

Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey
CY 2001 Access to Care

Public Use File Documentation

Introduction

The accompanying public use file is the tenth in a series of annual data releases relating to Medicare beneficiaries' access to care. The file consists of selected interview data from the ongoing Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS), which were collected during Round 31 (September through December of 2001) or earlier rounds for some variables, for individuals in the continuing sample. These data are augmented with Medicare claims and administrative data for calendar year (CY) 2001.

Purposes of the Survey

The MCBS is a continuous, multi-purpose panel survey of a representative sample of the Medicare population, including both aged and disabled enrollees. The study is sponsored by the Centers' for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). CMS's primary mission is administering the Medicare program and assisting the States in administering the Medicaid program. The MCBS is designed to support the agency's functions by providing data necessary for policymakers to develop needed program enhancements.

Analysis of the National Health Accounts (current and projected national and personal health care expenditures) shows that in recent years there has been some slowing in the growth in health care expenditures. The decade from 1980 to 1990 experienced an average annual rate in the growth of national health expenditures of almost 11 percent. The average annual rate over the period of 1990 to 2000 slowed to 6.4 percent. However, health care spending continues to outpace the overall economy (as measured by the gross domestic product), which grows at an average rate of about 5 percent during the same time.

In addition, the share of the nation's total health care bill funded by the Federal, State and local governments through the Medicare and the Medicaid programs rose rapidly, from almost 27 percent in 1990 to 33 percent in 2000.

These trends, along with CMS's concerns about the quality of care beneficiaries receive; support the need for the collection of a wide variety of health related data. The MCBS is designed to aid in CMS's administration, monitoring, and evaluation of the Medicare and Medicaid programs. MCBS data enables CMS to do the following: monitor the impact, especially financial, of changes in the Medicare program on the beneficiary population and on the trust funds; develop reliable and current information on the use and cost of services not covered by Medicare (such as prescription drugs and long term care); develop reliable and current information on the sources of payment for costs of covered services not reimbursed by Medicare and of noncovered services; and analyze factors which are not available from claims or other administrative records but are thought to affect use and mix of services.

The MCBS primarily focuses on economic and beneficiary issues; in particular, health care use, expenditures and factors that affect use of care and the beneficiary's ability to pay. As a part of this focus, the MCBS collects a variety of information about demographic characteristics, health status and functioning, access to care, insurance coverage, financial resources, and potential family support. The longitudinal design of the MCBS allows analysis of the effects of changes in these factors on patterns of use over time.

The Design of the MCBS

CMS conducts the MCBS through a data collection contractor.

In its initial design, the MCBS was to serve as a traditional longitudinal survey of the Medicare population. There was no predetermined limit to the duration of time a beneficiary, once selected to participate, was to remain in the sample. However, this was later determined to be impractical, and beginning in 1994, a decision was made to limit participation of MCBS beneficiaries to no more than four years.

Fieldwork for Round 1 began in September 1991 and was completed in December 1991. Subsequent rounds, involving the re-interviewing of the same sample persons or appropriate proxy respondents, begin every four months. Interviews are conducted regardless of whether the sample person resides at home or in a long term care facility, using the questionnaire version (discussed later) appropriate to the setting.

Repeated Interviews. The MCBS is a longitudinal panel survey. Sample persons are interviewed three times a year over several years to form a continuous profile of each individual's personal health care experience. The MCBS is thus uniquely capable of tracing changes in coverage and other personal circumstances, and observing processes that occur over time, such as people leaving their homes and taking up residence in long term care facilities, or spending down their assets for medical care until they become eligible for Medicaid.

Sample. Respondents for the MCBS were sampled from the Medicare enrollment file to be representative of the Medicare population as a whole and by the following age groups: under 45, 45 to 64, 65 to 69, 70 to 74, 75 to 79, 80 to 84, and 85 and over. Because of interest in their special health care needs, the oldest old (85 and over) and the disabled (64 and under) were oversampled to permit more detailed analysis of these subpopulations. The sample size was designed to yield about 12,000 completed cases annually.

The sample was drawn from 107 primary sampling units (PSUs) or major geographic areas chosen to represent the nation, including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, with a second stage of 1,163 geographic clusters initially (later expanded to 1,366 in Round 4; 1,412 in Round 7; 1,443 in Round 10; 1,448 in Round 13; 1,468 in Round 16; 1,487 in Round 19; 1,507 in Round 22; 1,519 in Round 25; 1,523 in Round 28) randomly drawn within those PSUs. For Round 31, the PSU sample was updated and reselected. Within the new sample of PSUs, 1,209 geographic clusters were selected. The sample was annually supplemented during the September through December interview periods (that is, Rounds 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, 19, 22, 25, 28, and 31) to account for attrition (deaths, disenrollments, refusals, etc.) and newly enrolled persons. These annual supplements are referred to as panels.

The beneficiaries included in the 2001 Access to Care File consist of a random cross-section of all beneficiaries who were enrolled in one or both parts of the Medicare program as of January 1, 2001 and were alive and enrolled at the time of interview during the 2001 fall round (September- December). These beneficiaries include those in four separate MCBS panels (the 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2001 panels) and were drawn through the use of a fairly complex selection algorithm.

The initial large panel of 15,411 beneficiaries was fielded in the fall of 1991. Smaller supplemental panels were added in the fall of 1992 and 1993. These supplementary panels afforded a chance of selection to beneficiaries who became entitled to either part A or Part B benefits during 1991 and 1992 in addition to

maintaining adequate sample sizes in the face of death and sample attrition. At the time that the first panel was fielded, no definite decision had been made on how many years to interview sample beneficiaries.

In 1993, a decision was made phase out the 1991, 1992 and 1993 Panels after no more than 6 years of interviews and to limit future panels to four years of interviews. This meant that the new sample to be selected for 1994 had to be designed like the 1991 Panel so that it could eventually replace it, rather than being narrowly focused as the 1992 and 1993 Panels were.

At the same time, a decision was made to increase the overall sample size in terms of interviews per year in order to allow the simultaneous interviewing of 4 panels, each starting with about 6,400 sample beneficiaries. In Round 10 (September-December 1994) we began implementation of the rotating panel process with the 1994 Panel. This group consisted of 6,390 beneficiaries, including a sample of those who became entitled during 1993 or on January 1, 1994. The following bullets describe panel composition each year thereafter.

- In Round 13 (September-December 1995) we selected our second rotating panel, consisting of 6,349 beneficiaries, including a sample of those who became entitled during 1994 or on January 1, 1995. Like the first rotating panel (Round 10), all subsequent panels are designed to be nationally representative samples of the current Medicare population.
- In Round 16 (September-December 1996) we selected our third rotating panel, consisting of 6,506 beneficiaries. Up to this point, the number of HMO enrollees included in the MCBS was small (about 1,249 in Round 13). Thus, only very large differences between HMO and FFS populations could be detected with respect to access, satisfaction, and health status. Moreover, the sample was not large enough to examine specific subgroups of the managed care population, such as the very old, the disabled, or the chronically ill. Although the number of HMO respondents would have increased due to natural increases in this group in the Medicare population, it was important to learn more about Medicare's managed care program while it was still evolving and amenable to change. As a result, an ORD/HMO special (one round only) supplement was added in Round 16, which expanded the total survey population by an additional 2,799 beneficiaries. 1,490 interviews were attempted in South California and South Florida combined. These additional interviews were distributed in such a way as to produce roughly equal numbers of completed interviews in the total sample with (a) Medicare beneficiaries in HMOs with risk contracts and (b) those enrolled in fee for service plans, in each of the two areas. In addition, 1,309 interviews were attempted with beneficiaries enrolled under risk contracts only, and were spread over the remaining primary sampling units outside South California and South Florida, using the same criteria for selection as were employed for the existing sample.
- In Round 19 (September-December 1997) the rotating panel design was fully implemented with the selection of our fourth rotating panel, consisting of 6,599 beneficiaries. Again, the ORD/HMO

special one round supplement was used to expand the total survey sample by an additional 2,536 interviews. Approximately 2,089 interviews were attempted in Arizona and Philadelphia combined.

The same methodology was used in selecting the special supplement as was employed in Round 16. Of the beneficiaries enrolled under risk contracts only -- outside of the two target areas, 447 interviews were conducted.

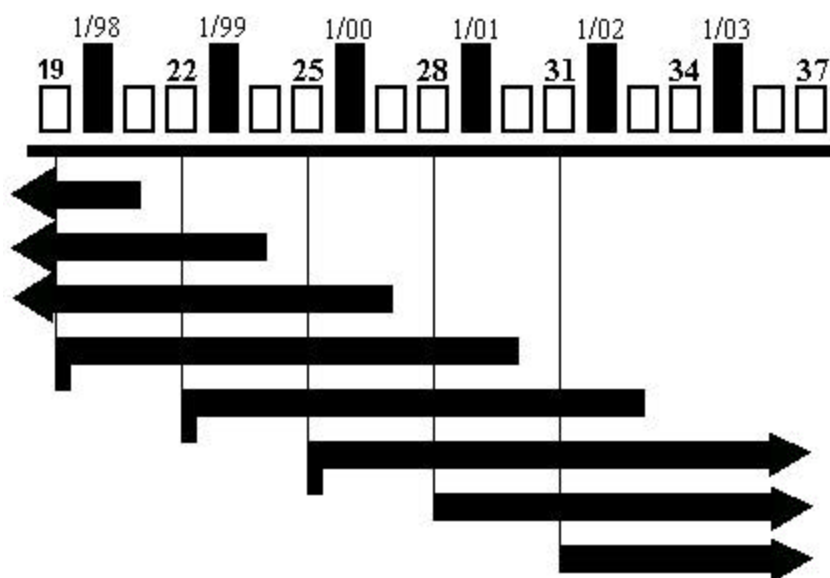
- In Round 22 (September-December 1998) the fifth rotating panel was selected, consisting of 6,450 beneficiaries. Again, the ORD/HMO special one round supplement was used to expand the total survey sample by an additional 5,162 interviews. Approximately 3,909 interviews were attempted in Denver, Minneapolis, and South Florida combined. The same methodology was used in selecting the special supplement as was employed in Round 19. Of the beneficiaries enrolled under risk contracts only -- outside of the three target areas, 1,253 interviews were attempted.
- In Round 25 (September-December 1999) the sixth rotating panel was selected, consisting of 6,399 beneficiaries. Again, the HMO special one round supplement was used to expand the total survey population by an additional 1,000 interviews. In contrast to past HMO supplements, there were no target area studies conducted. The sample draw was spread across the Country to increase the statistical reliability of this sub-population. The same methodology was used in selecting the special supplement, of beneficiaries enrolled under risk contracts, as was employed in past rounds.
- In Round 28 (September-December 2000) the seventh rotating panel was selected, consisting of 6,376 beneficiaries. This was the last panel to be selected from the original MCBS PSUs.
- In Round 31 (September-December 2001) the eighth rotating panel was selected, consisting of 6,302 beneficiaries. This panel was the first to be selected from the new (update) sample of PSUs.

A rotating panel will be followed for 12 interviews. There are four panels active at any one time, and each panel has approximately 3,000 to 5,000 active sample persons depending on when the panel was originally selected. New panels that are selected in the spring of each year and introduced in the fall round will replace the oldest panel, retired in the summer following sample selection.

Because of the overlap between the new panel and the retiring panel, the number of interviews we conduct in the September--December (Fall) round increases from 12,000 to 16,000. Figure I.1, while not drawn to scale, gives a visual display of the overlap that occurs during the simultaneous fielding of four panels in the fall round, and the special one round supplement.

The retiring panel (about 4,000 individuals) has abbreviated questionnaires administered beginning in the January to April round and, if necessary, May to August (summer) round to complete the collection of medical events occurring in the previous calendar year. These sample persons were then rotated out of the study. These individuals participated a maximum of four years (that is, a baseline interview, three complete years of utilization and expenditure data, and up to two interviews to "close out" events due to late arriving paperwork).

Each Fall round, under the rotating panel design, a new panel will be introduced and each Summer round a panel will be retired. Thus, for example, the new panel that was introduced in Round 28 will replace approximately 4,000 of the ongoing sample by Round 30. This rotating panel sample design allows for both the eventual termination of participation in the study for individuals and for the completion of about 12,000 interviews for an ongoing study population.

Figure I.1: Rotating Panel Overlap and Special One Round Supplement

As noted earlier, Figure I.1 shows the overlap that occurs during the simultaneous fielding of four panels in the fall round. It also shows the inclusion of a special-purpose one-time (that is, from the participant's viewpoint) supplemental sample that was added to the regular MCBS sample for the Round 28 interview period only. This supplement, consisting of 3,693 sample persons, yielded 1,886 completed Round 28 cases to increase the precision of the dual eligible population in the Boston area. The analyses of additional respondents will permit statistically valid representation of this geographically restricted sub-population. However, since the special sample is so restrictive, it is not included in the Access to Care Data files.

Table I.1 shows the number of Round 31 respondents by oldest age attained in 2001. Differential sampling rates were used to obtain such large samples of the disabled and the oldest old.

Complex Sample Design. In order to minimize survey costs while maximizing the precision of statistics, the sample was concentrated in up to 1500 ZIP code clusters within 107 Metropolitan Statistical Areas and clusters of non-metropolitan counties. Although this clustering increases the sample size that can be afforded for a given budget, the precision is not as good as would be expected from a simple random sample of the same size (were such a sampling procedure feasible).

The use of differential sampling rates also has the effect of degrading precision compared to a simple random sample of the same size. Standard statistical packages, such as SAS, SPSS, S, and BMDP are not designed to control for clustering and differential sampling rates and can give seriously incorrect standard

errors, confidence intervals and p-values. Two packages that will give correct estimates of precision and significance are WesVar and SUDAAN⁷. See Section 5 for information on how to use these packages.

Table I.1 Number of completes at Round 31 by age category

Oldest age attained in 2001	Number of completes at Round 31
Total	16,461
Under 45	1,298
45 to 64	1,440
65 to 69	2,649
70 to 74	3,037
75 to 79	2,852
80 to 84	2,699
85 and older	2,486

Table I.2 Cumulative Response Rates for Each Panel Through Ten Rounds of Data Collection

Cumulative Response Rates for Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey by Round

	1995 Panel Response Rate (n=6,349)	1996 Panel Response Rate (n=6,506)	1997 Panel Response Rate (n=6,599)	1998 Panel Response Rate (n=6,450)	1999 Panel Response Rate (n=6,085)	2000 Panel Response Rate (n=6,376)	2001 Panel Response Rate (n=6,302)
Round 22	68.7%	71.9%	75.3%	83.3%			
Round 23	68.2%	71.1%	73.9%	78.7%			
Round 24	68.2%	70.0%	72.7%	76.0%			
Round 25		69.4%	71.7%	73.9%	84.8%		
Round 26		68.9%	70.5%	72.3%	80.0%		
Round 27		68.7%	69.6%	70.9%	77.1%		
Round 28			69.0%	69.9%	75.2%	84.3%	
Round 29			68.5%	69.0%	73.6%	79.4%	
Round 30			68.2%	67.9%	72.4%	76.9%	
Round 31				67.1%	71.2%	74.8%	84.8%

Non-response Bias Knowing that cumulative attrition can become very serious in a panel survey, a concerted effort is constantly made to keep response rates high at each round. After conducting 10 rounds of interviewing, approximately 67 percent of the survivors in the 1998 Panel were still responding. (The

other 33 percent dropped out of the survey after providing anywhere from 0 to 9 interviews.) See Table I.2 for a complete breakdown of cumulative response rates by panel for Rounds 22 through 31.

Although average cumulative nonresponse rates in this range are nontrivial; steps have been and continue to be taken to reduce the risk of nonresponse bias. First, at each round, data from administrative records and from prior rounds are used to contrast new nonrespondents with the continuing sample. Where systematic differences are noted, the survey sampling weights are adjusted to remove the bias. For this reason, it is critical that the survey sampling weights be used in all analyses. (This variable is called CS1YRWGT on the RIC X record format.)

Longitudinal Analyses. In addition to cross-sectional analyses of the Medicare population as of the fall of 2001, this PUF may be linked to PUFs from preceding years to enable longitudinal analyses. Special survey sampling weights are provided for the analysis of different time periods. Table I.3 shows the different possible periods that may be analyzed after linkage along with the panels involved, sample sizes, and the appropriate weight. (It should be noted that the longitudinal files are not appropriate for doing certain types of analyses, such as mortality, disenrollment or characteristics of nonrespondents. If an analyst is interested specifically in analyzing such topics using the MCBS, they will need additional data.)

Table I.3 Possible longitudinal analyses using CY 2001 Access to Care

Period	Targeted last possible "accretion" (that is, new entitlement) date	Earliest possible loss of entitlement	Rounds Interviewed	Sample Size	Weight
Fall 1998 to fall 2001	1/1/1998	Fall 2001	R22, R25, R28, R31	3,391	L4YRSWGT
Fall 1999 to fall 2001	1/1/1999	Fall 2001	R25, R28, R31	7,185	L3YRSWGT
Fall 2000 to fall 2001	1/1/2000	Fall 2001	R28, R31	11,399	L2YRSWGT

The Community Interview. Sample persons in the community (or appropriate proxy respondents) are interviewed using computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) survey instruments installed on notebook-size portable computers. The CAPI program automatically guides the interviewer through the questions, records the answers, and compares them to edit specifications, thereby increasing the output of timely, clear, and high quality data. CAPI guides the interviewer through complex skip patterns and inserts follow-up questions where certain data were missing from the previous round's interview. When the

interview is completed, CAPI allows the interviewer to transmit the data by telephone to the home office computer.

These interviews yield a series of complementary data over time for each sample person on utilization of health services, medical care expenditures, health insurance coverage, sources of payment (public and private, including out-of-pocket payments), health status and functioning, and a variety of demographic and behavioral information (such as income, assets, living arrangements, family supports, and quality of life). Additionally, an access to care supplement is asked once a year in the September--December round.

An effort is made to interview the sampled person directly, but in case this person is unable to answer the questions, he or she is asked to designate a proxy respondent, usually a family member or close acquaintance. In Round 31, approximately 12 percent of the community interviews were done with proxies.

The Facility Interview. The MCBS conducts interviews for persons in long-term care facilities using a similar, but shortened instrument. A long-term care facility is defined as having three or more beds and providing long-term care services throughout the facility or in a separately identifiable unit. Types of facilities currently participating in the survey include nursing homes, retirement homes, domiciliary or personal care facilities, distinct long-term units in a hospital complex, mental health facilities and centers, assisted and foster care homes, and institutions for the mentally retarded and developmentally disabled.

If an institutionalized person returns to the community, a community interview is conducted. If he or she spent part of the reference period in the community and part in an institution, a separate interview is conducted for each period of time. Because of this, a beneficiary can be followed in and out of facilities, and a continuous record is maintained regardless of the location of the respondent.

The initial contact for the institutional interview is always with the facility administrator. Interviews are then conducted with the staff designated by the director as the most appropriate to answer each section of the questionnaire. It was decided early in the design of the study not to attempt interviews with the sample person or family members. The facility interview does not include attitudinal or other subjective items. The facility instruments include:

- (1) The Facility Screener - This instrument gathers information on the facility to determine the facility type. It is asked during the initial interview;
- (2) The Baseline Questionnaire - Gathers information on the health status, insurance coverage, residence history, and demographic items on supplemental sample beneficiaries in a facility setting and new admissions from the continuing sample. Selected information from this questionnaire is

updated annually for continuing sample persons using an abbreviated version, The Facility Component Supplement to the Core Questionnaire; and

(3) The Facility Core Questionnaire - Collects information on facility utilization, charge and payment information. This questionnaire is asked in every round but the initial one.

