#)

- The Data Navigator search results are listed by Document Type. By default, the Data Navigator searches all Document Types. To restrict your search to a certain Document Type, include that selection in your search. Each Document Type can be expanded by clicking the plus (+) button or collapsed by clicking the minus (-) button or you can expand all Document Types by selecting “Expand All”. Document Types with no results are not displayed.

Home Search Help

27 data sources found. [Show](#) or [Clear](#)

Program

- Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (0)
- Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovations (0)
- CHIP (3)
- Demonstrations (1)
- Dual Eligibles (2)
- Medicaid (9)
- Medicaid Managed Care (1)
- Medicaid-Expansion (0)
- Medicare (27)
- Medicare Advantage (7)
- Medicare Qualified Entity Program (0)
- State Health Insurance Exchanges (0)

Setting/Type of Care

- Accountable Care Organization (3)
- Acute Care Hospital (14)
- Ambulatory (7)
- Ambulatory Surgical Center (11)
- Community Health Center (1)
- Community Treatment (0)
- Dialysis Center (8)
- Disproportionate Share Hospitals (DSH) (7)
- Durable Medical Equipment (DME) (18)
- End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) (27)
- Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) (7)

How to search for data sources?
You searched for: Program(Medicare) AND Setting/Type of Care(End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD))

SEARCH RESULTS

Results Per Grouping Page: 27 data source(s) found Sort by:

- Expand All**
- External Source (3)**
- Interactive Tools (4)**
- Publicly Available Data File - for download (11)**

Data Source	Matched Keyword	Popularity
CMS 2008-2010 Data Entrepreneurs Synthetic Public Use File	Program(Medicare), Setting/Type of Care(End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD))	1443
Cost Reports	Program(Medicare), Setting/Type of Care(End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD))	374
Medicare Program Rates and Statistics	Program(Medicare), Setting/Type of Care(End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD))	249
Medicare Data to Calculate Your Primary Service Areas	Program(Medicare), Setting/Type of Care(End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD))	192
Medicare Advantage Rates and Statistics - FFS Data 2008-2010	Program(Medicare), Setting/Type of Care(End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD))	160
Medicare Advantage Rates and Statistics - FFS Data (1998-...)	Program(Medicare), Setting/Type of Care(End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD))	82
ESRD - General Information Data	Program(Medicare), Setting/Type of Care(End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD))	60
Provider of Services File	Program(Medicare), Setting/Type of Care(End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD))	55

- The number of results displayed per page can be changed by using the “Results Per Grouping Page” dropdown menu on the top left of the results. The sort order can be changed by using the “Sort By” dropdown menu on the top right of the results. Sort order by default is listed by Popularity.

4. Each listing in the search results includes the title of the data source and the keywords that matched your search. Hover over or click the “?” button to see a description of the data source.

Data Source	Matched Keyword	Popularity
CMS 2008-2010 Data	Program(Medicare), Setting/Type of	
Entrepreneurs Synthetic Public Use File	Care(End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD))	426
Cost Rep	Setting/Type of al Disease	109
Medicare Statistics	Setting/Type of al Disease	74

The DE SynPUF is built from a 5 percent random sample of Medicare beneficiaries in 2008 and their claims from 2008 through 2010. The DE SynPUF contains five types of data, Beneficiary Summary, Inpatient Claims, Outpatient Claims, Carrier Claims, and Prescription Drug Events. Each file contains the same variables across years.

5. To access a data source click the title and the parent page of the data source will open in a pop-up window. On this page you will find information on the data and links to the files.

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the CMS.gov website. The address bar shows the URL <http://www.cms.gov/Research>. The page title is "Medicare Claims Synthetic Public Use Files (SynPUFs)". The main content area features a heading "Medicare Claims Synthetic Public Use Files (SynPUFs)" and a detailed description of the data source. The description states that SynPUFs were created to allow interested parties to gain familiarity using Medicare claims data while protecting beneficiary privacy. It also lists three ways these files can be used: to develop software for actual CMS data, to train researchers on data complexity, and to support safe data mining innovations.

6. If access to the data source is restricted, you will be redirected to a CMS Data Policy page with instructions for obtaining the data before continuing to the data source.

The screenshot shows the ResDAC website interface. At the top, there is a blue navigation bar with links for Home, Search, and Help. Below this is the ResDAC logo and a main content area with the following text:

CMS endeavors to maximize access to its program data while protecting the privacy of beneficiaries and providers, and ensuring appropriate adherence to data security standards.

All requests for beneficiary identifiable data must be developed and reviewed with the assistance of the Research Data Assistance Center (ResDAC), a CMS contractor that provides free assistance to anyone interested in using Medicare and/or Medicaid data for research purposes. Researchers interested in obtaining or analyzing identifiable data must email a completed data request packet, including a CMS Data Use Agreement (DUA), to ResDAC for initial review at resdac@umn.edu.

