CMS MEDICARE ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD (EHR) INCENTIVE PROGRAM ELIGIBLE PROFESSIONALS PUBLIC USE FILE (PUF) GENERAL DOCUMENTATION

1.   Overview of the PUF

This release contains the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) *Medicare Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program EHR Incentive Program Eligible Professionals Public Use File (PUF).* This release contains EHR Incentive Program data on Eligible Professionals (EPs) in the Medicare EHR Incentive Program.[1] The *CMS Medicare EHR Incentive Program Eligible Professionals PUF* is an EP-level file in which each record provides the EP's responses to the meaningful use core and menu measures.[2] The PUF contains data only on EPs who attested through December 31, 2013.[3] The PUF excludes data from hospitals in the Medicare EHR Incentive Program. There is no data available for participants in the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program.

2.   Source Data for the PUF

The Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs provides incentive payments to EPs, eligible hospitals and critical access hospitals (CAHs) as they adopt, implement, upgrade or demonstrate meaningful use of certified EHR technology. The *CMS Medicare EHR Incentive Program Eligible Professionals PUF* provides detailed attestation data on EPs who met the following criteria:

  a) Registered as Medicare EPs on the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Program;

  b) Registration and Attestation System;[4]

  c) Met meaningful use criteria using certified EHR technology; and,

  d) Successfully attested, using CMS' Web-based system, that they have met Stage 1 Meaningful Use (MU) requirements using certified EHR technology.

Stage 1 MU requirements include 15 core measures (CMs) and 10 menu set measures (MMs) with specific objectives.[5] EPs must attest to all 15 CMs and to a selection of 5 of the MMs. The attestation system also includes clinical quality measures (CQMs), which are excluded from the *CMS Medicare EHR Incentive Program Eligible Professionals PUF*. Some objectives require the EP to enter a denominator and a numerator based on number of patients while some others require the EP to meet a specific goal (i.e., whether or not the objective is

---

[1] https://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/

[2] http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/30_Meaningful_Use.asp

[3] Payment status of "received payment," "locked for payment," or "payment in progress" in the program data.

[4] https://ehrincentives.cms.gov/hitech

[5] See the online tool (http://www.cms.gov/apps/ehr/) or the attestation guide (https://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/Downloads/EP_Attestation_User_Guide.pdf) for more information on the objectives and measures.

reached).[6] Finally, the EPs can be excluded from meeting an objective if they meet the requirements of the exclusion (e.g., not providing the services required by the measure).

3.   Content and Variables of the PUF

The most important aspects of the *CMS Medicare EHR Incentive Program Eligible Professionals PUF* are as follows:

- It contains information from all EPs that qualified for Medicare EHR Incentive Program incentive payments through December 31, 2013;

- Contains the following variables:

    o   NPI;

    o   The year of attestation;

    o   The number of the payment year;

    o   Attestation success date

    o   EP responses to 15 CMs and 5 selected MMs; and,

    o   EHR Certification Number.

In the *CMS EHR Incentive Program Eligible Professionals PUF*, the numerators and denominators that are provided by the EPs were used to calculate percentages. For measures with more than one exclusion criteria, the EP was assumed to be excluded if any of the exclusion criteria was selected by the EP. Refer to the Data Dictionary for more information on each of the variables.

4.   Analytic Utility of the PUF

The construction of the variables in the *CMS Medicare EHR Incentive Program Eligible Professionals PUF* is detailed in the Data Dictionary. Users interested in the source variables and their relationships to the variables in the *CMS Medicare EHR Incentive Program Eligible Professionals PUF* are encouraged to review the Data Dictionary. The PUF contains information from CMs and MMs for a total of 260,161 EPs.

Some CMs ask the EP whether or not he/she has met a specific goal. For example, the EP is required to respond by selecting "Yes" or "No" to the following question for CM 2:

"Have you enabled the functionality for drug-drug and drug-allergy interaction checks for the entire EHR reporting period?"

---

[6] See https://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms for information on how EPs qualify for incentive payments based on attestation data.

5. Support for the PUF and Further Information

Questions about the *CMS Medicare EHR Incentive Program Eligible Professionals PUF* can be submitted to the Research Data Assistance Center (ResDAC)[7] at the University of Minnesota by calling 1-888-9RESDAC or by sending an email to resdac@umn.edu.

---

[7] http://www.resdac.org/