Data Linkage. MCBS interview data have been augmented with selected individual person-level administrative data (for example, buy-in status for Medicaid and Medicare capitation payments for managed care plan membership) and fee-for-service claims for Medicare-covered services. The addition of these data greatly enhances the analytic power of the survey-reported data alone. This results in a database which combines data that can only be obtained from personal interviews (survey data) with Medicare administrative data and Medicare claims data. All personal identifying information is removed to ensure confidentiality.

Design of the Access to Care Data File

The Access to Care data file is designed to provide early release of MCBS data related to Medicare beneficiaries' access to care. Rapid release of access data is achieved by omitting survey reported utilization and expenditure data. The claims information, while limited to program payments for covered services, third party payments for some Medicare secondary payer situations, and potential beneficiary liability, allows significant analysis of the impact of program changes on the beneficiary. This process eliminates the need for imputation of missing cost and payment variables and bypasses the reconciliation of the utilization and expenditure data collected in the survey with Medicare claims data.

The content of the Access to Care data file is governed by its central focus. In addition to questions from the access supplement concerning access to care, satisfaction with care and usual source of care, the file contains demographic and health insurance data and data on health status and functioning. To facilitate analysis, the information collected in the survey is augmented with data on the use and program cost of Medicare services from Medicare claims data.

Contents of this Documentation

The rest of this manual contains detailed information about this public use file and specific background information intended to make the data more understandable. The sections are described below.

Section 1: Technical description of the public use file specifications and the structure of the public use file. It also provides a brief description and count of each of the record types in this file.

Section 2: Codebook of the file variables. This codebook is organized by record type and contains the question number (for data collected in the survey), and variable name, description and location in the record. Codes or possible values and value labels are also supplied. Frequencies for most variables (those with fewer than 120 distinct values) are also included in the codebook, as are notes concerning when variables are inapplicable (that is, questions were not asked due to skip patterns in the CAPI program). An index of variables is also included at the end of the codebook.

Variables in the CMS bill records are documented slightly differently. Record layouts are provided and are cross-walked to CMS data dictionary names. The data dictionary supplies a full explanation of all the variables and their various values.

Section 3: Notes on how individual variables were collected.

Section 4: Hard copy versions of the questionnaires used in Round 31. The questionnaires have been annotated with variable names to associate the questions with the codebook.

Section 5: A general description of the MCBS sample design, estimation procedures and projections. A brief discussion of response rates is also included. This section concludes with a comparison of the MCBS projections to CMS control figures.

References

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Office of the Actuary, published 2000 data from the National Health Accounts.

Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey CY 2001 Access to Care

Public Use File Structure

File specifications

The MCBS 2001 Access to Care file consists of a series of 54 separate datasets or files. Twenty-seven of these datasets contain data on the MCBS sample persons; these files are the data files. The other 27 datasets contain SAS7 code (SAS input statements, labels and format statements) to facilitate the use of the data files by users who use SAS. The one remaining file contains SAS code used to produce a format library for all of the data.

CMS releases the data for use with either the mainframe or personal computer setting. Figure 1.1 shows file specifications such as file names, record counts and the associated README file names.

Summary of the Data

The 27 data files represent completed Round 31 interviews with a sample of 16,461 Medicare beneficiaries, and supplemental information from the CMS Medicare files. Of these cases, 15,246 beneficiaries had community interviews and 1,215 beneficiaries had facility interviews.

Using the Data

All datasets are standard "flat" files to allow for processing with a wide variety of operating systems and programming languages. The datasets can be divided into two subject matter groups; files related to MCBS survey data with related Medicare administrative variables and files related to Medicare bill data.

There are 20 data files containing survey data and related summary administrative variables. For each of these files there is a "README" file which includes a SAS INPUT statement, a PROC FORMAT to interpret the coded fields, LABELs which provide more information about the variable than would be possible in an 8-character name, and a FORMAT statement which associates the code interpretations with the appropriate variables.

Figure 1.1: File organization	
File name	Records
MCBS.readme.rick	
MCBS.readme.rica	
MCBS.readme.ric1	
MCBS.readme.ric2	
MCBS.readme.ric2f	
MCBS.readme.ric2h	
MCBS.readme.ric2p	
MCBS.readme.ric3	
MCBS.readme.ric4	
MCBS.readme.ric5	
MCBS.readme.ric6	
MCBS.readme.ric7	
MCBS.readme.ric8	
MCBS.readme.rich	
MCBS.readme.rickn	
MCBS.readme.ricpa	
MCBS.readme.ricx	
MCBS.readme.ricx4	
MCBS.readme.ricx3	
MCBS.readme.ricx2	
MCBS.rick	16,461
MCBS.rica	16,461
MCBS.ric1	16,461
MCBS.ric2	15,246
MCBS.ric2f	1,215
MCBS.ric2h	10,826
MCBS.ric2p	15,246
MCBS.ric3	15,246
MCBS.ric4	16,461
MCBS.ric5	15,246
MCBS.ric6	1,215
MCBS.ric7	1,215
MCBS.ric8	16,461
MCBS.rich	2,330
MCBS.rickn	14,381
MCBS.ricpa	12,129
MCBS.ricx	16,461
MCBS.ricx4	16,461
MCBS.ricx3	16,461
MCBS.ricx2	16,461
access01.readme.inp	
access01.readme.snf	
access01.readme.hospice	
access01.readme.hha	
access01.readme.outpat	
access01.readme.partb	
access01.readme.dme	
access01.billrec.inp	5,033
access01.billrec.snf	1,343
access01.billrec.hsp	607
access01.billrec.hha	1,601
access01.billrec.otp	52,940
access01.billrec.phy	519,560
access01.billrec.dme	39,394

As an illustration of the structure of the README files, Figure 1.2 is a copy of the README file for the Survey Enumeration record, RIC5.

Figure 1.2: Text of a Typical README file
(MCBS.README.RIC5 Illustrated)

```

INPUT  @1      RIC      $1.
        @2      FILEYR   $2.
        @4      BASEID   $8.
        @12     D_HHTOT   2.
        @14     D_HHREL   2.
        @16     D_HHUNRL  2.
        @18     D_HHCOMP  2.
        @20     D_HHLT50  2.
        @22     D_HHGE50  2.;

PROC FORMAT;
VALUE HHCDFMT . = 'INAPPLICABLE'
              -8 = 'DONT KNOW'
               1 = 'NO ONE'
               2 = 'SPOUSE ONLY'
               3 = 'SPOUSE & OTHERS'
               4 = 'CHILDREN ONLY'
               5 = 'CHILDREN & OTHERS'
               6 = 'OTHERS ONLY'
               7 = 'NON RELATIVE';

VALUE PEOPLE  0 = 'NO ONE'
              1 = 'ONE PERSON'
              2 = 'TWO PEOPLE'
              .
              .
              .
             22 = 'TWENTY TWO PEOPLE';

VALUE $FIYRFMT . = 'MISSING'
              '98' = 'FILEYR' ;

VALUE $RICFMT . = 'MISSING'
              '5' = 'RIC' ;

VALUE $BASEID . = 'MISSING'
              '00000000' - '99999999' = 'RECORD IDENTIFICATION #' ;

COMMENT USE THIS TO SET LABELS ON THIS FILE;

LABEL
      RIC      = 'RIC CODE FOR SURVEY ENUMERATION CODE'
      FILEYR   = 'YY REFERENCE YEAR OF RECORD'
      BASEID   = 'UNIQUE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER'
      D_HHTOT  = 'TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN HH'
      D_HHREL  = 'NO. IN HH RELATED TO SP (INCLUDING SP)'
      D_HHUNRL = 'TOTAL NO. PEOPLE IN HH UNRELATED TO SP'
      D_HHCOMP = 'HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION CODE'
      D_HHLT50 = 'NUMBER IN HH UNDER 50 (MAY INCLUDE SP)'
      D_HHGE50 = 'NO. IN HH 50 AND OVER (MAY INCLUDE SP)';

FORMAT  RIC      $RICFMT.
        FILEYR   $FIYRFMT.
        BASEID   $BASEID.
        D_HHTOT  PEOPLE.
        D_HHREL  PEOPLE.
        D_HHUNRL PEOPLE.
        D_HHCOMP HHCDFMT.
        D_HHLT50 PEOPLE.
        D_HHGE50 PEOPLE.;

```

Structure of the MCBS public use file(s)

As mentioned above, the data files can be divided into two subject matter groups: files containing survey data with related Medicare administrative variables and files containing Medicare bill data.

There are 20 data files in the survey and administrative summary data group:

- Key
- Administrative Identification
- Survey Identification
- Survey Health Status and Functioning (Community only)
- Survey Health Status and Functioning (Facility only)
- Survey Health Status and Functioning (Helper)
- Survey Health Status and Functioning (Prevention)
- Survey Access to Care
- Survey Health Insurance
- Survey Enumeration
- Survey Facility Residence History
- Survey Facility Identification
- Survey Interview
- Survey HMO Supplement
- Survey KN Supplement (Beneficiary Knowledge and Information Needs)
- Survey PA Supplement (Patient Activation)
- Survey Cross-Sectional Weights
- Survey Longitudinal Weights (for individuals from the Round 22 Panel who completed Round 22, Round 25, Round 28, and Round 31 interviews)
- Survey Longitudinal Weights (for individuals from the Round 22 or Round 25 panel who completed Round 25 Round 28, and Round 31 interviews)
- Survey Longitudinal Weights (for individuals from the Round 22, Round 25, or Round 28 panel who completed Round 28 and Round 31 interviews)

There are seven types of Medicare bill records in the detailed utilization portion of the file:

- Inpatient hospital
- Skilled nursing facility
- Hospice
- Home health
- Outpatient
- Physician/supplier (Part B)
- Durable medical equipment

The bill records represent services provided during calendar year 2001 and processed by the CMS in conjunction with our administrative functions. To facilitate analysis, the Administrative Identification record contains a summary of the utilization that these bills present in detail.

All MCBS public use records begin with the same three variables: a record identification code (RIC), the version of the RIC (VERSION) and a unique number that identifies the person who was sampled (BASEID). These elements serve to identify the type of record and to provide a link to other types of records. To obtain complete survey information for an individual, an analyst must link together records for that individual from the various data files using the variable BASEID. In Round 31, none of the sample people has a record on every data file. The above Figure 1.3 provides an overview of the presence of data records on the various data files for community and facility respondents.

The tables that follow Figure 1.3 describe all of the types of records in this release. Table 1.A describes the survey and administrative records; Table 1.B describes the bill records.

Section 1: File Structure

Figure 1.3 The number of records present on each of the data files for community and facility sample respondents

Data files	Community respondents	Facility respondents
RIC K – Key record	1 per respondent	1 per respondent
RIC A – Administrative Identification	1 per respondent	1 per respondent
RIC 1 – Survey Identification	1 per respondent	1 per respondent
RIC 2 – Health Status and Functioning (community)	1 per respondent	none
RIC 2f – Health Status and Functioning (facility)	none	1 per respondent
RIC 2h – Health Status and Functioning (helper)	1, several, or none per respondent	none
RIC 2p – Health Status and Functioning (prevention)	1 per respondent	none
RIC 3 – Access to Care	1 per respondent	none
RIC 4 – Health Insurance	1 per respondent	1 per respondent
RIC 5 – Enumeration	1 per respondent	none
RIC 6 – Facility Residence History	none	1 per respondent
RIC 7 – Facility Identification	none	1 per respondent
RIC 8 – Interview	1 per respondent	1 per respondent
RIC H – HMO Supplement	1 per respondent	1 per respondent
RIC KN – Beneficiary Knowledge & Information Needs Supplement	1 per respondent	none
RIC PA – Patient Activation Supplement	1 per respondent	none
RIC X – Cross-sectional Weights	1 per respondent	1 per respondent
RIC X4 – R22/25/28/31 Longitudinal Weights	1 per respondent	1 per respondent
RIC X3 – R25/28/31 Longitudinal Weights	1 per respondent	1 per respondent
RIC X2 – R28/31 Longitudinal Weights	1 per respondent	1 per respondent
Hospital bills *	1, several, or none per respondent	
Skilled nursing facility bills *	1, several, or none per respondent	
Hospice bills *	1, several, or none per respondent	
Home health bills *	1, several, or none per respondent	
Outpatient bills *	1, several, or none per respondent	
Physician/supplier bills *	1, several, or none per respondent	
Durable medical equipment bills *	1, several, or none per respondent	

* *These bills are summarized in the Administrative Identification record (RIC A), but are provided for more detailed analysis. If the sample person used Medicare benefits, there will be one or many bills, of one or many types, depending on what types of services were used. If the sample person used no Medicare benefits of a certain type, there will be no bills of that type. If the sample person used no Medicare benefits at all, there will be no bills. The RIC A summary provides information about how many services of each type will be found in the bill record files.*

Table 1.A – File OverviewsSurvey and Administrative Summary Data Files

File: KEY

RIC: K

Number of Records: 16,461 - 1 for each person who completed an interview

Description: The BASEID key identifies the person interviewed. It is an 8-digit element, consisting of a unique, randomly assigned 7-digit number concatenated with a single-digit checkdigit.

In addition to the BASEID, the KEY file contains the type of interview conducted and other variables for classifying the beneficiary.

File: ADMINISTRATIVE IDENTIFICATION

RIC: A

Number of records: 16,461 - 1 for each person who completed an interview

Description: The Administrative Identification file contains information about the sample person from administrative records maintained by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. It contains basic demographic information (date of birth, sex), insurance information (Medicare entitlement, Medicaid eligibility, HMO enrollment), and summarizes the sample person's Medicare utilization for 2001.

File: SURVEY IDENTIFICATION

RIC: 1

Number of records: 16,461 - 1 for each person who completed an interview

Description: The Survey Identification file contains demographic information collected in the survey. To some extent, it parallels the demographic information provided in the Administrative Identification file (date of birth and sex, for example). Demographic information that is not available in the CMS records, such as education, income and military service, are also present.

Table 1.A – File Overviews**Survey and Administrative Summary Data Files**

File: SURVEY HEALTH STATUS AND FUNCTIONING

RIC: 2 and 2F

Number of Records: 15,246 and 1,215 respectively - 1 for each person who completed an interview

Description: The Survey Health Status And Functioning file contains information about the sample person's health, including: self-reported height and weight, a self-assessment of vision and hearing, use of preventive measures such as immunizations and mammograms, avoidable risk factors such as smoking, and a history of medical conditions. Standard measures - activities of daily living (ADLs) and instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs) - also appear in this file.

NOTE: Part of the process of converting the facility instrument from a “paper and pencil” format to a Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) format in 1997 was to adapt applicable questions from the facility instrument to the Resident Assessment Instrument (RAI) format. As a result of the format changes and question adaptations to the facility instrument, the RIC 2 was divided into two separate RICs (RIC 2 and RIC 2F). Those beneficiaries residing in the community have been recorded in the RIC 2. Beneficiaries residing in the facility environment have been recorded in the RIC 2F. Further discussion on the RAI and CAPI conversion and its impact on the RIC 2 can be found in Section 3: Notes on Using the Data.

RIC: 2H

Number of Records: 10,826

Description: The Survey Health Status And Functioning (Helper) file contains information about those persons responsible for assisting respondents in performing their activities of daily living (ADLs) and/or instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs). The number of helpers, the helper's relationship to the respondent, and the types of ADLs and IADLs the helper assists the respondent in performing are contained in this file.

NOTE: The number of records reflects the number of persons identified as assisting the survey respondent in performing various ADLs and IADLs. Therefore, it is possible to have one, several, or no records per respondent.

Table 1.A – File Overviews

Survey and Administrative Summary Data Files

RIC: 2P

Number of Records: 15,246

Description: The Survey Health Status And Functioning (Prevention) file contains information about screening, diagnosis, treatment, and attitudes toward such common preventative health services as mammogram, papsmear, prostate, diabetes, colon cancer, and osteoporosis.

File: SURVEY ACCESS TO CARE

RIC: 3

Number of Records: 15,246 - 1 for each community person who completed an interview

Description: The Access To Care file contains information from the Access to Care and Satisfaction with Care sections of the questionnaire. Sample people were asked general questions about their use of all types of medical services in 2001 and about their usual source of medical care. This file also contains the sample people's assessment of the quality of the medical care that they are receiving.

File: SURVEY HEALTH INSURANCE

RIC: 4

Number of Records: 16,461 - 1 for each person who completed an interview

Description: The Survey Health Insurance file summarizes current health insurance information provided by the sample people.

NOTE: To limit the size of the RIC 4 record, only 5 private health insurance policies are detailed. For individuals in the sample that had more than 5 private health insurance policies, the total in the summary indicator is correct, but the number of plans detailed is less than the total. After a comparison of two MCBS files revealed a deviation in the number of health insurance policies held by the survey population, the editing procedures in the Access to Care RIC 4 were changed to include only those health insurance plans that the survey participant is currently enrolled with.

Table 1.A – File Overviews**Survey and Administrative Summary Data Files**

File: SURVEY ENUMERATION

RIC: 5

Number of Records: 15,246 - 1 for each person who completed a community interview

Description: The Enumeration file contains information about the sample person's household. It reflects the size of the household, and the age and relationship of the people in it.

File: SURVEY FACILITY RESIDENCE HISTORY

RIC: 6

Number of Records: 1,215 - 1 for each person who completed a facility interview

Description: The Facility Residence History file summarizes the sample person's stay(s) in the facility, providing information about the admission and some limited information about the sample person's living arrangement prior to admission.

NOTE: In converting the MCBS Facility questionnaire to CAPI, full advantage was taken of the work done by the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research in its development of the CAPI protocol for the National Nursing Home Expenditure Survey (NNHES). The NNHES closely resembles the MCBS facility questionnaire in design and content. Adaptation was done carefully to insure both the continuity of the MCBS data and their comparability with NNHES. Consequently, both the RIC 6 and RIC 7 were modified. A more complete discussion of these modifications can be found in Section 3: Notes on Using the Data.

Table 1.A – File Overviews**Survey and Administrative Summary Data Files**

File: SURVEY FACILITY IDENTIFICATION

RIC: 7

Number of Records: 1,215 - 1 for each sample person interviewed in a facility

Description: The Facility Identification file provides general characteristics of the institutions, most of the information from the facility screener. In several cases, more than one sample person resided in the same facility. In these cases the RIC 7 records are redundant (containing all of the same information), and differ only in the BASEID.

File: SURVEY INTERVIEW

RIC: 8

Number of Records: 16,461 - 1 for each person who completed an interview

Description: The Survey Interview file summarizes the characteristics of the interview, including type of questionnaire, duration, and whether or not the interview was conducted with a proxy respondent.

File: SURVEY HMO SUPPLEMENT

RIC: H

Number of Records: 2,330 - 1 for each sample person

Description: The HMO Supplement file augments information from the Access to Care and Satisfaction with Care sections of the questionnaire. Sample people who were currently enrolled in a State licensed HMO at the time of the interview were asked general questions about their health plans, to include access to and satisfaction with medical services in 2001. This file also contains the sample people's assessment of the quality of the medical care that they are receiving, types of additional coverage offered, and any out of pocket costs associated with the health plan.