Information about requesting CMS data and the request process are posted on the ResDAC Website at <http://www.resdac.org/cms-data/request/cms-data-request-center>.

Contact ResDAC via:

- toll-free 1-888-973-7322
- e-mail resdac@umn.edu
- on the web www.resdac.org

Requestors must first contact ResDAC and complete a data request packet to access the following files:

- Research Identifiable Files
- Long Term Care Minimum Data Set (LTCMDS)
- Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS)
- Outcome and Assessment Information Set (OASIS)

Requestors can obtain the following files without contacting ResDAC, but need to submit a DUA directly to CMS:

- Limited Data Sets (LDS)
- Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) Rate Data
- State Agencies requesting:
 - (i) Outcome and Assessment Information Set (OASIS)
 - (ii) Long-Term Care Minimum Data Set (LTCMDS)
 - (iii) Eligibility Database (EDB) Customized State Files

Click Continue to proceed to purchasing instructions and to access the appropriate DUA forms.

Click "Glossary" for file descriptions.

At the bottom, there are two buttons: "Continue" (highlighted in green) and "Cancel". Below the buttons is a footer with "Quick Links: Home Search Help".

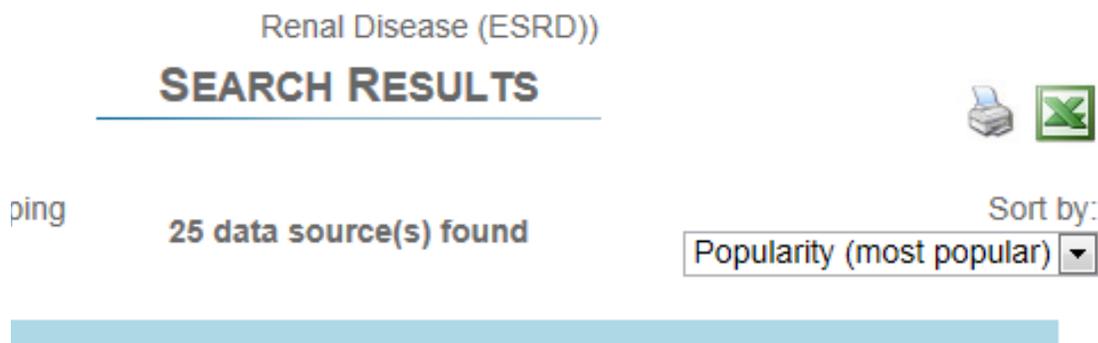
7. To print your search results, click the printer button to top-right of the results. To export and save them to Excel, click the Excel button.

Renal Disease (ESRD))

SEARCH RESULTS

ping **25 data source(s) found**

Sort by:
Popularity (most popular) ▼

The image shows a search results page for 'Renal Disease (ESRD)'. The title 'SEARCH RESULTS' is underlined. To the right of the title are two icons: a printer icon and a green square icon with a white 'X'. Below the title, the text 'ping' is followed by '25 data source(s) found'. To the right of this text is a 'Sort by:' dropdown menu currently set to 'Popularity (most popular)'. A thick blue horizontal bar is at the bottom of the search results area.

8. To download all the active data sources in our database, click the “View and download all active data sources from our database” link at the bottom of the search results.
9. To change your search, simply change your selections and click the “Search” button. To clear all of your selections and start over, click the “Clear” button.

Additional Help and Resources

If you need additional help or information, please see our Help page by clicking the Help link on the data navigator or by navigating to <http://dnav.cms.gov/Views/Help.aspx>

The Help page contains the following:

1. A link to this User Guide.
2. A link to the Glossary of all of the keywords listed on the search page.
3. A link to a Frequently Asked Questions page for the Data Navigator.
4. A link to send a question directly to a subject matter expert. For more information please see instructions below.
5. A link to send an email to the CMS Data Navigator mailbox at DataNavigator@cms.hhs.gov.

Submitting a Question to a Subject Matter Expert

If you still have questions after reviewing the material found through the Data Navigator, you can submit a question to a subject matter expert.

1. Follow the link on the help page or navigate to <https://questions.cms.gov/newrequest.php>
2. You will be navigated to the “Submit a Request” page which will first ask you to select a topic. Select the topic that is most relevant to your question. If you have a question specifically about the Data Navigator, note that it is a topic. After selecting your topic, select the “Next” button.
3. You will be presented with three options on how you want to be contacted: “New User”, “Existing User”, and “Anonymous”. (Note: If you would like to receive a response directly, you should create a user.) Once you have entered your information click “Next”.
4. Now you’ll be able to enter your question. When finished click “Submit Request”.

Accessing the Application Programming Interface (API)

For developers wishing to access the API to connect to all our data sources, you can use the links below:

<http://dnav.cms.gov/Service/DataNavService.svc/xml>

<http://dnav.cms.gov/Service/DataNavService.svc/json>