Table 1.A – File Overviews

Survey and Administrative Summary Data Files

File: SURVEY KN SUPPLEMENT (Beneficiary Knowledge and Information Needs)

RIC: KN

Number of Records: 14,381 - 1 for each sample person

Description: This supplement combines new questions with some questions previously asked in the BK and BN supplements. Some of the original questions resulted from the need to measure beneficiaries' knowledge about new options to the Medicare program in response to the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. The data collected in this supplement will allow an evaluation of the impact of existing education initiatives by CMS. The KN section will also help to refine future CMS education initiatives by asking about information that beneficiaries may need, preferred sources for this information, and beneficiaries' access to insurance information. This data also presents the knowledge beneficiaries have gained from CMS publications.

NOTE: The KN Supplement was conducted in the January through April 2002 interview period. As a result, there is a discrepancy in the number of records. This record count variance is attributed to the retiring of a panel and natural attrition.

File: SURVEY PA SUPPLEMENT (Patient Activation)

RIC: PA

Number of Records: 12,129 - 1 for each sample person

Description: This supplement is designed to assess the degree to which Medicare beneficiaries actively participate in their own health care and the decisions concerning that health care; measuring not only if beneficiaries receive information about their health and Medicare, but also if they understand it in a way that makes it useful. For example, SPs are asked about the level and quality of communication with his or her doctor, whether or not the SP reads health-related materials, and attitudes and preferences concerning the doctor/patient relationship.

NOTE: The PA Supplement was conducted in the May through August 2002 interview period. As a result, there is a discrepancy in the number of records. This record count variance is attributed to the retiring of a panel and natural attrition. This section is asked of all SPs who are alive and not institutionalized, including exit sample cases. This section is not asked if the SP is a proxy.

Table 1.A – File Overviews**Survey and Administrative Summary Data Files**

File: SURVEY CROSS-SECTIONAL WEIGHTS

RIC: X

Number of Records: 16,461 - 1 for each sample person

Description: The Cross-Sectional Weights file provides cross-sectional weights, including general-purpose weights and a series of replicate weights.

File: SURVEY R22/25/28/31 LONGITUDINAL WEIGHTS

RIC: X4

Number of Records: 16,461 - 1 non-zero weight for each individual from the 22 sample who completed Round 22, Round 25, Round 28, and Round 31 interviews (3,391); missing value (".") for all others (13,070).

Description: The Longitudinal Weights file provides longitudinal weights, including general-purpose weights and a series of replicate weights.

File: SURVEY R25/28/31 LONGITUDINAL WEIGHTS

RIC: X3

Number of Records: 16,461 - 1 non-zero weight for each individual from the Round 22 or Round 25 samples who completed Round 25, Round 28, and Round 31 interviews (7,185); missing value (".") for all others (9,276).

Description: The Longitudinal Weights file provides longitudinal weights, including general-purpose weights and a series of replicate weights.

Table 1.A – File Overviews**Survey and Administrative Summary Data Files**

File: SURVEY R28/31 LONGITUDINAL WEIGHTS

RIC: X2

Number of Records: 16,461 - 1 non-zero weight for each individual from the Round 22, Round 25, or Round 28 samples who completed Round 28 and Round 31 interviews (11,399); missing value (".") for all others (5,062).

Description: The Longitudinal Weights file provides longitudinal weights, including general-purpose weights and a series of replicate weights.

Table 1.B – File Overviews
Medicare Utilization Summary Files

File: HOSPITAL BILL

RIC: INP

Number of Records: 5,033

Description: Inpatient hospital bills for the MCBS population. These include bills from short stay general hospitals, and long-term hospitals such as psychiatric and TB hospitals. Different provider types are distinguishable. Generally, there is one bill for each stay. Some hospitals, particularly the long-term facilities, may bill on a cyclical basis and several bills may constitute a single hospitalization.

File: SKILLED NURSING FACILITY BILL

RIC: SNF

Number of Records: 1,343

Description: Skilled-nursing facility bills for the MCBS population. These include Christian Science facilities and other skilled nursing facilities. Different provider types are distinguishable. Generally, several bills constitute a period of institutionalization.

File: HOSPICE BILL

RIC: HSP

Number of Records: 607

Description: Hospice bills for the MCBS population. Billing practices vary by provider in that some hospices bill on a cycle (e.g. monthly) so that several bills constitute a period of hospice care; others submit a series of "final" bills.

Table 1.B – File Overviews
Medicare Utilization Summary Files

File: HOME HEALTH BILL

RIC: HHA

Number of Records: 1,601

Description: Home health bills for the MCBS population. Home health agencies generally bill on a cycle, e.g., monthly.

File: OUTPATIENT BILL

RIC: OTP

Number of Records: 52,940

Description: Outpatient hospital bills for the MCBS population. These bills are generally for Part B services that are delivered through the outpatient department of a hospital (traditionally, a Part A provider).

File: PHYSICIAN/SUPPLIER BILL

RIC: PHY

Number of Records: 519,560

Description: Medicare Part B (physician, other practitioners, and suppliers other than DME-- see RIC M below for DME) claims for the MCBS population. These records reflect services such as doctor visits, laboratory tests, X-rays and other types of radiological tests, surgeries, and inoculations.

File: DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT BILL

RIC: DME

Number of Records: 39,394

Description: Medicare DME Part B claims for the MCBS population. These records reflect claims for DME rentals and purchases.

Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey CY 2001 Access to Care

Codebook

This public use release consists of two parts: 1) a summary segment, which contains all of the survey information and summary data from CMS's administrative and claims files, and 2) a bill segment, which contains itemized bill records from CMS's National Claims History (NCH) database.

The first part of this section includes frequency tables for all of the variables in the summary segment. The second part of this section documents the variables (without frequencies) in the bill detail records.

SUMMARY SEGMENT

Using the tables

The following tables list the variables in each of the records, give their physical location in the record, list their possible values and relate them to the questionnaires or to source CMS files.

The first part of the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey public use file (that is, the survey and CMS summary data) is made up of 20 different types of records. The name of the record type being described is identified by name on the second line. The RIC or record identification code with the record type being described is shown on the third line on the right of the page under the page number. This will enable more rapid access to particular parts of the codebook.

Variable - This column contains the variable names that we have associated with the SAS version of our data files. Since SAS limits variable names to 8 characters, these names are not always immediately meaningful. You can change them to more informative names, but the names in the tables were used to annotate the copies of the questionnaires.

Certain conventions apply to the SAS variable names. All variables that are preceded by the characters "D_", such as D_SMPTYP are derived variables. The variables did not come directly from the survey data, but compiled from several survey variables. Variables preceded by the characters "H_" come from CMS source files.

Col (Column) - This column locates the variable physically in the record.

Len (Length) - This column describes the length of the field of the variable.

Fmt (Format) Name - This column identifies the format name associated with the variable in the SAS README file for this variable's RIC.

Frequency - This column shows unweighted frequency counts of values or recodes for each variable.

Ques # - The column headed "Ques #" contains a reference to the questionnaire for direct variables, or to the source of derived variables. For example, the "Ques #" entry that accompanies the variable ERVISIT in the Access to Care record is "AC1." The first question in the Access to Care portion of the community questionnaire is the one referenced.

Table 2.1 lists the abbreviations that may appear in this column when a section of the questionnaire is referenced.

This column will be blank for variables that relate to neither the questionnaire or to CMS source files. These variables, such as the record identification code (variable name is RIC), are usually ones that we created to manage the data and the file.

Ty (Type) - This column identifies the type of variable, that is, numeric (N) or character (C).

Label (Variable label and codes) - In the first line under this column, you will find an explanation of the variable, which describes it more explicitly than would be possible in only 8 letters. These labels are available in README files, if you wish to use them in creating SAS data sets.

For coded variables all of the possible values of the variable appear in lines beneath that explanation. Associated with each possible value (in the column labeled "Frequency") is a count of the number of times that the variable had that value, and, under the column labeled "Label," a short format expanding on the coded value. Formats are also available in the README files.

Certain conventions were used in coding all variables to distinguish between questions that beneficiaries would not, or could not, answer, and questions that were not asked. These conventional codes are: "." or "-1" if the question was not applicable; "-7" if the respondent refused to answer; "-8" if the respondent didn't know the answer; and "-9" if the answer could not be ascertained from the response. With derived variables, a " " (blank) or "." mean that the variable could not be derived because one or more of the component parts was not available.

Many questions were posed to elicit simple "Yes" or "No" answers, or to limit responses to one choice from a list of categories. In these cases, the responses are "Yes" or "No," or one of the codes from the list. In other questions, the respondent was given a list of items to choose from, and all of the responses were recorded. In these cases, each of the responses is coded "Indicated" or "Not indicated."

If a beneficiary responded with an answer that was not on the list of possible choices, it was recorded verbatim. All of the verbatim responses were reviewed and categorized. New codes were added to the original list of options to accommodate narratives that appeared frequently. For this reason, the list of possible values for some variables may not exactly match the questionnaire.

Inapplicable - Each variable is followed by a statement that describes when a question was not asked, resulting in a missing variable. Questions were not asked when the response to a prior question or other information gathered earlier in the interview, would make them inappropriate. For example, if the sample person said he has never smoked (community component, question HS16), he would not be asked if he smokes now (question HS17).

The codebook for the various survey and summary RICs is followed by a Variable Name Index that lists sequentially all variables in the codebook, source of information, pertinent RIC, and page within the codebook.

Table 2.1: Abbreviations Used to Identify Sections of the Questionnaires

Community Baseline Questionnaire

IN	Introduction
EN	Enumeration
HI	Health Insurance
AC	Access to Care
HS	Health Status and Functioning
SC	Satisfaction with Care
US	Usual Source of Care
DI	Demographics/Income
BK	Beneficiary Knowledge
BN	Beneficiary Needs
CL	Closing

Facility Questionnaire (Screener)

FAVERIF, FA, FB

Facility Baseline Questionnaire

RH	Residence History
BQ	Background History
IN	Health Insurance
HA	Health Status and Functioning

BILL DETAIL SEGMENT**Using the tables**

The tables in the bill detail section describe the Medicare utilization files included on the public use file. There are two sets of tables; they must be considered together in order to interpret the data in this segment.

- **FILE DESCRIPTIONS FOR MEDICARE CLAIMS** - These record layouts correspond to the seven Medicare utilization files on the public use file(s). The inpatient hospital and SNF bill files are described in the same record layout even though they are in separate datasets.

NCH No. - The number associated with each variable in the public use file bill records and CMS's Data Dictionary (discussed below). The NCH No. can be used to crosswalk from the bill record to the more detailed description in the dictionary.

Variable - The name we have assigned to the data element (variable). Names may be up to eight characters long and are mnemonic. The variable name links the record layout to the remainder of the bill detail documentation. This name is also the name that we have supplied in the "README" SAS INPUT statement and labels.

Type - The format of the data element, or variable. Singly occurring data fields may be numeric, character or packed-decimal.

Group items may appear more than once, depending on the information that is present in the bill. For example, if several surgical procedures were reported on the bill, each of them would appear as a separate group item. One surgical procedure would translate to a single group item. A counter shows how many of each trailer type are present. For example, the number of ICD-9-CM procedure code groups present on the claim would be indicated by the counter PROCCNT.

Length - The number of bytes physically occupied by the variable in the record.

Format - How the data should be interpreted. For example, date fields may be read as eight characters, interpreted as CCYYMMDD (two-digit century, followed by two-digit year of the century, followed by two-digit month, followed by the two-digit day of the month).

Description - A more complete explanation of what the variable contains. These descriptions can be assigned to variables with the SAS LABEL code that is provided in the "README" file.

- **DATA DICTIONARY** - These tables are maintained by CMS to describe their internal records. They contain standard definitions of the variables in this file and values for all coded variables. Some of the variables referenced in this dictionary do not appear in this file. We have deleted some fields to protect the privacy of those who are participating in the survey.

Note: CMS has released a new version of the Medicare claims. This new version (I) incorporates federally mandated changes to the structure and content of the Medicare claims found in version H. It is important to look closely at the different readme files for each of the claim records before attempting to merge the Medicare claims data with MCBS data.

Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey CY 2001 Access to Care

Section 3: Notes on Using the Data

In an undertaking of this nature and magnitude, there are bound to be questions about how terms are defined operationally and how field procedures affect the data collection process. We have included this section to address those questions.

This section is a collection of information about various data fields present in this public use release. We have not attempted to present information on every survey data field; rather, we concentrated our efforts on data fields where we have something useful to introduce. We start with information which is relevant across the board (global information). We follow that with specific information on individual data fields, presented in the same sequence as the data fields appear in the codebook.

Global Information

Missing Values

Various negative values are used to indicate missing data. For instance, for survey collected data, a value of -1 indicates that the variable is inapplicable. A variable is generally inapplicable because the question is not appropriate, for example, a question about hysterectomy when the respondent is a male. In this file, the value -1 has been replaced with SAS7 standard missing values (“ ” or blank for character and “.” for numeric). Other missing value codes used in the survey (-7 for “refused,” -8 for “don’t know”, and -9 for “not ascertained”) were not changed.

Dates

The CMS derived date of births and deaths include century indicators and are in the format CCYYMMDD (2-digit century, 2-digit year, 2-digit month and 2-digit day). Due to the manner in which the responses were given, these dates must be evaluated in parts because one or more of the parts may be missing. For example, a vague response about a particular date (such as, “I know it was in June of last year, but I’m not sure of the exact day”) would be coded “200106-8” (“20” for the century, “01” for the year, “06” for June, and the code “-8” for “Don’t know” for the day).

Narratives

Respondents were asked a number of open-ended questions. The respondents answered these questions in their own words, and interviewers recorded the responses verbatim. The interviewer was prohibited from paraphrasing or summarizing the respondents’ answers. However, this public use release does not contain narratives. Instead, we have supplied codes that summarize the answer. Often there will be more than one code because the answer included several specific topics.

Specific variables - Key Record (RIC K)

There are 16,461 key records, one for each individual who completed an interview (15,246 community interviews **INTERVU** = "C" and 1,215 facility interviews **INTERVU** = "F").

The facility interview was conducted whenever the sample person was residing in a facility: 1) that contains three or more beds, 2) that is classified by the administrator as providing long-term care, and 3) whose physical structure allows long-term care residents of the facility to be separately identified from those of the institution as a whole. This broad definition allows analysis beyond traditional views of long-term care, that is, nursing home and related care homes having three or more beds and providing either skilled nursing, or rehabilitative or personal care (other than supervision). Analysts can narrow or extend the focus of their studies of facility care by using information from the Survey Facility Identification Record. This record is present for each sample person for whom a facility questionnaire was administered.

Some sample people had more than one interview in this round. This release is a mix of people who joined the survey in: Round 22 (**D_SMPTYP** = "98"), Round 25 (**D_SMPTYP** = "99"), Round 28 (**D_SMPTYP** = "00"), and Round 31 (**D_SMPTYP** = "01"). Interviews are conducted for the continuing panels (that is, the Round 22, Round 25, and Round 28 panels) in as many settings as necessary, to create a seamless view of the entire round. Only one interview--facility or community--conducted with the new (Round 31) panel, depending on the situation in which we locate them. In the total group of 16,461 respondents with a Round 31 interview, the great majority had one, and only one, interview.

To avoid duplication of data, the records in this file represent only the last interview in Round 31: 15,246 community and 1,215 facility interviews.

This record contains a special-purpose variable, (**SURVIVE**). The Round 31 MCBS data are not suited for making estimates of the "ever enrolled" 2001 Medicare population because the sample does not include beneficiaries new to Medicare in 2001 nor those who died during the year prior to the fall round. For the same reason, point-in-time estimates are also inappropriate. However, an adjustment has been done to account for persons newly enrolled on January 1, 2001. It is appropriate, therefore, to use the Round 31 data to approximate the "always enrolled" 2001 Medicare population, that is, those beneficiaries who were alive and enrolled on or before January 1, 2001 and were still alive and enrolled on January 1, 2002. We estimate this population at 37.6 million beneficiaries. This group can be separated from the entire group of Round 31 interviews by selecting only beneficiaries who were enrolled before 2001 and survived until 2002 (**SURVIVE**="Y").

Administrative Identification Record (RIC A)

Except as noted otherwise, the variables in this record were derived from CMS's Medicare enrollment database. History records were searched to establish the beneficiary's status (for example, age, residence, and type of beneficiary) as of December 31, 2001.

Four variables relating to the sample person's age are provided. Date of birth as reported by the respondent during the initial interview is recorded in the RIC 1 - Survey Identification record (**D_DOB**). Legal date of birth from the Medicare - Social Security Administration records is recorded in the Administrative Identification Record (**H_DOB**). Similarly the date of death (**H_DOD**) is the last day of the death month. (Note: the SSA legal date of birth is the first day of the birth month, unless the sample person was born on the first of the month, in which case the legal birth date is the first day of the previous month.) The variable (**H_AGE**) represents the sample person's legal age as of December 31, 2001. The variable (**D_STRAT**) groups the sample persons by (**H_AGE**). The variables (**H_DOB**), (**H_AGE**), and (**D_STRAT**) appear in the Administrative Identification record.

On average, during CY2001 5.7 million Medicare enrollees or 14.4 percent of the total population enrolled at that time had their Part B premium paid by a State agency. Over 6.4 million enrollees or 15.3 percent of the 42 million ever enrolled during the calendar year had their premium paid for at least one month. (These data do not include those entitled to Medicaid but were not buy-ins; that is, the medically needy. This data also says nothing of how extensive the Medicaid benefits were.) This process, called State buy-in, is tracked by CMS and is used as a general proxy for Medicaid participation. The variables that describe this participation (**H_MCSW**) and (**H_MCDE01 - H_MCDE12**) were derived through a match with CMS's enrollment database. The variable (**H_MCSW**) can be used when only an indication that the enrollee was a "buy-in" at some time during 2001 is needed for analysis. The monthly variables (**H_MCDE01 - H_MCDE12**) can be used for analyzing Medicaid eligibility at specific points in time.

Membership in Medicare managed care plans has been increasing faster than the overall Medicare population. During 2001 managed care enrollees remained relatively consistent in number, with 6.1 million in January to 6.1 million in December. As of the mid-point of the calendar year, July 1, approximately 6.2 million or 15.3 percent of the Medicare population received Medicare benefits through coordinated care organizations such as an HMO, which contracts directly with CMS to provide those services. Some of the beneficiaries in the MCBS sample belong to such organizations. The variables that describe this membership (**H_GHPSW**) and (**H_PLTP01 - H_PLTP12**) were derived through a match with CMS's enrollment database. The variable (**H_GHPSW**) can be used when only an indication that the enrollee was a member of a Medicare managed care plan at some time during 2001 is needed for analysis. The monthly variables (**H_PLTP01 - H_PLTP12**) can be used for analyzing membership at specific points in time.

Utilization Summary

For easier comparison of groups of people by the number and cost of medical services they have received, the Administrative Identification Record also includes a summary of all Medicare bills and claims for calendar year 2001, as received and processed by CMS through July 2002. (See the variables in the Administrative Identification Record from ([H_LATDCH](#)) to the end). In response to heightened privacy awareness, individual bill records are not supplied as part of the data file. Researchers who wish to study individual Medicare bills in detail (i.e., the Hospital Bill, the SNF Bill, the Hospice Bill, the Home Health Bill, the Outpatient Bill, the Physician/Supplier Bill, and the Durable Medical Equipment Bill), must specify this need in their request.

The utilization summary represents services rendered and reimbursed under fee-for-service in calendar year 2001. If a beneficiary used no Medicare services at all or was a member of a coordinated or managed care plan (such as a risk HMO) that does not submit claims to a fiscal intermediary or carrier, all program payment summary variables will be empty. If the beneficiary used no services of a particular type (for example, inpatient hospitalization), the variables relating to those benefits will be empty. Empty variables are zero-filled, except as noted in the next paragraphs.

Adjustment bills Initial claims submitted by fiscal intermediaries and carriers for services rendered and paid for by Medicare may be modified by later transactions that result in additional submittal of information relevant to payment or utilization for a given event. There are two types of Part A (institutional) adjustment transactions: credit-debit pairs, and cancel-only credit transactions. Both types of transactions cancel out a bill that was processed earlier (the credit bill exactly matches the earlier bill, which can be viewed as an initial debit). The difference between them lies in how (or if) a new debit transaction is applied to show the correct utilization. If the adjustment consists of a credit-debit pair, the new debit is applied immediately because it is submitted as the “debit” half of the pair. If the adjustment is a cancel-only transaction, the debit may be processed at a later date through a separate bill. In some cases, as when the original bill was completely in error, the cancel-only transaction simply serves to “erase” a mistake, and no new debit would be submitted. For this file, the adjustment processing removes the original debit and the credit that cancels it out, leaving only the final, corrected debit.

[NOTE: A few rare cases of credit bills with no prior debit may be in this file; these records can be dropped from analysis because they are, in effect, canceling out something of which CMS has no record.]

For Part B claims, we summarized only accepted claims (process code is “A”), or adjusted claims if the adjustment concerned money (process code either “R” or “S” and allowed charges greater than \$0). If the claim disposition code (DISPCD) was “03” or “63” (indicating a credit), both the credit and the matching debit were deleted.

Individual fields After adjustments were processed; the bills were summarized following the rules set forth below.

Inpatient hospital bills

Utilization is summarized by admissions, days, charges, covered charges, reimbursement amount, coinsurance days, and coinsurance amount. Admissions (**H_INPSTY**) were totaled by sorting the bills in chronological order, and counting the first admission in each sequence. Total covered days (**H_INPDAY**) were summed from COVDAY in the bill. Total coinsurance days (**H_INPCDY**) were summed from COINDAY. Total bill charges and non-covered charges were selected from the revenue center trailer coded “0001”; total charges were summed as (**H_INPCHG**) and covered charges (total charges less non-covered charges) were summed as (**H_INPCCH**). Coinsurance amounts (**H_INPCAM**) were summed from COINAMTA in the bill. Reimbursement (**H_INPRMB**) is the sum of PROVPAY, organ acquisition costs (if any) and “pass through” amounts. Organ acquisition costs were accumulated from revenue center trailers when the second and third positions of the code were “81”. Pass through amounts were calculated by multiplying covered days (COVDAY in the bill record) by the pass through per diem (PTDIEM in the bill record).

Skilled nursing facility

Utilization is summarized by admissions, days, charges, covered charges, reimbursement amount, coinsurance days and coinsurance amount. Admissions (**H_SNFSTY**) were totaled by sorting the bills in chronological order, and counting the first admission in each sequence. Total covered days (**H_SNFDAY**) were summed from COVDAY in the bill. Total coinsurance days (**H_SNFCDY**) were summed from COINDAY. Total bill charges and non-covered charges were selected from the revenue center trailer coded “0001”; total charges were summed as (**H_SNFCCHG**) and covered charges (total charges less non-covered charges) were summed as (**H_SNFCCH**). Total coinsurance amounts (**H_SNFCAM**) were summed from COINAMTA in the bill. Total reimbursement (**H_SNFRMB**) is the sum of PROVPAY.

Home Health

Utilization is summarized by visits, visit charges, and other (that is, nonvisit) charges. If the second and third positions of the revenue center code were 42, 43, 44, 47, 55, 56, 57, or 58, then the units in the trailer (visits) were added to total visits (**H_HHAVST**) and the charges were accumulated as total covered visit charges (**H_HHACCH**). If the revenue center codes did not indicate visits, the charges were accumulated as other HHA charges (**H_HHACHO**). Total home health reimbursements were summed for Part A (**H_HHRMBA**) and Part B (**H_HHRMBB**).

Hospice

Utilization is summarized by days, covered charges and reimbursement amount. Covered hospice days (**H_HSDAYS**) were summed from the bill variable COVDAY. Covered charges were selected from the revenue center trailer coded "0001" and summed as (**H_HSTCHG**). Total hospice reimbursement (**H_HSREIM**) was summed from the variable PROVPAY.

Outpatient

Utilization is summarized by bills, covered charges and reimbursement amount. Total bills were counted as (**H_OUTBIL**). Total covered charges were selected from the revenue center trailer coded "0001" and summed as (**H_OUTCHG**). Total outpatient reimbursement (**H_OUTRMB**) was summed from the variable PROVPAY.

Part B (Carrier) claims

Utilization is summarized by number of claims, number of line items, submitted and allowed charges, reimbursement, office visits and office visit charges. All claims and individual line items (there can be up to 13 per claim) were counted and summed as (**H_PHYCLM**) and (**H_PHYLIN**). Submitted charges and allowed charges (**H_PHYSCH**) and (**H_PHYACH**) were summed from SUBCRG and ALLOWCRG in the bill. Total reimbursement for Part B claims (**H_PHYRMB**) was summed from the variable PAYAMT in the bill. Durable Medical Equipment charges are broken out from the physician charges, as follows: number of claims (**H_DMECLM**), number of DME line items (**H_DMELIN**), DME submitted charges (**H_DMESCH**), allowed charges (**H_DMEACH**), and total DME reimbursement (**H_DMERMB**).

Office visits and their charges are summed with other services (described above) and as separate categories (**H_PMTVST** and **H_PMTCHO**). We summed office visits and office visit charges separately for two reasons. An office visit is a universally understood measure of service use and access to medical care. It also is an accurate measure of levels of service use across separate groups, unlike charge or payment figures that vary depending on the services that have been performed. Office visits are identified by HCPCS codes in the series 90000-90090 and 99201-99215 in the Part B line item trailer group(s).

Survey Identification Record (RIC 1)

"Initial interview" variables

Some questions are asked only in the initial interview for an individual and are not asked again during subsequent sessions because the responses are not likely to change. Such questions include "Have you ever served in the armed forces?" and "What is the highest grade of school you ever completed?". Similarly, once the sample person has told us that he or she has a chronic condition (such as diabetes), the interviewer will not ask, "Have you ever been told you have diabetes?" in a subsequent interview. For this reason, the answers to these questions are missing from Round 31 for people from the 1998, 1999, and 2000 panels. To maximize the usefulness of this public use release as a cross-sectional file, we have back filled this information from the initial interviews, for persons joining the survey in the 1998, 1999, and 2000 panels. Variables that have been reproduced this way are annotated "Initial interview" in this section.

When the complete date of birth was entered (**D_DOB**), the CAPI program automatically calculated the person's age, which was then verified with the respondent. In spite of this validation, the date of birth given by the respondent (**D_DOB**) does not always agree with the Medicare record date of birth (**H_DOB**). In these cases, the sample person was asked again, in the next interview, to provide a date of birth. Some recording errors have been identified this way, but in most cases beneficiaries provided the same date of birth both times they were asked. In some cases, proxies indicated that no one was exactly sure of the correct date of birth. In general, it is recommended that the variable (**H_DOB**) be used for analyses, since the CMS date of birth was used to select and stratify the sample. (Initial interview variable)

The VA disability rating (**D_VARATE**) is a percentage and is expressed in multiples of ten; it refers to disabilities that are officially recognized by the government as service-related. (Initial interview variable)

Race categories (**D_RACE2**) are recorded as interpreted by the respondent. Categories were not suggested by the interviewer, nor did the interviewer try to explain or define any of the groups. Ethnic groups such as Irish or Cuban were not recorded. (Initial interview variable)

Hispanic / Latino origin (**HISPORIG**) includes persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban Central or South American or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race. Again, these answers are recorded as interpreted by the respondent. (Initial interview variable)

Section 3: Notes on Using the Data

SPCHNLNM: Respondents were asked to report all living children, whether stepchildren, natural or adopted children. (Initial interview variable)

D_DIVCUR: The Census division is preformed through internal edits, by matching the survey participant's address to the appropriate Census region. The Census divisions are as follows:

New England – Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont;

Middle Atlantic – New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania;

South Atlantic – Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia;

East North Central – Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin;

West North Central – Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota;

East South Central – Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee;

West South Central – Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas;

Mountain – Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming;

Pacific – Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington; and

Puerto Rico.

INCOME: Income represents the best source or estimate of income during 2000. Round 30 represents the most detailed information for 2000 and is used when available. For individuals not completing Round 30 (that is, continuing panel people unavailable for that round and the Round 31 rotating panel), the most recent information available was used. It should be noted that INCOME includes all sources, such as pension, Social Security and retirement benefits, for the sample person and spouse. In some cases the respondent would not, or could not, provide specific information but did say the income was below \$25,000 (or, conversely, \$25,000 or more).

Some “initial interview” questions (which were previously viewed as not likely to change) were carried over to subsequent sessions, because the responses were likely to change. The respondent was allowed to define marital status categories (**SPMARSTA**); there was no requirement for a legal arrangement (for example, separated).

Survey Health Status and Functioning Record (RIC 2 and RIC 2F)

Part of the process of converting the facility instrument from a “paper and pencil” format to a Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) format was to adapt applicable questions from the facility instrument to the Resident Assessment Instrument (RAI) format. The RAI requires a Medicare and Medicaid certified long term care facility to conduct a comprehensive standardized assessment of the resident’s functional capacity and health status within 10 days of admission. In addition, a RAI must be completed once a year or whenever a resident’s health status changes. By adapting the applicable MCBS questions, interviewers can extract data regarding a resident’s health status and functioning directly from the RAI.

Note: Due to the number of variables that were altered in the facility instrument, resulting from the CAPI conversion, a separate RIC (2F) was created. As a result, RIC 2 includes only the community population. The RIC 2F was created for the sample population responding to the health status and functioning section of the facility instrument.

The answers in the health status and functioning section of the questionnaire are a reflection of the respondent's opinion, not a professional medical opinion.

Limitations on activities and social life (**HELMTACT**; **LIMACTIV**) reflect the sample person's experience over the preceding month, even if that experience was atypical.

The sample person was asked to recall or estimate, not to measure or weigh him or herself.

In the height measurement (**HEIGHTIN**; **HEIGHT**), fractions of an inch have been rounded: those one half inch or more were rounded up to the next whole inch, those less than one half inch were rounded down. (Initial interview variable)

In the weight measurement (**WEIGHT**; **WEIGHTF**), fractions of a pound have been rounded: those one half pound or more were rounded up to the next whole pound; those less than one half pound were rounded down. (Initial interview variable)

HYSTEREC; **EVERHYST**: "Hysterectomy" includes partial hysterectomies. (Initial interview variable)

Section 3: Notes on Using the Data

HYSTLAST – Found in RIC 2F, this variable does not apply to:

1. male SPs;
2. female SPs in continuing sample who previously reported having had a hysterectomy in any earlier round (EVERHYST = 1); or
3. female SPs in supplemental sample other than those who reported that they have never had a hysterectomy (EVERHYST does not equal 2).

Use of other forms of tobacco, such as chewing tobacco, are not relevant to the “smoking” questions (**EVERSMOK** and **SMOKNOW**; **EVRSMOKE** and **NOWSMOKE**). Trying a cigarette once or twice was not considered “smoking”, but any period of regular smoking, no matter how brief or long ago, was considered smoking. “Now” meant within the current month or so and not necessarily whether the sample person had a cigarette, cigar, or pipe tobacco on the day of the interview. Even the use of a very small amount at the present time qualified as a “yes”. Stopping temporarily (as for a cold) qualified as a “yes”. (**EVERSMOK**; **EVRSMOKE** is an initial interview variable)

The answers about difficulty with various tasks (**DIFSTOOP**, **DIFLIFT**, **DIFREACH**, **DIFWRITE**, **DIFWALK**; **IADSTOOP**, **IADLIFT**, **IADREACH**, **IADGRASP**, **IADWALK**) reflect whether or not the sample person usually had and anticipates continued trouble with these tasks, even if a short-term injury made them temporarily difficult.

The questions about various conditions (**OCARTERY**, **OCHBP**, **OCMYOCAR**, **OCCHD**, **OCOTHART**, **OCCSKIN**, **OCCANCER**, **OCCLUNG**, **OCCECOLON**, **OCCBREST**, **OCCUTER**, **OCCPROST**, **OCCBLAD**, **OCCOVARY**, **OCCSTOM**, **OCCECERVX**, **OCCKIDNY**, **OCCBRAIN**, **OCCTHROA**, **OCCBACK**, **OCCEHEAD**, **OCCEFONEC**, **OCCOTHER**, **OCDIABTS**, **OCARTHHR**, **OCARTH**, **OCAARM**, **OCAFEET**, **OCABACK**, **OCANECK**, **OCAALOVR**, **OCAOTHER**, **OCMENTAL**, **OCALZHMR**, **OCPSYCH**, **OCOSTEOP**, **OCBRKHIP**, **OCPARKIN**, **OCEMPHYS**, **OCPPARAL**, **OCAMPUTE**, and **HAVEPROS**; **ASHD**, **HYPETENS**, **HYPETHYR**, **MYOCARD**, **CARDIOV**, **CRDVTYPE**, **HRTFAIL**, **STROKE**, **CNRSKIN**, **CANCER**, **CNRLUNG**, **CNRBOWEL**, **CNRBREAS**, **CNRUTERU**, **CNRPROST**, **CNRBLADD**, **CNROVARY**, **CNRCERVI**, **CNRSTOMA**, **CNROTHER**, **DIABMEL**, **ARTHRIT**, **ARTHARMS**, **ARTHLEGS**, **ARTHBACK**, **ARTHNECK**, **ARTHJOIN**, **ARTHOTHR**, **MENTAL**, **ALZHMR**, **OSTEOP**, **HIPFRACT**, **PARKNSON**, **EMPCOPD**, and **MISSLIMB**) were coded if the sample person had at some time been diagnosed with the conditions, even if the condition had been corrected by time or treatment. The condition must have been diagnosed by a physician, and not by the sample person. Misdiagnosed conditions were not included. If the respondent was not sure about the definition of a condition, the interviewer offered no advice or information, but recorded the respondent's answer, verbatim. (Initial interview variables)

IADLs and ADLs

“Difficulty” in these questions has a qualified meaning. Only difficulties associated with a health or physical problem were considered. If a sample person only performed an activity with help from another person (including just needing to have the other person present while performing the activity), or did not perform the activity at all, then that person was deemed to have difficulty with the activity.

Help from another person includes a range of helping behaviors. The concept encompasses personal assistance in physically doing the activity, instruction, supervision, and “standby” help.

These questions were asked in the present tense; the difficulty may have been temporary or may be chronic. Vague or ambiguous answers, such as “Sometimes I have difficulty”, were coded “yes”.

PRBTELE; DIFUSEPH: Using the telephone includes the overall complex behavior of obtaining a phone number, dialing the number, talking and listening, and answering the telephone.

The distinction between light housework (**PRBLHWK**) and heavy housework (**PRBHHWK**) was made clear by examples. Washing dishes, straightening up and light cleaning represent light housework; scrubbing floors and washing windows represent heavy housework. The interviewer was not permitted to interpret the answer in light of the degree of cleanliness of the dwelling.

PRBMEAL: Preparing meals includes the overall complex behavior of cutting up, mixing and cooking food. The amount of food prepared is not relevant, so long as it would be sufficient to sustain a person over time. Reheating food prepared by someone else does not qualify as “preparing meals”.

PRBSHOP; DIFSHOP: Shopping for personal items means going to the store, selecting the items and getting them home. Having someone accompany the sample person would qualify as help from another person.

PRBBILS; DIFMONEY: Managing money refers to the overall complex process of paying bills, handling simple cash transactions, and generally keeping track of money coming in and money going out. It does not include managing investments, preparing tax forms, or handling other financial activities for which members of the general population often seek professional advice.

HPPDBATH: Those who have difficulty bathing or showering without help met at least one of the following criteria:

- someone else washes at least one part of the body;
- someone else helps the person get in or out of the tub or shower, or helps get water for a sponge bath;
- someone else gives verbal instruction, supervision, or stand-by help;
- the person uses special equipment such as hand rails or a seat in the shower stall;
- the person never bathes at all (a highly unlikely possibility); or,
- the person receives no help, uses no special equipment or aids, but acknowledges having difficulty.

HPPDDRES; PFDRESSNG: Dressing is the overall complex behavior of getting clothes from closets and drawers and then putting the clothes on. Tying shoelaces is not considered part of dressing, but putting on socks or hose is. Special dressing equipment includes items such as button hooks, zipper pulls, long-handled shoe horns, tools for reaching, and any clothing made especially for accommodating a person's limitations in dressing, such as Velcro fasteners or snaps.

HPPDEAT; PFEATING: A person eats without help if he or she can get food from the plate into the mouth. A person who does not ingest food by mouth (that is, is fed by tube or intravenously) is not considered to eat at all. Special eating equipment includes such items as a special spoon that guides food into the mouth, a forked knife, a plate guard, or a hand splint.

HPPDCHAR; PFTRNSFR: Getting in and out of chairs includes getting into and out of wheelchairs. If the sample person holds onto walls or furniture for support, he or she is considered to receive “help from special equipment or aids”, since the general population does not use such objects in getting in and out of chairs. Special equipment includes mechanical lift chairs and railings.

HPPDWALK; PFLOCOMO: Walking means using one’s legs for locomotion without the help of another person or special equipment or aids such as a cane, walker or crutches. Leaning on another person, having someone stand nearby in case help is needed, and using walls or furniture for support all count as receiving help. Orthopedic shoes and braces are special equipment.

HPPDTOIL; PFTOILET: Using the toilet is the overall complex behavior of going to the bathroom for bowel and bladder function, transferring on and off the toilet, cleaning after elimination, and arranging clothes. Elimination itself, and consequently incontinence, are not included in this activity, but were asked as a separate question, discussed next.

D_ADLHNM: Backend calculation derived from HS30a-f series and HS35.

LOSTURIN: “More than once a week” was coded if the sample person could not control urination at all. Leaking urine, especially when the person laughs, strains or coughs, does not qualify as incontinence.

Survey Health Status and Functioning Helper Record (RIC 2H)

Although the data contained in this RIC has historically been collected, starting in 1992, it was not match-up until the 1999 Access to Care file. Recognizing that this RIC would be of use as a time series, the RIC 2H was generated for all prior years. This file contains information about those persons responsible for assisting respondents in performing their activities of daily living (ADLs) and/or instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs). The number of helpers, the helper's relationship to the respondent, and the types of ADLs and IADLs the helper assists the respondent in performing are all contained in this file.

NOTE: The number of records reflects the number of persons identified as assisting the survey respondent in performing various ADLs and IADLs. Therefore, it is possible to have one, several, or no records per respondent.

HLPRREL – Relationship of Helper to SP: This is an automated function of the CAPI program. As people are identified as helpers with ADLs, IADLs, Medicare insurance decisions, or Medicare paperwork, their name is entered into the database. The respondent is then prompted for the helper(s) relationship to the SP. Both the House Hold Enumeration and Health Status sections provide names of individuals collected into this “name” and corresponding “relationship” database, found in one of three places:

- proxy – **IN4a**;
- anyone living with the SP – **EN2**; or
- anyone who helped the SP with any personal care or daily needs – **HH21**.

HLPRNUM – Helper Identification Number: This variable is derived from the survey's administrative files. The survey develops a person roster containing information about each person living with, treating or helping the SP. An internal variable, ROSTNUM, contains a sequential value assigned to each of these persons as they are identified by name during the interview. Individuals' names may be gathered in several places:

- proxy – **IN4a**;
- anyone living with the SP – **EN1**;
- any health or medical professional who treats the SP at home – **HH2**;
- anyone who helped the SP at home with daily needs, but did not live with the SP, including home health aides, homemakers, friends, neighbors, or relatives – **HH19**.

The person roster number (contained in **ROSTNUM**) of a helper becomes the **HLPRNUM** for that helper.

Survey Health Status and Functioning – Prevention (RIC 2P)

This file examines in greater detail the behaviors of the Medicare population with respect to various preventative healthcare screeners. In addition to mammograms and Pap smears this file contains data on procedures associated with the prostate and colon cancer, osteoporosis, and diabetes. There is one record for every community interview.

Survey Access to Care Record (RIC 3)

Definitions applied to medical providers

Doctor - Medical doctors (M.D.) and doctors of osteopathy (D.O.). Chiropractors, nurses, technicians, optometrists, podiatrists, physician's assistants, physical therapists, psychologists, mental health counselors and social workers are not included. Generic specialties shown in parenthesis following one of the specialties were coded as the specialty. For example, if the respondent mentioned a "heart" doctor, cardiology was coded. Generic answers not listed were not converted to specialties.

Doctor's office or group practice - an office maintained by a doctor or a group of doctors practicing together; generally, the patient makes an appointment to see a particular physician.

Doctor's clinic - A group of doctors who have organized their practice in a clinic setting and work cooperatively; generally, patients either come in without an appointment or make an appointment and see whatever doctor is available.

HMO - An organization that provides a full range of health care coverage in exchange for a fixed fee.

Neighborhood/family health center - A non-hospital facility which provides diagnostic and treatment services, frequently maintained by government agencies or private organizations.

Free-standing surgical center - A facility performing minor surgical procedures on an outpatient basis, and not physically connected to a hospital.

Rural health clinic - provides outpatient services, routine diagnostic services for individuals residing in an area that is not urbanized and is designated as a health staff shortage area or an area with a shortage of personal health services. These services are provided for a nominal copayment and deductible.

Company clinic - A company doctor's office or clinic which is operated principally for the employees (and sometimes their dependents).

Section 3: Notes on Using the Data

Other clinic - a non-hospital facility such as a drug abuse clinic, a “free” clinic, a family planning clinic or military base clinic.

Walk-in urgent center - a facility not affiliated with a nearby hospital, offering services for acute conditions. Typically, people are seen without appointments.

Home (doctor comes to sample person's home) - home is anywhere the sample person is staying; it may be his or her home, the home of a friend, a hotel room, etc.

Hospital emergency room - means the emergency room of a hospital. “Urgent care” centers are not included. (NOTE: All hospital emergency room visits were included, even if the sample person went there for a “non-emergency” condition such as a cold, flu or intestinal disorder.)

Hospital outpatient department - unit of a hospital, or a facility connected with a hospital, providing health and medical services to individuals who receive services from the hospital but do not require hospitalization.

Differences in the questionnaire sequence for the continuing and supplemental panel

It should be noted in using data in this section that the questionnaire sequence on access to care for supplemental panel persons differs from that for continuing panel persons and may lead to apparent differences in expected number of responses to questions in the access to care codebook section. For example, continuing panel persons indicating use of emergency room (and later, outpatient hospital) care in the utilization section of the core questionnaire are asked, after the conclusion of questions on utilization in that section, appropriate access to care questions about the visit (AC3-AC6). The CAPI program then reverts back to the next utilization section in the core questionnaire. Questions AC1 and AC2 are not later asked of these people.

The supplemental panel people, on the other hand, are not asked the core questions during their initial interview and go through the entire sequence of access to care questions. Thus, the number of persons responding to AC3 on whether or not they had an appointment (ERAPPT) is greater than those who responded to question AC1 on whether they had gone to a hospital emergency room for medical care during the reference period (ERVISIT).

Open-ended questions

Respondents were asked a number of open-ended questions (reasons for dissatisfaction with care, kinds of problems experienced in getting health care, etc.). The respondents answered these questions in their own words, and interviewers recorded the responses verbatim. The interviewer was prohibited from paraphrasing or summarizing the respondents' answer.

This file contains no verbatim responses. We have supplied, instead, codes that summarize the answer. Often there will be more than one code because the answer included several specific topics.

Other variables

The questions about satisfaction with care represent the respondent's general opinion of all medical care received in the year preceding the interview.

MCDRNSEE: If a respondent mentioned any health problem that was not cared for, it was recorded without discrimination; the respondent might have referred to a small ache or pain, or to a serious illness or symptom.

USMCCHK: The distinction in question US12 is between the doctor or doctor's office and the sample person or family. For example, if the check usually goes to the daughter, the answer would be coded "to the sample person".

USFINDMC: "Ever tried to find a doctor..." refers to some type of active search. It does not refer to simply thinking or talking about it.

USHOWLNG: If the sample person had an actual visit with the doctor listed in **USUALDOC** by the time of the interview, "less than one year" was coded.

(OPDSCOND – AC10): Was visit to OPD for a specific condition?

This question applies only to new panel SPs (RIC K, D_SMPTYP = 00) where either the reason for an OPD visit was not a medical condition (OPDMCOND is not equal to 1) OR the reason for an OPD visit was for a medical condition (OPDMCOND equal 1) but it was not for surgery (OPDSURG is not equal to 1).

(MDSPCLTY – AC20): This question applies to:

1. all SPs in new panels; or
2. continuing SPs with no emergency room, outpatient department, or medical provider visits in either of the previous two rounds AND AC20, AC21, AC24-AC36 not already asked in this round in the medical provider utilization section of the questionnaire.

This variable represents the specialty of the physician who saw the SP most recently in a setting other than at home or in a hospital.

(MDSCOND – AC22): Was visit to doctor’s office for a specific condition?

This question applies only to new panel SPs (RIC K, D_SMPTYP = 00) where either the reason for an OPD visit was not for a medical condition (OPDMCOND is not equal to 1) OR the reason for an OPD visit was for a medical condition (OPDMCOND equals 1) but it was not for surgery (OPDSURG is not equal to 1).

(HEARMHMO – HIMC1aa): Has SP heard of an HMO that Medicare beneficiaries are able to join?

This question applies to initial interviews of all SPs in new panels and SPs in the continuing sample who have never been enrolled in a Medicare HMO.

Survey Health Insurance Record (RIC 4)

To help the respondent answer the questions about Medicaid, the interviewers used the name of the Medicaid program in the state where the sample person was living.

A health insurance plan is one that covers any part of hospital bills, doctor bills, or surgeon bills. It does not include any of the following:

- Public plans, including Medicare and Medicaid, mentioned elsewhere in the questionnaire.
- Disability insurance which pays only on the basis of the number of days missed from work.
- Veterans’ benefits.
- “Income maintenance” insurance which pays a fixed amount of money to persons both in and out of the hospital or “Extra Cash” policies. These plans pay a specified amount of cash for each day or week that a person is hospitalized, and the cash payment is not related in any way to the person’s hospital or medical bills.
- Workers’ Compensation.
- Any insurance plans that are specifically for contact lenses or glasses only. Any insurance plans or maintenance plans for hearing aids only.
- Army Health Plan and plans with similar names (e.g., CHAMPUS, CHAMPVA, Air Force Health Plan).
- Dread disease plans that are limited to certain illnesses or diseases such as cancer, stroke or heart attacks.
- Policies that cover students only during the hours they are in school, such as accident plans offered in elementary or secondary schools.
- Care received through research programs such as the National Institutes of Health.

D_MCRHMO: Calculated from CMS administrative records (RIC A: **H_ENT08 – H_ENT12**) as of the date of the interview in the fall round (RIC 8: **INT_DATE**.)

D_PRIVAT: Calculated from responses to **D_OBTNP1 – D_OBTNP5**.

Section 3: Notes on Using the Data

D_MCARE: Calculated from CMS administrative records (RIC A: **H_ENT08 – H_ENT12**) data as of the date of the interview in the fall round (RIC 8: **INT_DATE**.)

D_MCAID: Calculated from either CMS administrative records (RICA: **H_MCDE08 – H_MCDE12**) or survey data (**HIS7** or **HI7**) as of the date of the interview in the fall round (RIC 8: **INT_DATE**.)

MCAIDHMO: Collected from (**HIS10a**) or (**HI10a**).

CHOICHMO: Collected from (**HIS10b**) or (**HI10b**).

PUBRXCov: Collected from (**HIS16a**) or (**HI16a**).

MCDRXCov: Collected from (**HIS10c**) or (**HI10d**).

D_HMOTYP: Calculated from RIC A value in interview month **H_PLTP08 – H_PLTP12**.

D_HMOCov: Collected from (**HIMC1a**), (**HIMC1c**), or (**HIMC1**).

D_HMOCUR: Collected from (**MC1**) or (**HIMC3**).

D_PHREL1 – D_PHREL5: The “Policy Holder” or “Main insured person” is the member of the group or union or the employee of the company that provides the insurance plans. It would also be the name on the policy, if the respondent had it available. Responses from (**HIS26**), (**HI22a**), or (**HI26**) are coupled with roster information which contains these relationships.

D_COVNM1 – D_COVNM5: Collected from (**HIS29**), (**HI22d**), or (**HI29**).

D_COVRX1 – D_COVRX5: Collected from (**HIS30**), (**HI22e**), or (**HI30**).

D_COVNH1 – D_COVNH5: Collected from (**HIS31**), (**HI22f**), or (**HI31**).

D_PAYSP1 – D_PAYSP5: Collected from (**HIS32**), (**HI22g**), or (**HI32**).

D_ANAMT1 – D_ANAMT5: A premium amount was recorded even if the sample person did not directly pay the premium (if, for example, a son or daughter paid the premium). Premium amounts have been annualized, even though the sample person may not have held the policy for the full 12 months. Responses from (**HIS33**), (**HI22h**), or (**HI33**) are coupled with roster information which contains these relationships.

D_OBTNP1 – D_OBTNP5: Collected from (HIS27), (HI22b), or (HI27).

D_INDUS1 – D_INDUS5: Collected from (HIS28), (HI22c), or (HI28).

D_PLLTR1 – D_PLLTR5: Collected from (HIS27b), (HI22b2), or (HI27b).

The following nine variables are found in both the RIC 4 and RIC H codebooks:

MHMORX: Collected from (HIMC6) or (HISMC4);

MHMODENT: Collected from (HIMC7), (HISMC5), (HI22e1), or (HI30a);

MHMOEYE: Collected from (HISMC6), (HIMC8), (HI22e2), or (HI30b);

MHMOPCAR: Collected from (HISMC7), (HIMC9), (HI22e3), or (HI30c);

MHMONH: Collected from (HISMC8) or (HIMC10);

MHMOPAY: Collected from (HISMC9) or (HIMC11);

MHMOCOST: Collected from (HISMC11), (HIMC12a), (HI22h1), or (HI33a);

MHMOWHO: Collected from (HISMC12), (HIMC12b), (HI22h2), or (HI33b); and

D_ANHMO: Applicable for sample people with premiums. The premiums have been annualized regardless of the length of time the sample person actively held the policy.

Survey Enumeration Record (RIC 5)

A household is defined as the group of individuals either related or unrelated who live together and share one kitchen facility. This may be one person living alone, a head of household and relatives only, or may include head of household, relatives, boarders and any other non-related individual living in the same dwelling unit.

Household membership includes all persons who currently live at the household or who normally live there but are away temporarily. Unmarried students away at school, family members away receiving medical care, etc., are included. Visitors in the household who will be returning to a different home at the end of the visit are not included.

Generally, if there was any question about the composition of the household, the respondent's perception was accepted.

Section 3: Notes on Using the Data

Because the date of birth or exact relationship of a household member was sometimes unknown (perhaps because a proxy provided the information), the sum of the variables “number related” / “number not related” (**D_HHREL/D_HHUNRL**) or “number under 50” / “number 50 or older” (**D_HHLT50/D_HHGE50**) may not equal the total number of people in the household (**D_HHTOT**).

Survey Facility Residence History (RIC 6)

This summarizes the sample person’s stay(s) in a facility, providing information about the admission and some limited information about the sample person’s living arrangement prior to admission and subsequent to discharge. There is one record for each person who completed a facility interview.

Survey Facility Identification Record (RIC 7)

This file provides general characteristics of the institutions, most of the information coming from the facility screener. Sometimes, more than one sample person resided in the same facility. In these cases the RIC 7 records are redundant (containing all of the same information), and differ only in the BASEID. There is one record for each sample person interviewed in a facility.

The value of variables representing “number of beds” (**FACLTBED** and **FACTOBED**) will be missing when either there were no beds of that type in the facility, or the question was skipped.

FACLTBED: The number of long-term beds is calculated from (**FA43**, **FA44**, **FA45**, **FA45a**, **FA45b**, **FA45c**, and **FA46**).

SPIDCNT: Backend edit count of survey participants that reside in a particular facility.

Survey Interview Description Record (RIC 8)

This record was added in the 1992 MCBS Access to Care public use release. Most of the material in it was included in the Survey Identification record in the 1991 MCBS Access to Care public use release.

Multiple Interviews

Some sample people had more than one interview in this round. To avoid duplication of data, the information in this file represents the last interview conducted with the sample person in Round 31. The variable **INTERVU** indicates which type of interview was conducted. Please see the description of the KEY Record (RIC K) earlier in this section for a more detailed description of multiple interviews and of this variable.

Proxy rules

Wherever possible, the community interviews were conducted directly with the sample person. In most cases, the sample person was able to respond to the interview unassisted. In a few cases, the sample person was assisted with the interview by a friend or relative, and in some cases the sample person was too ill or otherwise incapacitated to be interviewed. The variables **PROXY**, **D_PROXR**, **RECHLP** and **D_IHLPR** provide information about who was interviewed, and how those respondents are related to the sample person.

People who were too ill, or who could not complete the community interview for other reasons were asked to designate a proxy, someone very knowledgeable about the sample person's health and living habits. In many cases, the proxy was a close relative such as the spouse, a son or daughter. In other cases, the proxy was a non-relative like a close friend or caregiver. The variable **PROXY** indicates whether or not a community interview was conducted with a proxy respondent, and the variable **D_PROXR** indicates the relationship of the proxy to the sample person. (Since all facility interviews are conducted with proxy respondents, this variable is "missing" for facility cases.)

If the sample person appeared confused or disoriented at the time of the interview, and no proxy could be identified, the interviewer was instructed to complete the questionnaire as well as possible. If the interviewer felt that the respondent was not able to supply reasonably accurate data, this perception was recorded in the interviewer remarks questionnaire and appears in this record as the variable **RINFOSAT**.

Section 3: Notes on Using the Data

“Proxy needed – language problem” was given as a reason for the use of a proxy in 113 cases. More often, language problems were addressed without the use of a proxy. Interpreters were used in some cases, and Spanish-language versions of the questionnaires were used by bilingual interviewers when the respondent preferred to be interviewed in Spanish. There are both English and Spanish versions of the CAPI survey instrument; the variable **LANG** indicates which version was used.

Proxy respondents were always used in nursing homes, homes for the mentally retarded, and psychiatric hospitals. Sample persons were interviewed directly in prisons when that was permitted. The need for a proxy when interviewing respondents in other institutions was evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

In long-term care facilities, the proxy respondents were members of the staff at the facility identified by the administrator. Usually, more than one respondent was used; for example, a nurse may have answered the questions about health status and functioning, while someone in the business office handled questions about financial arrangements.

Other variables

Several questionnaires are administered in the facility interview: a personal baseline for individuals in the supplemental sample found to reside in a nursing facility and for new admissions to a facility from the continuing sample; the core and supplement questionnaires for the continuing sample. The facility screener was administered in every case. Please see Section 4 for copies of all of the instruments and for a more detailed description of when each is administered.

Two variables are supplied to further characterize the interview: **LENGTH** contains the length of the interview, in minutes, and **RESTART** indicates whether or not the interview was interrupted. Community interviews are sometimes interrupted to accommodate the respondent's schedule or for other reasons. We did not calculate the duration of the community interview if the interview was interrupted. Facility interviews are conducted with several instruments and often involve a number of respondents. Since nearly all of the facility interviews are interrupted and total duration is difficult to capture (and interpret), **LENGTH** and **RESTART** are always missing for facility interviews.

INT_DATE: Date in which the interview was conducted.

Survey HMO Supplement Record (RIC H)

This record was added to the 1996 MCBS Access to Care public use release as a result of growing interest on the coverage and service provided by Medicare HMOs to Medicare beneficiaries. The questions in this record were asked only if the sample person was currently enrolled in a Medicare HMO.

The following variables are found in both the RIC 4 and RIC H codebooks:

MHMORX: Collected from (HIMC6) or (HISMC4);

MHMODENT: Collected from (HIMC7), (HISMC5), (HI22e1), or (HI30a);

MHMOEYE: Collected from (HISMC6), (HIMC8), (HI22e2), or (HI30b);

MHMOPCAR: Collected from (HISMC7), (HIMC9), (HI22e3), or (HI30c);

MHMONH: Collected from (HISMC8) or (HIMC10);

MHMOPAY: Collected from (HISMC9) or (HIMC11);

MHMOCOST: Collected from (HISMC11), (HIMC12a), (HI22h1), or (HI33a);

MHMOWHO: Collected from (HISMC12), (HIMC12b), (HI22h2), or (HI33b); and

D_ANHMO: Applicable for sample people with premiums. The premiums have been annualized regardless of the length of time the sample person actively held the policy.

Survey Beneficiary Knowledge and Information Needs Supplement (RIC KN)

The KN Supplement combines new questions with some questions previously asked in the BK and BN supplements.

Note: This supplement was conducted during the January through April 2002 interview period, as opposed to the September through December (2001) interview period (with the rest of the Access to Care file). As a result of collecting this information during the following interview period, a reduction in sample size occurs. This reduction is due to: the retiring of the 1998 rotating panel (after completing the September through December interview) and natural attrition.

Survey Patient Activation Supplement (RIC PA)

This supplement is designed to assess the degree to which Medicare beneficiaries actively participate in their own health care and the decisions concerning that health care; measuring not only if beneficiaries receive information about their health and Medicare, but also if they understand it in a way that makes it useful.

Note: This supplement was conducted during the May through August 2002 interview period, as opposed to the September through December (2001) interview period (with the rest of the Access to Care file). As a result of collecting this information during this latter interview period, a reduction in sample size occurs. This reduction is due to: the retiring of the 1998 rotating panel (after completing the September through December interview) and natural attrition.

Survey Cross-sectional Weights Record (RIC X)

Cross-sectional and three sets of longitudinal weights are provided. Cross-sectional weights apply to the entire file of 16,461 people (1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 panels). These cross-sectional weights can be used for making estimates of the population enrolled for Medicare for the whole of 2001.

To enable SUDAAN (Professional Software for SURvey DATA ANalysis for Multi-stage Sample Designs) users to compute population estimates and the associated variance estimates, two variables have been included in this record, SUDSTRAT AND SUDUNIT. Please see Section 6 for a further discussion about weights and estimation using these files.

Survey Longitudinal Weights Records (RIC X4, X3, X2)

The first set of non-zero longitudinal weights (RIC X4) applies to 3,391 individuals from the Round 22 rotating panel who appeared in the CY 1998 (Round 22), CY 1999 (Round 25), CY 2000 (Round 28), and CY 2001 (Round 31) Access to Care releases (the weights for the remaining 13,070 individuals are zero). This set of weights can be used to subset the population in the study from the sixth year of the survey and their experience for making comparisons of that subpopulation between 1998 and 2001. This can be accomplished by match-merging the RIC K and the RIC X4 by BASEID and keeping all records with a non-zero weight in the RIC X4.

The second set of non-zero longitudinal weights (RIC X3) applies to 7,185 individuals (Round 22, and Round 25 rotating panel persons) who appeared in the CY 1999 (Round 25), CY 2000 (Round 28), and CY 2001 (Round 31) Access to Care releases (the weights for the remaining 9,276 individuals are zero). This set of weights can be used to subset the continuing sample and their experience for making comparisons of that subpopulation between 1999 and 2001. This can be accomplished by match-merging the RIC K and the RIC Y by BASEID and keeping all records with a non-zero weight in the RIC X3.

The third set of non-zero longitudinal weights (RIC X2) applies to 11,399 individuals (Round 22, Round 25, and Round 28 rotating panel persons) who appeared in the CY 2000 (Round 28), and CY 2001 (Round 31) Access to care releases (the weights for the remaining 5,062 individuals are zero). This set of weights can be used to subset the continuing sample and their experience for making comparisons of that subpopulation between the 2000 and 2001 populations. This can be accomplished by match-merging the RIC K and the RIC Y by BASEID and keeping all records with a non-zero weight in the RIC X2.

To enable SUDAAN (Professional Software for SURvey DATA ANalysis for Multi-stage Sample Designs) users to compute population estimates and the associated variance estimates, two variables have been included in these records, SUDSTRAT and SUDUNIT. Please see Section 5 for a further discussion about weights and estimation using these files.

It should be noted that this file and these longitudinal weights are not appropriate for doing mortality studies, an area of considerable interest. This file does not include those who may have died during calendar year 2001 prior to the fall interview. Analysts interested in this topic are encouraged to use the annual Cost and Use files which target the ever-enrolled population.

Claims Records (DME, HHA, HSP, INP, OTP, PHY, SNF) The

following rules were used to select bill and claims records for this file.

- Inpatient bills were included if the **discharge or "through" date** fell on or after January 1, 2001 and on or before December 31, 2001.
- Skilled nursing facility bills were included if the **admission or "from" date** fell on or after January 1, 2001 and on or before December 31, 2001.
- Home health agency and outpatient facility bills were included if the **"through" date** fell on or after January 1, 2001 and on or before December 31, 2001.
- Hospice bills were included if the **admission or "from" date** fell on or after January 1, 2001 and on or before December 31, 2001.
- Physician or supplier claims were included if the **latest "service thru" date** fell on or after January 1, 2001 and on or before December 31, 2001.
- Durable medical equipment (DME) claims were included if the **latest "service thru" date** fell on or after January 1, 2001 and on or before December 31, 2001.

A total of 3,702 (about 22.5 percent) of the sample people did not use Medicare reimbursed services in a fee-for-service setting in 2001; consequently, there are no bill records for them in this file. These individuals may have used no services at all, services only in a managed care plan, or services provided by a payer other than Medicare. For the other 12,759 individuals in the sample, we have captured bills meeting the date criteria, processed and made available by CMS through July 2002.

----- Additional Notes -----

D_HBP, D_ARTHRD, D_BRKHIP, D_CANCER, D_CHD, D_CSKIN, D_MYOCAR, D_PPARAL, D_PSYCH, and D_STROKE: Has a doctor told you in the past year that you have a specific illness or condition?

All respondents are asked about various illnesses or conditions such as hypertension in the fall round. There are different versions of each question, depending on whether a respondent is in a supplemental sample (new panel) or continuing sample. New panel respondents are asked only if a doctor *ever* told them that they had a specific condition (hypertension, for example). Annually thereafter, the same respondents are asked if a doctor told them *in the past year* that they had a specific condition.

Since only those respondents in the continuing sample are asked the *in the past year* version of the question, CMS added a set of variables that are asked of new panel respondents in 2001. CMS combined responses to questions asked of the continuing sample with responses to questions asked of the supplemental sample. CMS did this so that there is one *in the past year* variable for all sample persons who completed a community interview in the fall round. Below is a list of these variables with the variables that CMS used to derived them:

Combined		Continuing Sample		Supplemental Sample
D_HBP	=	OCHBP	+	YRHBP
D_ARTHRD	=	OCARTHRD	+	YRARTHRD
D_BRKHIP	=	OCBRKHIP	+	YRBRKHIP
D_CANCER	=	OCCANCER	+	YRCANCER
D_CHD	=	OCCHD	+	YRCHD
D_CSKIN	=	OCCSKIN	+	YRSKIN
D_MYOCAR	=	OCMYOCAR	+	YRMYOCAR
D_PPARAL	=	OCPPA	+	YRPPARAL
D_PSYCH	=	OCPSYCH	+	YRPSYCH
D_STROKE	=	OCSTROKE	+	YRSTROKE

D_PROST: Has a doctor told you in the past year that you had an enlarged prostate or benign prostatic hypertrophy (BPH)?

CMS combines the answers to two related questions on BPH in deriving the value for **D_PROST**. The first question (**HAVEPROS**) asks male SPs, who have not reported having had their prostate gland removed, if a doctor ever told them that they had BPH. This version of the BPH question is asked only once, in the very first MCBS interview. If an SP answers “Yes” to this question, a follow-up question is asked to determine if a

doctor had told the SP that he had BPH in the past year (**YRPROST**). A different version of the same question (**HAVEPROS**) asks male SPs in the continuing sample, who have not reported having had their prostate gland removed, if a doctor told them in the past year that they had BPH. CMS combines the responses to **HAVEPROS** and **YRPROST** to yield a single variable, **D_PROST**.

Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey CY 2001 Access to Care

Questionnaires

This section contains copies of the community and facility questionnaires that were administered during Round 31 of the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey. Round 31 is the tenth annual update of information on Medicare beneficiaries' access to care. The questionnaires are similar in content and sequence of events; however, they differ in how they are administered. Of special note, beginning in 1997 data collected in RIC BK (formerly known as RIC PR): Beneficiary Knowledge Supplement was added to the Access to Care file. The BK data was collected in the January-April round. In addition to the RIC BK supplement, the RIC BN: Beneficiary Information Needs supplement was added to the Access file. This data was collected during the May-August round, it too is straightforward and easy to add to the Access file.

Because the questionnaires are conducted using CAPI, the questionnaires actually exist only as a computer program, and it is impossible to replicate it exactly in hard copy. The version represented here lists the questions, verbatim, and shows the skip patterns. It also displays instructions to the programmers (enclosed in boxes), to the program, and to the interviewer. Although these instructions would be hidden from the respondent, they have been retained in this copy because they are important for understanding the flow of the questionnaire and for establishing logical links between questions.

Questions in all of the questionnaires are preceded by a number, which is cross-referred to variables in the codebook (Section 2). Since more than one variable may be collected in response to one question, each question has also been annotated with all of the variable names associated with it. Variable names are also indexed in the codebook.

Community Component

The community component is conducted in the home of the respondent.

Components of the Community Questionnaire

The community instrument consists of the following components:

- Initial interview questionnaire
- Core questionnaire
- Supplement to the core questionnaire
- Interviewer remarks questionnaire

Initial interview questionnaire

This baseline questionnaire is used for the first interview when a sample person is added to the survey, that is, Round 22 for the 1998 panel, Round 25 for the 1999 panel, Round 28 for the 2000 panel, Round 31 for the 2001 panel, etc. In the initial interview, we collect information about the national origin, age, education and income of the sample person. The interviewer also verifies the sample person's address and telephone number and obtains the names and addresses of people who might be willing to serve as proxy respondents. The interviewer also uses this opportunity to acquaint the respondent with the intent of the survey and to familiarize him or her with the MCBS calendar, and to emphasize the importance of keeping accurate records of medical care and expenses.

In subsequent interviews, some of the information collected in the initial interview will need to be updated. For example, the sample person's designation of his or her race is not likely to change, and will not be asked about again. On the other hand, the sample person's address or telephone number may change, so this information is verified in every interview, and updated when necessary.

Core questionnaire (community)

NOTE: This release does not include any cost or utilization information from the core questionnaire.

The core questionnaire is the major component of the community instrument. The questions focus on the use of medical services and the resulting costs, and are asked in essentially the same way each and every time the sample person is interviewed (after the first time). In each interview, the sample person is asked about new encounters, and to complete any partial information that was collected in the last interview. For example, the sample person may mention a doctor visit during the "utilization" part of the interview. In the "cost" section, the interviewer will ask if the sample person has any receipts or statements from the visit. If the answer is "yes", the interviewer will record information about costs from the statements, but if the answer is "no," the question will be stored until the next interview.

In Round 31, only persons in the longitudinal sample (that is, 1998, 1999, and 2000 panels) were interviewed with this questionnaire.

Supplement to the core questionnaire (community)

Supplemental questions are added to the core questionnaire to gather information about specific topics. The Round 31 supplement focuses on health status and access to care. It includes questions about the sample persons' general health (including standard measures such as IADLs and ADLs), their sources of medical care, and their satisfaction with that care.

Interviewer remarks questionnaire

This questionnaire is completed by the interviewer after every interview with the sample person. The interviewer is asked to evaluate the sample person's ability to respond to the questionnaire and to provide some information about the interview (for example, if proxy answered the questionnaire, the interviewer provides reasons why the proxy was necessary). The interviewer is also encouraged to provide comments that will assist the interviewer in remembering unique facts about the sample person, such as hearing or vision impairments, or that the sample person cannot read.

Facility Questionnaire

Prior to the CAPI conversion, the facility questionnaire was conducted conventionally (using pen and paper). Interviews are conducted in the facility where the respondent is residing at the time of the interview. Information is obtained from facility records; therefore, the beneficiary is never interviewed directly. It was decided early in the design of the MCBS not to attempt interviews with sample persons in facilities, or with their family members. For that reason, the facility questionnaires do not ask about attitudes or other subjective items.

If an institutionalized person returns to the community, a community interview is conducted. If the sample person spent part of the reference period in the community and part in an institution, then a separate interview is conducted for each period of time. In this way, a beneficiary is followed in and out of facilities and a continuous record is maintained regardless of the location of the respondent.

The CY 2001 Access to Care release is intended to serve as a "snapshot" of the sample person at one point in time during Round 31. For this reason, we have selected the latest interview in the round to represent the entire round whenever the sample person was encountered in more than one setting in Round 31.

Components of the Facility Questionnaire

The facility instrument consists of the following components:

- Facility eligibility screener
- Initial (baseline) questionnaire
- Core questionnaire
- Supplement to the core questionnaire

Section 4: Questionnaire

Facility eligibility screener

This questionnaire gathers information about the facility to determine the facility type. The initial interview is conducted with the facility administrator. All other interviews are conducted with the staff designated by the director. A facility screener is administered upon the sample person's admission to a new facility, and once a year thereafter (in Rounds 22, 25, 28, and 31) to capture any changes in the facility's size or composition. The screener is not administered if the sample person simply re-enters the same facility.

Initial (baseline) questionnaire (facility)

This questionnaire gathers information on the health status, insurance coverage, residence history and demographics of the sample person. This questionnaire is administered the first time the sample person is admitted to a facility.

Core questionnaire (facility)

This questionnaire parallels the core questionnaire for the community, collecting information about use of medical services and their associated costs, including the facility cost. Like its community counterpart, this questionnaire is administered in each and every interview after the first one, as long as the sample person continues to reside in the facility.

Supplement to the core questionnaire (facility)

This questionnaire is asked once a year (in Rounds 22, 25, 28, and 31) to update our information about the sample person's health status. It includes questions about the sample person's general health (including standard measures such as IADLs and ADLs), but excludes the questions about access and the subjective questions about satisfaction with care.

Table 5.1 - Components of the Community Questionnaire

NOTE: This release contains information from only those sections marked with an arrow (→).

→	UPD	Name/Address Update
→	IN	Introduction
→	ENS*	Enumeration
→	EN	Enumeration
→	HIS*	Health Insurance Summary
→	HI	Health Insurance
	UTS*	Utilization Summary
	DU	Dental Utilization and Events
	ER	Emergency Room Utilization and Events
	IP	Inpatient Hospital Utilization and Events
	OP	Outpatient Hospital Utilization and Events
	IU	Institutional Utilization
	HHS*	Home Health Utilization Summary
	HH	Home Health Utilization and Events
	MP	Medical Provider Utilization and Events
	OM	Other Medical Expenses Utilization
	PMS*	Prescribed Medicine Summary
	PM	Prescribed Medicine Utilization
	ST	Charge Questions (Statement Series)
	NS	Charge Questions (No Statement Series)
	CPS*	Charge/Payment Summary
→	AC	Provider Probes/Access to Care
→	HS	Health Status and Functioning
→	SC	Satisfaction with Care
→	US	Usual Source of Care
→	DI	Demographics/Income (For Supplemental Sample People Only)
→	CL	Closing Materials
→	IR	Interviewer Remarks
→	MC	Managed Care
→	BK	Beneficiary Knowledge Supplement
→	BN	Beneficiary Information Needs Supplement

* Summary sections - Updates and corrections are collected through the summaries. The respondent is handed a hard copy summary of information gathered in previous interviews, and is asked to verify the material. Changes are recorded if the respondent notices information that is not accurate.

Table 5.2 - Components of the Facility Questionnaire

NOTE: This release contains information from only those sections marked with an arrow (→).

Facility Eligibility Screener

→ FQ Facility questions

Initial interview (facility)

→ A Demographic/Income
→ B Residence History
→ C Health Status and Functioning
→ D Health Insurance
L Tracing and Closing

Core questionnaire (facility)

→ A Residence History
B Provider Probes
C Medicine Summary
D Inpatient Hospital Stays
E Medical Charges
F Tracing and Closing

Supplement to the core (facility)

→ C Health Status and Functioning
→ D Health Insurance

Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey

CY 2001 Access to Care

Sample Design and Guidelines for Preparing Statistics

This section opens with a description of the population covered by the 2001 Access to Care release and a comparison of this "view" with others that are frequently used for analyzing the Medicare program. Next the targeted population is discussed in terms of the sampling strata. This is followed by a general discussion of the selection of the original and supplemental samples. Next appears a description of primary sampling units (PSU) and clusters of zip codes within PSU. Following is a general review of person level response rates, completed interviews by age strata, and selected item nonresponse rates. Guidelines for preparing population estimates using full sample weights and variance estimates using replicate weights are then reviewed.

Medicare population covered by the 2001 public use data

The calendar year 2001 MCBS public use data are focused on Medicare beneficiaries residing in the United States or Puerto Rico who were enrolled in one or both parts of the program throughout calendar year 2001. This "always enrolled" population includes individuals enrolled on January 1, 2001 who remained enrolled through the end of December. Excluded are the following categories of Medicare enrollees:

- 1) residents of foreign countries and U.S. possessions and territories other than Puerto Rico;
- 2) persons who became enrolled after January 1, 2001; and
- 3) persons who disenrolled or died prior to the end of December 2001.

NOTE: A small number of sample people included in this file 168 died during 2001 subsequent to their Round 31 interview and are a subset of group 3) above. A discussion of how to subset this file to get the "always enrolled" population is included in Section 3, "Notes on Using the Data," under 'Specific Variables - Key Record (RIC K).'

While the "always enrolled" population differs from other views of the Medicare population commonly generated from CMS files or encountered in CMS publications such as "ever enrolled" or "mid-point enrollment," the concept of "always enrolled" is consistent with the familiar concept of being exposed or "at risk" for using services for the entire 12-month period.

Table 5.1 shows data from CMS's 5-percent HISKEW file (health insurance skeleton write-off), which contains selected demographic and coverage information on a 5-percent sample of Medicare enrollees. Data for the targeted population are arrayed by age, gender, race using these three views: persons "ever-enrolled," persons enrolled as of the "mid-point of the year" (July 1), and persons

Section 5: Sample Design and Estimation

Table 5.1 2001 Medicare population, by gender, race and age

Gender	Race	Age	Always Enrolled	July 1 Midpoint	Ever Enrolled
Total			37,594,100	39,690,680	41,675,760
Males	Black	0-44	177,980	190,060	201,120
		45-64	334,460	356,020	376,260
		65-69	308,840	346,480	376,420
		70-74	273,720	281,080	288,540
		75-79	197,520	204,480	212,420
		80-84	112,720	118,860	125,020
		85+	87,900	94,760	101,740
	Non-black	0-44	679,220	725,260	765,960
		45-64	1,645,580	1,757,420	1,864,960
		65-69	3,220,720	3,629,700	3,981,160
		70-74	3,467,420	3,530,400	3,597,480
		75-79	2,770,780	2,846,800	2,929,460
		80-84	1,768,760	1,847,040	1,930,980
		85+	1,165,500	1,262,660	1,367,680
	Females Black	0-44	127,120	138,080	147,000
		45-64	322,220	345,480	365,920
		65-69	403,220	450,920	488,460
		70-74	402,780	410,280	417,640
		75-79	338,980	346,420	355,080
		80-84	233,820	241,260	251,340
		85+	244,080	259,820	277,480
	Non-black	0-44	497,120	534,400	567,600
		45-64	1,307,820	1,400,020	1,489,200
		65-69	3,617,300	4,071,360	4,453,040
		70-74	4,259,800	4,313,580	4,367,500
		75-79	3,880,640	3,952,680	4,029,480
		80-84	2,920,860	3,010,280	3,103,660
		85+	2,827,220	3,025,080	3,243,160
Female total			21,382,980	22,499,660	23,556,560
Male total			16,211,120	17,191,020	18,119,200
Black total			3,565,360	3,784,000	3,984,440
Non-black total			34,028,740	35,906,680	37,691,320

Based on October 2002 HISKEW files, inflated to 100 percent. "Always Enrolled" data are estimated .

Section 5: Sample Design and Estimation

“always enrolled.” We have included these relationships to allow users to compare the population represented by this release to the more frequently used views of the Medicare population.

(It should be noted that the other series of files produced from the MCBS, known as Cost and Use, contains data composed to represent the ever-enrolled population to better capture total Medicare and other expenditures for a given year. A discussion of how the ever-enrolled population was composed for a given period to capture total utilization (covered and non-covered) and expenditures (Medicare and other) for that period is presented in the documentation for the 2000 file for that series.)

Targeted population and sampling strata

The targeted population for Round 1 of the MCBS consisted of persons enrolled in one or both parts of the Medicare program, that is, Part A (Hospital Insurance) or Part B (Supplementary Medical Insurance) as of January 1, 1991, and whose address on the Medicare files was in one of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, or Puerto Rico. Correspondingly, for Rounds 4, 7, 10, 13 . . . , and 31 the targeted populations included those individuals enrolled as of January 1, 1992,¹ 1993,² 1994,³ 1995, . . . , and 2001 respectively.

Table 5.2 Targeted number of MCBS sample persons with complete annual utilization and expenditure data by sampling stratum

Age group	Target
Total	12,000
0 - 44	1,000
45 - 64	1,000
65 - 69	2,000
70 - 74	2,000
75 - 79	2,000
80 - 84	2,000
85 +	2,000

In general, the targeted universe for the MCBS is divided into seven analytic strata based on age as of December 31, 2001. The age categories are: 0 to 44, 45 to 64, 65 to 69, 70 to 74, 75 to 79, 80 to 84,

Section 5: Sample Design and Estimation

and 85 or older. The goal of the sample design is to obtain complete annual data on health care use of both Medicare covered as well as noncovered services and the associated costs by source of payment on 12,000 beneficiaries per year, with 2,000 for each of the elderly strata and 1,000 for each of the disabled strata. See Table 5.2.

(Note: Starting with the implementation of the rotating panel design described earlier in the Introduction, it was estimated that it would be necessary to interview roughly 16,000 sample persons in each of the fall rounds 1994 - 2001 (Rounds 10, 13, 16, . . . , and 31) in order to meet the targets for complete annual utilization and expenditure data for 1994 through 2001. The annual sample is distributed across four currently active panels of which the oldest will be replaced by a new panel in the following year. This use of such overlapping of panels will continue indefinitely under the rotating panel design for each fall interview session. See Table 5.3 for actual number of Round 28 completes by age stratum.)

Beneficiaries for the original sample (Round 1), the first supplement (Round 4), and the second supplement (Round 7) were selected from the standard 5-percent sample of CMS's Enrollment Data Base (EDB). The decision to select the MCBS sample from within the standard 5-percent CMS sample was based mostly on considerations of convenience. The 5-percent sample has been used for many research projects involving the Medicare population, and data files have been constructed to allow access to the claims for this group this 5-percent sample.

The development of the National Claims History File makes the claims data generally available for the entire population, not just those individuals included in the standard 5-percent sample. In addition, for some PSU areas, the number of beneficiaries within the standard 5-percent sample is so small that the list of potential sample people can become exhausted over time. As a result, beginning in Round 10, the beneficiary samples have been drawn from 5-percent samples other than the standard 5-percent sample.

Primary and Second Stage Sampling Units

For the three continuing panels (1998, 1999, and 2000), the original MCBS sample is spread across 107 primary sampling units (PSUs), which are metropolitan areas and groups of non-metropolitan counties. Within the PSUs, the initial sample was concentrated in 1,163 second-stage units consisting of clusters of ZIP code areas (5 digits). With the introduction of the 1992 and 1993 supplements, the number of sample ZIP code clusters expanded to 1,366 and 1,412, respectively. Between 1994 and 2001, a total of 111 new ZIP clusters had been added to the sample bringing the total to 1,523 clusters.

The 2001 panel is the first panel in which the MCBS PSU redesign is implemented. Like the original sample, 107 PSUs were selected of which 63 were retained from the original sample. Within the PSUs, the initial sample was concentrated in 1,209 second-stage units consisting of clusters of ZIP code areas. With the rotating panel design, the PSU redesign will be transparent to data users and no special processing is required. For more details on the PSU redesign, see Lo, Chu, and Apodaca (2002).

All of the ZIP cluster samples were selected from CMS's master file of beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare, using the beneficiary's address recorded in that file as of March of the year the individual was selected to be in the sample.

Sample selection

The MCBS sample is designed to be nearly self-weighting within the age strata. Within the selected PSUs and ZIP clusters, a systematic sampling scheme with random starts is employed. The use of random starts provides justification for the variance calculations used in the WESVAR procedures described later in this section.

A sample of 15,411 beneficiaries was selected in 1991 for Round 1 of the MCBS. This initial sample was representative of beneficiaries who were entitled on January 1, 1991. Round 1 interviews started in September of 1991, and participating beneficiaries have been re-interviewed roughly every four months for up to a maximum of six years (i.e., until they were scheduled to exit the MCBS sample under the rotating panel design described in the Introduction).

A supplemental sample of 2,410 beneficiaries was added to the sample in 1992 for Round 4. The 1992 supplemental sample was primarily designed to include newly enrolled beneficiaries (i.e., beneficiaries who were enrolled during the period February 1991 through January 1992 (see Endnote1)), but also included previously enrolled beneficiaries to compensate for losses in the original sample due to the cumulative effects of deaths, emigration, and nonresponse. The 1992 Access to Care questions were administered in September through December 1992 as part of the Round 4 interview for the continuing sample, and as part of the initial interview for the supplemental sample.

In 1993 an additional supplemental sample of 2,449 beneficiaries was added to the sample for Round 7. Like the 1992 supplemental sample, the 1993 supplemental sample was intended primarily to include newly enrolled beneficiaries (i.e., beneficiaries who were enrolled during the period February 1992 through December 1992), as well as previously enrolled beneficiaries (i.e., beneficiaries who were enrolled on or before January 1, 1992) to maintain the desired sample size. The 1993 Access to Care questions were

Section 5: Sample Design and Estimation

administered in September through December 1993 as part of the Round 7 interview for the continuing sample, and as part of the initial interview of the 1993 supplemental sample.

The MCBS rotating panel design became operational in 1994. Under the rotating panel design, a nationally representative sample is selected for each Fall interviewing round to replace beneficiaries who are scheduled to exit the study in the preceding Spring round. In 1994, a supplemental sample of 6,390 beneficiaries was added to the MCBS sample for Round 10. The 1994 supplemental sample included newly enrolled beneficiaries (i.e., beneficiaries who were enrolled during the period January 1993 through December 1993) as well as previously enrolled beneficiaries (i.e., beneficiaries who were enrolled on or before December 1992). The 1994 Access to Care questions were administered in September through December 1994 as part of the Round 10 interview for the continuing sample, and as part of the initial interview of the 1994 supplemental sample.

In 1995, a supplemental sample of 6,349 beneficiaries was added to the sample for Round 13. The 1995 supplemental sample included newly enrolled beneficiaries (i.e., beneficiaries who were enrolled during the period January 1994 through January 1995) as well as previously enrolled beneficiaries (i.e., beneficiaries who were enrolled on or before December 1993). The 1995 Access to Care questions were administered in September through December 1995 as part of the Round 13 interview for the continuing sample, and as part of the initial interview of the 1995 supplemental sample.

In 1996, a supplemental sample of 6,506 beneficiaries was added to the sample for Round 16. The 1996 supplemental sample included newly enrolled beneficiaries (i.e., beneficiaries who were enrolled during the period February 1995 through January 1996) as well as previously enrolled beneficiaries (i.e., beneficiaries who were enrolled on or before January 1995). In addition to the 6,506 beneficiaries selected for the “regular” supplement, an additional 2,799 beneficiaries were selected for a one-time ORD/HMO special supplement. These 2,799 beneficiaries included 1,490 in risk HMO or FFS plans in selected target areas of South California and South Florida and 1,309 beneficiaries in risk HMO plans outside of the targeted areas. The 1996 Access to Care questions were administered in September through December 1996 as part of the Round 16 interview for the continuing sample, and as part of the initial interview for the 1996 supplemental samples. In addition to questions on access to care, satisfaction with care, and health status, the Round 16 supplement included questions specific to managed care issues.

In 1997, a supplemental sample of 6,599 beneficiaries was added to the sample for Round 19. The 1997 supplemental sample included newly enrolled beneficiaries (i.e., beneficiaries who were enrolled during the period February 1996 through January 1997) as well as previously enrolled beneficiaries (i.e., beneficiaries who were enrolled on or before January 1996). In addition to the 6,599 beneficiaries selected for the

Section 5: Sample Design and Estimation

“regular” supplement, an additional 2,536 beneficiaries were selected for a one-time ORD/HMO special supplement. These 2,536 beneficiaries included 2,089 in risk HMO and FFS plans in selected targeted areas of Arizona and Philadelphia and 447 beneficiaries in risk HMO plans outside of the targeted areas.

The 1997 Access to Care questions were administered in September through December 1997 as part of the Round 19 interview for the continuing sample, and as part of the initial interview for the 1997 supplemental samples. In addition to questions on access to care, satisfaction with care and health status, the Round 19 supplement included questions specific to managed care issues.

In 1998, a supplemental sample of 6,450 beneficiaries was added to the sample for Round 22. The 1998 supplemental MCBS sample included newly enrolled beneficiaries (i.e., beneficiaries who were enrolled during the period February 1997 through January 1998) as well as previously enrolled beneficiaries (i.e., beneficiaries who were enrolled on or before January 1997). In addition to the 6,450 beneficiaries selected for the “regular” supplement, an additional 5,162 beneficiaries were selected for a one-time ORD/HMO special supplement. These 5,162 beneficiaries included 3,909 beneficiaries in risk HMO and FFS plans in selected targeted areas of Denver, Minneapolis, and South Florida and 1,253 beneficiaries in risk HMO plans outside of the targeted areas. The 1998 Access to Care questions were administered in September through December 1998 as part of the Round 22 interview for the continuing sample, and as part of the initial interview for the 1998 supplemental samples. In addition to questions on access to care, satisfaction with care, and health status, the Round 22 supplement included questions specific to managed care issues.

In 1999, a supplemental sample of 6,399 beneficiaries was added to the sample for Round 25. The 1999 supplemental MCBS sample included newly enrolled beneficiaries (i.e., beneficiaries who were enrolled during the period February 1998 through January 1999) as well as previously enrolled beneficiaries (i.e., beneficiaries who were enrolled on or before January 1998). In addition to the 6,399 beneficiaries selected for the “regular” supplement, an additional 1,279 beneficiaries were selected for a one-time national OSP/HMO special supplement in risk HMO plans. The 1999 Access to Care questions were administered in September through December 1999 as part of the Round 25 interview for the continuing sample, and as part of the initial interview for the 1999 supplemental samples. In addition to questions on access to care, satisfaction with care, and health status, the Round 25 supplement included questions specific to managed care issues.

In 2000, a supplemental sample of 6,376 beneficiaries was added to the sample for Round 28. The 2000 supplemental MCBS sample included newly enrolled beneficiaries (i.e., beneficiaries who were enrolled during the period February 1999 through January 2000) as well as previously enrolled beneficiaries (i.e., beneficiaries who were enrolled on or before January 1999). In addition to the 6,276 beneficiaries selected

for the “regular” supplement, an additional 3,693 beneficiaries were selected for a special study of Medicare beneficiaries residing in selected areas of Massachusetts who were also eligible for Medicaid (i.e., dual eligible beneficiaries). However, since the sample of dual eligible beneficiaries was restricted to only a few counties in Massachusetts, it would not have been efficient to combine it with the regular MCBS sample. Thus, the special dual eligible sample is *not* included in the 2000 Access to Care release. The 2000 Access to Care questions were administered in September through December 2000 as part of the Round 28 interview for the continuing sample, and as part of the initial interview for the 2000 supplemental sample.

Finally, in 2001, a supplemental sample of 6,302 beneficiaries was added to the sample for Round 31. The 2001 supplemental MCBS sample included newly enrolled beneficiaries (i.e., beneficiaries who were enrolled during the period February 2000 through January 2001) as well as previously enrolled beneficiaries (i.e., beneficiaries who were enrolled on or before January 2000). The 2001 Access to Care questions were administered in September through December 2001 as part of the Round 31 interview for the continuing sample, and as part of the initial interview for the 2001 supplemental sample.

Response Rates

By Round 31, 67 percent of the 1998 panel were still in a formal responding status (that is, either the SP was alive and still participating or had died after Round 22 but left behind a cooperative proxy for the collection of data on the last months of life) or had participated in the survey until death, leaving enough data to estimate the last months of life. For the 1999 and 2000 panels, the corresponding figures were 71 and 75 percent, respectively. The 2001 panel (Round 31) had an initial response rate of 85 percent.

There were 3,392 interviews successfully completed at Round 31 with still-living members of the 1998 panel. For brevity, we refer to these 3,392 interviews as “live completes.” For the 1999 and 2000 panels there were 3,794 and 4,212 live Round 31 completes, respectively.

Completed interviews by sampling strata

Table 5.3 lists the number of completed interviews for Round 31 for the continuing (Rounds 22, 25, and 28) and supplemental (Round 31) panels by age strata. Under the rotating panel design, the beneficiaries selected in Round 19 were released from the sample prior to Round 31.

Table 5.3 MCBS Round 31 completed interviews for the continuing and supplemental panels

Age group	- Round 31 Completed Interviews -		Total
	Continuing	Supplemental	
Total	11,399	5,062	16,461
0 - 44	850	448	1,298
45 - 64	1,027	413	1,440
65 - 69	1,541	1,108	2,649
70 - 74	2,337	700	3,037
75 - 79	1,969	883	2,852
80 - 84	1,913	786	2,699
85 +	1,762	724	2,486

Item Non-response

As in any other survey, some respondents could not, or would not, supply answers to some questions. Item non-response rates are generally low in the CY 2001 Access to Care release, but the analyst still needs to be aware of the missing data and be cautious about patterns of nonresponse.

Some of the missing data is attributable to the fact that some of the community interviews and all of the facility interviews are conducted by a proxy respondent. In other words, the respondent may not have had knowledge of the information sought on the sample person. In other situations the respondent may have simply refused to answer. While no effort was made to specifically impute missing data for the Access to Care variables, where possible, much of the data not collected in the current round has been filled in through editing to earlier files or through the use of files that have been imputed.

Each user can decide how to handle the missing data. One simple approach is to delete records with missing data. The cumulative effect of deleting each record with any missing data can significantly reduce the data available for analysis. Another approach is to create an "unknown" or "missing" category within each variable distribution. This approach retains more observations than the first approach.

There are other more complicated alternatives for handling cases with missing data. One is to impute the missing data. This can be done fairly easily in such a way as to improve univariate tabulations, but

techniques that retain correlation structure for multivariate analyses are extremely complex. For more discussion of imputation, the user is referred to Kalton and Kasprzyk (1986). An alternative is model-based estimation where a joint mechanism is hypothesized that underlies both the substantive data and the missing data structure. For a discussion of this technique, see Little and Rubin (1987).

Preparing Statistics (Using the Full Sample Weights)

Four sets of final "full sample" Round 31 weights have been provided for different types of statistics. (The term "full sample" is used to distinguish these weights from the replicate weights discussed in the next section). One set of weights is labeled **CS1YRWGT** (RIC X). **CS1YRWGT** is a cross-sectional weight and applies to both the continuing sample and to the supplemental sample, which was fielded for the first time in Round 31. This weight is intended for use in cross-sectional statistics involving the total (combined) Round 28 sample. Each weight is greater than zero for all 16,462 beneficiaries on the file. **CS1YRWGT** should be used to make estimates of the levels of access to care for the Medicare population alive in the fall of 2001.

The second set of weights is labeled **L4YRSWGT** (RIC X4). It is intended for use in longitudinal statistics involving respondents in the 1998 panel who completed Round 22, Round 25, Round 28, and Round 31 interviews. The longitudinal weight, **L4YRSWGT**, does not apply to the 1999, 2000, and 2001 panels. This weight should only be used when the CY 1998 (Round 22), CY 1999 (Round 25), CY 2000 (Round 28), and CY 2001 (Round 31) Access to Care releases have been merged together. Records must be merged at the beneficiary level, and only those beneficiaries who completed all four rounds (that is, have positive numeric **L4YRSWGT**) should be included in the final file. This weight can then be used to make estimates of changes in characteristics (say, health status) or attitudes (say, satisfaction with care) of a given subset of the population over the three- year period. There are 3,392 beneficiaries who completed the Round 22, Round 25, Round 28, and Round 31 interviews; these beneficiaries can be identified by selecting cases for which **D_SMPTYP**='98' (RIC K, Key Record).

The third set of weights is labeled **L3YRSWGT** (RIC X3). These weights are intended for use in longitudinal statistics involving respondents in the 1998 and 1999 panels who completed interviews in Round 25, Round 28, and Round 31. The longitudinal weight, **L3YRSWGT**, does not apply to the 2000 or 2001 panel cases. This weight should only be used when the CY 1999 (Round 25), CY 2000 (Round 28), and CY 2001 (Round 31) Access to Care releases have been merged together. Records must be merged at the beneficiary level, and only those beneficiaries who completed all three interviews should be included in the final file. This weight can then be used to make estimates of year-to-year changes from 1999

Section 5: Sample Design and Estimation

to 2001. **L3YRSWGT** is greater than zero only for persons who completed the Round 25, Round 28, and Round 31 interviews; it is inapplicable (".") for the respondents in the 2000 and 2001 panels. There are 7,186 beneficiaries who completed Round 25, Round 28, and Round 31 interviews; these beneficiaries are identified as **D_SMPTYP='98'** or **D_SMPTYP='99'** (RIC K, Key record).

The fourth set of weights is labeled **L2YRSWGT** (RIC X2). These weights are intended for use in longitudinal statistics involving respondents from the 1998, 1999, and 2000 panels who completed interviews in both Round 28 and Round 31. The longitudinal weight, **L2YRSWGT**, does not apply to the 2001 panel cases. This weight should only be used when the CY 2000 (Round 28) and CY 2001 (Round 31) Access to Care releases have been merged together. Records must be merged at the beneficiary level, and only those beneficiaries who completed both interviews should be included in the final file. This weight can then be used to make estimates of year-to-year changes, such as the number of persons who went from being very satisfied with their care to being dissatisfied with their care. **L2YRSWGT** is greater than zero only for persons who completed Round 25 and Round 28; it is inapplicable (".") for the 2001 panel. There are 11,400 beneficiaries who completed both Round 28 and Round 31 interviews; these beneficiaries are identified as **D_SMPTYP='98'**, **D_SMPTYP='99'**, or **D_SMPTYP='00'** (RIC K, Key record).

Although it is possible to create some cross-sectional estimates using **L4YRSWGT**, **L3YRSWGT**, or **L2YRSWGT** and create longitudinal estimates using **CS1YRWGT**, both of these actions are strongly discouraged. In general, estimates of the same population statistic produced using the two types of weights (that is, cross-sectional and longitudinal) will differ systematically. When **L4YRSWGT**, **L3YRSWGT**, or **L2YRSWGT** are used for cross-sectional estimation, recently enrolled beneficiaries will not be represented. When **CS1YRWGT** is used for longitudinal estimation, positive weights will be given to cases without baseline data and the weights for long-term enrollees will be too small.

Variance Estimation (Using the Replicate Weights)

In many statistical packages, including SAS, the procedures for calculating sampling errors (e.g., variances, standard errors, etc.) assume that the data were collected in a simple random sample. Procedures of this type are not appropriate for calculating the sampling errors of statistics based upon a stratified, unequal-probability, multi-stage sample such as the MCBS. Thus, to permit the calculation of sampling errors, a series of replicate weights are included in the 2001 Access to Care release.

Section 5: Sample Design and Estimation

The replicate weights included in the MCBS data files can be used to calculate standard errors of the sample-based estimates as described below. Just as there are four full sample weights for Round 31, one for cross-sectional analyses and three for longitudinal analyses, there are four corresponding sets of replicate weights.

The replicate cross-sectional weights are labeled **CS1YR001** through **CS1YR100** and may be found in the Cross-sectional Weights record (RIC X). The first set of replicate longitudinal weights is labeled **L4YRS001** through **L4YRS100** and may be found on the first Longitudinal Weights Record (RIC X4). The second set of replicate longitudinal weights is labeled **L3YRS001** through **L3YRS100** and may be found on the second Longitudinal Weights Record (RIC X3). The third set of replicate longitudinal weights is labeled **L2YRS001** through **L2YRS100** and may be found on the third Longitudinal Weights Record (RIC X2).

These replicate weights can be used for variance estimation. The user has two options for using the replicate weights, and a third option that does not require replicate weights. The first option is to use a software package called WesVar that is available from Westat at no charge. The Version 2.12 program and user's guide can be downloaded from Westat's home page on the World Wide Web at: **WWW.WESTAT.COM**. Version 4 of WesVar can also be purchased directly from Westat. The newer version has additional features that are described in detail at the following web site: **WWW.WESTAT.COM/WESVAR**. Technical questions may be directed to David Ferraro at Westat, telephone 301.251.4261.

Identification of weight variable and variables for analysis can be done using the WesVar menus. To run WesVar with MCBS data and weights, the method should be specified as Fay's method with a factor of 0.3.

The second option is for the user to write a small custom program using a very simple algorithm. Let X_0 be an estimate of a statistic of interest formed using one of the full sample weights. Let X_1 through X_{100} be estimates (calculated by the user) of the same statistic of interest formed using the corresponding 100 replicate weights. The estimated variance of X_0 is then simply:

$$Var(X_0) = \frac{2.04}{100} \sum_{i=1}^{100} (X_i - X_0)^2$$

Section 5: Sample Design and Estimation

The third option is for users who prefer to use alternate software such as SUDAAN7 (Professional Software for SURvey DATA ANalysis for Multi-stage Sample Designs) to compute population estimates and the associated variance estimates. Two variables, SUDSTRAT and SUDUNIT, have been included in the cross sectional and longitudinal weight records to allow use of SUDAAN.

An example of using SUDAAN statements to compute an estimate of the proportion of the Medicare population (excluding newly enrolled after January 2000) that had an inpatient stay in 2000 is shown below:

```
PROC CROSSTAB DATA=dsn FILETYPE=SAS DESIGN=WR;  
  NEST SUDSTRAT SUDUNIT / MISSUNIT;  
  WEIGHT R28COWGT;  
  SUBGROUP H_INPSW;  
  LEVELS 2;  
  PRINT NSUM ROWPER SEROW;
```

The data set dsn is the name of the file that contains the weights and statistics of interest. The variable H_INPSW is an inpatient switch indicator from the RIC A. Note that variables specified in the NEST, WEIGHT, and SUBGROUP statements have to be numeric and that SUBGROUP must run between 1 and the number of levels with no gaps.

Consistency with Medicare Program Statistics and with Prior Access to Care releases

In general, MCBS estimates are not consistent with Medicare program statistics such as tabulations of the HISKEW. There are several reasons for the inconsistencies. The most important reason is that the EDB, and hence the HISKEW, includes people who are no longer alive. This may occur where people have entitlement, say for Part A only, and receive no Social Security check. When field staff try to locate these beneficiaries for interviews, they establish the fact of these deaths. This over-reporting on the HISKEW files is expected to diminish somewhat due to recent efforts to modify CMS edit procedures that rejected records from SSA which had valid dates of death but other erroneous information and due to a recent replenishing of the EDB with SSA records to get nine-digit zip codes. Unrecorded deaths are still present on the EDB.

For cross-sectional estimates of the CY 1992 and CY 1993 Access to Care, special weighting procedures were used to force some MCBS estimates to agree with HISKEW tabulations. This was not the case for the CY 1991 release nor is it the case for CY 1994 through CY 2001.

Section 5: Sample Design and Estimation

Although revised 1992 weights have not been published, internal analyses indicate that the estimated mean reimbursement per enrollee in 1992 was slightly too low in all but the youngest age category. The estimate of mean total Medicare reimbursement amount in 1992 increased 0.25 percent from \$5,022 per beneficiary before reweighting to \$5,035 per beneficiary after reweighting. This downward bias was due to the presence of a relatively small number of individuals on the enrollment database who are listed as alive when in fact they are dead (primarily individuals not receiving social security benefits but deemed "insured" for purposes of Medicare at the beginning of the program). Consequently, the number of enrollees was estimated to be too large. This effect was concentrated in the 85+ age category since that is where most of the unrecorded deaths were detected during survey field operations. Results of internal analysis indicate that the estimated proportion of beneficiaries in the 85 + age group decreased from 9.6 percent to 9.0 percent after reweighting.

Also, research has shown that MCBS estimates by Census Division (the nation is divided into nine of these areas) are subject to extremely high variance. Users are urged to collapse down to the standard four Census Regions for geographic analyses.

There was an error in the 1992 weighting that skewed sample estimates toward non-metropolitan characteristics. Results from the reweighting indicate that mean total 1992 Medicare reimbursement increased from \$4,238 to \$4,269 for non-metropolitan beneficiaries, but decreased from \$5,334 to \$5,303 for beneficiaries in metropolitan areas.

Finally, an error in sampling was discovered early in 1996 that resulted in the selection of 320 beneficiaries from ZIP clusters that are not in sampled PSUs. Of these missampled cases, 64 were sampled with the 1992 supplementary panel, 38 were sampled with the 1993 supplementary panel, 115 were sampled with the 1994 supplementary panel, and 103 were sampled with the 1995 supplementary panel. Most of these cases are located in Central Florida (92 cases) and Puerto Rico (181 cases). Missampled cases in the 1991-1993 panels were released at Round 16. Seven missampled cases in the 1992 panel remained in the sample at Round 16 but will be released at Round 19 when this panel rotates out of the sample.

Weighting procedures for the 1996 Access to Care releases included a special adjustment to correct for the missampling. Weights for the previous Access to Care releases have not been revised to reflect this correction. Although preliminary analysis indicates that the effect on overall estimates is small, estimates for Hispanics appear to be more affected by the sampling errors, and analysts are advised to use caution when interpreting results for this subgroup that are obtained from earlier Access to Care releases.

References

- Kalton, G. and Kasprzyk, D. (1986), "The Treatment of Missing Survey Data," *Survey Methodology*, 2, 1-16.
- Little, R.J.A. and Rubin, D.B. (1987), *Statistical Analysis with Missing Data*, New York: John Wiley and Sons.
- Lo, A., Chu, A. and Apodaca, R. (forth coming). Redesign of the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey Sample. *Proceedings of the Survey Research Methods Section of the American Statistical Association* [CD-ROM], Alexandria, VA: American Statistical Association.

Notes

1. Because people often are listed in the enrollment database before eligibility for Medicare benefits actually begins, the Round 4 supplement includes some beneficiaries who became eligible in February 1992 or later.
2. The primary goal of the survey is the dissemination of detailed calendar year utilization and expenditure data. Therefore, it was decided to delay sampling the January 1993 accretes to coincide with sampling for the balance of 1993 accretes. Since the target for the CY 1993 Access to Care file was all those enrolled for all of 1993, which includes the January 1993 accretes, a weighting adjustment was made so that the cross-sectional weights on that file do reflect the inclusion of this group.
3. The primary goal of the survey is the dissemination of detailed calendar year utilization and expenditure data. Therefore, it was decided to delay sampling the January 1994 accretes to coincide with sampling for the balance of 1994 accretes. Since the target for the CY 1994 Access to Care file was all those enrolled for all of 1994, which includes the January 1994 accretes, a weighting adjustment was made so that the cross-sectional weights on that file do reflect the inclusion of this group.

Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey
CY 2001 Access to Care

File Changes

Changes in This Year's File

The MCBS Access to Care files have remained fairly similar in format and content. Although the Access series has been periodically tapped as a vehicle for special one-time supplements, by in large the core instrument experiences only minor adaptations. These adaptations come in the form of adding, rewording, or removing questions, in the attempt to enhance the original survey instrument. The 2001 Access to Care file has some changes that are briefly laid out here.

The most significant change to the 2001 Access to Care file is the deletion of RICs BK and BN and the creation of the RIC KN. The RIC KN combines new questions with some questions previously asked in the BK and BN supplements. This new RIC will help to refine future CMS education initiatives by asking about information that beneficiaries may need, preferred sources for this information, and beneficiaries' access to insurance information. One other addition to the 2001 Access file is the RIC PA.

The RIC PA is designed to assess the degree to which Medicare beneficiaries actively participate in their own health care and the decisions concerning that health care; measuring not only if beneficiaries receive information about their health and Medicare, but also if they understand it in a way that makes it useful.

The following RICs' have undergone some change:

All RICs	RIC 5	RIC KN
RIC 1	RIC 6	RIC PA
RIC 2	RIC 7	
RIC 2F	RIC BK	
RIC 2H	RIC BN	
RIC 2P	RIC H	

All RICS

Variable Name	Description	Change
FILEYR	Year of Survey Data (YY)	Dropped
VERSION	Version Number	Added

RIC 1

Variable Name	Description	Change
INCSRCE	Source of SP income data	Added

RIC 2

Variable Name	Description	Change
BPTAKEN	Most recent time blood pressure checked	Added
BCTAKEN	Most recent time cholesterol checked	Added
YRHBP	Past yr told you have hypert/HBP	Added
YRMYOCAR	Past yr told had myoc infarct/hrt attack	Added
YRCHD	Past yr new episode angina pectoris/CHD	Added
YRCFAIL	Past yr new episode congest. hrt failure	Added
YRVALVE	Past yr new probs w/ heart valves	Added
YRRHYTHM	Past yr new probs w/ heart rhythm	Added
YROTHHRT	Past yr told had other heart condition	Added
YRSTROKE	Past yr told had stroke/brain hemorrhage	Added
YRCSKIN	Past yr told had skin cancer occurrence	Added
YRCANCER	Past yr told had other (non-skin) cancer	Added
YRPSYCH	Past yr told had mental/psych. Disorder	Added
YRBRKHIP	Past yr told had broken hip	Added
YRPPARAL	Past yr told had any paralysis	Added
YRPROST	Past yr told had enlarged prostate/BPH	Added
TIMESAD	In past yr how much time sad/depressed	Added
LOSTINTR	In past yr SP lost interest for 2+ weeks	Added
YRARTRHD	Had arthritis since a year ago?	Added

RIC 2F

Variable Name	Description	Change
MLWLPRIM	Did SP use wheelchair prim means?	Added

RIC 2H

Variable Name	Description	Change
HLPRINS	Helps SP w/ Medicare hlth ins decisions	Dropped
HLPRPAPR	Helps SP w/ Medicare paperwork	Dropped
USREMAIN	Does helper remain with you at Dr?	Added

RIC 2P

Variable Name	Description	Change
DIAAGE	SP's age when told had diabetes	Dropped
DIAPRGNT	Did SP have diabetes during pregnancy	Dropped
DIATYPES	Type of diabetes SP has	Dropped
DIAINSUL	SP takes insulin	Dropped
DIAMEDS	SP takes prescribed diabetes pill/med	Dropped
DIATEST	SP tests own blood for sugar/glucose	Dropped
DIADIET	SP uses diet control for diabetes	Dropped
DIAEXER	SP does regular exercise for diabetes	Dropped
DIASORES	SP checks for sores on feet	Dropped
DIAASPRN	SP takes aspirin regularly for diabetes	Dropped
INSUDAY	Insulin - times per day	Dropped
INSUTAKE	How often SP takes insulin	Dropped
INSUWEEK	Insulin - times per week	Dropped
MEDDAY	Diabetes medicine - per day	Dropped
MEDMONTH	Diabetes medicine - per month	Dropped
MEDSTAKE	How often takes meds/pill for diabetes	Dropped
MEDWEEK	Diabetes medicine - per week	Dropped
TESTDAY	Blood test - times per day	Dropped
TESTMNTN	Blood test - times per month	Dropped
TESTTAKE	How often tests own blood for sugar/gluc	Dropped
TESTWEEK	Blood test - times per week	Dropped
TESTYEAR	Diabetes blood test - per year	Dropped
SORECHEK	How often checks feet for sores {diabetes}	Dropped
SOREDAYS	Check sores - times per day	Dropped
SOREMNTN	Check sores - times per month	Dropped
SOREWEEK	Check sores - times per week	Dropped
SOREYEAR	Check sores - times per year	Dropped
DIADRSW	# of times saw Dr. last yr. for diabetes	Dropped
DIATREAT	Dr. talked about treatment for diabetes?	Dropped
DIAHEMOC	# times checked {hemoglobin a} last year	Dropped
DIAPROBS	Probs. w/ eyes/feet because of diabetes	Dropped
DIAMNGE	Had diabetes self management course	Dropped
DIATRAN	Last time SP had diabetes mgmnt training	Dropped
DIKNOW	How much knows about managing diabetes	Dropped
DIASUPPS	Know Medicare helps pay for supplies	Dropped
DIAEVERT	Ever had blood test for diabetes	Dropped
DIARECNT	Most recent time tested for diabetes	Dropped

RIC 2P Continued

Variable Name	Description	Change
DIARISK	Ever told at high risk for diabetes	Dropped
DIASIGNS	Received info about signs of diabetes	Dropped
COLHEAR	SP heard of colon cancer before today	Dropped
COLHRISK	SP told at high risk for colon cancer	Dropped
COLHTEST	SP given home test for fecal blood	Dropped
COLHKIT	Heard of home test kit for fecal blood	Dropped
COLCARD	Sent card in for most recent test	Dropped
COLKCOST	Cost of test/insurance doesn't pay	Dropped
COLKDISG	Test was repulsive/disgusting	Dropped
COLKFEAR	Afraid of results/don't want to know	Dropped
COLKFORG	Forgot it/procrastinated	Dropped
COLKGET	Could get cancer anyway/test useless	Dropped
COLKINCO	Inconvenient	Dropped
COLKNEED	Didn't think it was needed/nothing wrong	Dropped
COLKOTHR	Did't complete home kit - other	Dropped
COLKPERF	Could not perform test correctly	Dropped
COLKRISK	Not at risk for cancer	Dropped
COLKSTOL	Did not want to handle stool	Dropped
COLKTRST	Don't trust lab, test, results	Dropped
COLRECNT	When most recent blood stool test done	Dropped
COLSCOPY	Ever had colonoscopy or sigmoidoscopy	Dropped
WHENSCOP	When most recent colonoscopy done	Dropped
HEARSCOP	Heard of colonoscopy before today	Dropped
COLDRREC	Dr. ever recommend colonoscopy	Dropped
COLNAPP	Difficulty getting appointment	Dropped
COLNAPPT	Appointment is scheduled/due soon	Dropped
COLNCOST	Cost of test/insurance doesn't pay	Dropped
COLNFEAR	Afraid of results/don't want to know	Dropped
COLNGET	Could get cancer anyway/test is useless	Dropped
COLNLIKE	Don't like tests/pain/discomfort	Dropped
COLNLOCA	Inconvenient/hard to get to location	Dropped
COLNMISS	Haven't scheduled/missed/forgot it	Dropped
COLNNEED	Wasn't needed/no needed/nothing wrong	Dropped
COLNOTHR	Did not have colonoscopy - other reason	Dropped
COLNRISK	Not at risk for cancer	Dropped
COLSCRNS	Know Medicare helps pay screening tests	Dropped
OSTEVERT	Ever talked to dr. about osteoporosis	Dropped
OSTHRISK	SP told at high risk for osteoporosis	Dropped
OSTTEST	Ever had bone mass/measurement test	Dropped
OSTHEAR	Heard of bone mass test before today	Dropped
OSTRECNT	Most recent time had bone mass test	Dropped

RIC 2P Continued

Variable Name	Description	Change
OSTMASS	Know Medicare pays for bone mass test	Dropped
MAMNILL	SP was too ill, physically or mentally	Added
PAPNILL	SP was too ill, physically or mentally	Added
FLUAGNST	No flu shot b/c Dr against/allergic to	Added
FLUBEFOR	No flu shot b/c had before/no need again	Added
FLUCAUSE	No flu shot b/c could cause flu	Added
FLUCOST	No flu shot b/c shot not worth cost	Added
FLUDOCNO	No flu shot b/c Dr didn't recommend it	Added
FLULOCAT	No flu shot b/c unable get to location	Added
FLUMISS	No flu shot b/c missed, forgot, etc.	Added
FLUNEED	No flu shot b/c didn't know was needed	Added
FLUOTHER	No flu shot b/c other reason	Added
FLUPRVNT	No flu shot b/c didn't think prevent flu	Added
FLUREACT	No flu shot b/c don't like shots/needles	Added
FLURISK	No flu shot b/c of risk of catching flu	Added
FLUSIDE	No flu shot b/c could have side effects	Added
PNUAGNST	No pneu shot b/c Dr against/allergic to	Added
PNUCAUSE	No pneu shot b/c could cause pneumonia	Added
PNUCOST	No pneu shot b/c shot not worth cost	Added
PNUDOCNO	No pneu shot b/c Dr didn't recommend it	Added
PNULOCAT	No pneu shot b/c unable get to location	Added
PNUMISS	No pneu shot b/c missed, forgot, etc.	Added
PNUNEED	No pneu shot b/c didn't know was needed	Added
PNUOTHER	No pneu shot b/c other reason	Added
PNUPRVNT	No pneu shot b/c no think prevent pneu.	Added
PNUREACT	No pneu shot b/c dont like shots/needles	Added
PNURISK	No pneu shot b/c not at risk of catching	Added
PNUSIDE	No pneu shot b/c could have side effects	Added

RIC 5

Variable Name	Description	Change
DWELLING	Description of SP's home	Added
DWELLOS	Description of SP's home - other	Added
HLEVELS	How many levels in SP's home?	Added
HELEVTR	Does SP's residence have an elevator?	Added
HONELEVL	Is living space all on one level?	Added
HBTHLEVL	Is a bathroom on all levels of residence	Added
HRAMPS	Does SP's residence have ramps?	Added
HBATHRM	Does SP's bathroom have modifications?	Added
HRAILING	Does SP's residence have special railing?	Added

RIC 5 Continued

Variable Name	Description	Change
HOUSTYPE	Does SP live in type housing in HA10?	Added
HCOMUNTY	Description of SP's housing site	Added
HCOMUNOS	Description of SP's housing site-other	Added
HPERCARE	Does SP's residence offer personal care?	Added
MEALPROB	Do you have access to prepared meals?	Added
MAIDPROB	Do you have access to cleaning services?	Added
WASHPROB	Do you have access to laundry services?	Added
HELPPROB	Do you have access to help w/ medication	Added
TRANPROB	Do you have access to transportation?	Added
RECPROB	Do you have access to recreational servi	Added
SERVINCL	Are services included in housing cost?	Added
STAYPUT	If seriously ill, could SP remain there?	Added
CAREPART	Is care provided in another part of HA10	Added
REQAGE	Is there a required age to live there?	Added
PERSBATH	Do you have your own bath facility?	Added
NBRROOMS	How many rooms in your residence?	Added
PERKITCH	Do you have your own kitchen?	Added
OUTSTATE	Does SP have home in another state?	Added

RIC 6

Variable Name	Description	Change
ADMFROS	Place SP was admitted from, other	Dropped
DISCHTO	Place SP was discharged to	Dropped
DISCHTOS	Place SP discharged other	Dropped

RIC 7

Variable Name	Description	Change
FACDIOS	Facility description - other specified	Dropped
FACDISC	Facility description	Dropped
MCDICFMR	Number of ICF/MR beds	Dropped
MCDSNFN	Number of SNF beds - Medicaid certified	Dropped
NHSTAT	Nursing home status flag	Dropped
SNFBEDN	Number of SNF beds - Medicare certified	Dropped
MCAIDRES	# of residents w/ Medicaid payment	Added
MCARERES	# of residents w/ Mcare as primary payor	Added
PRPAYRES	# of residents who have private pay only	Added
MIDNTRES	Midnight census count last night	Added
PLACTYPE	Facility description	Added

RIC BK

RIC BK was discontinued. Much of the same data now appear in RIC KN. See ? For crosswalk from BK to KN.

RIC BN

RIC BN was discontinued. Some of the same data now appear in RIC KN. See ? For crosswalk from BN to KN.

RIC H

Variable Name	Description	Change
MHMORX	Does Medicare HMO plan cover drugs?	Added
MHMODENT	Does Medicare HMO plan cover dental?	Added
MHMOEYE	Does Medicare HMO plan cover eye exams?	Added
MHMOPCAR	Does Mcare HMO plan cover preventiv care	Added
MHMONH	Does Mcare HMO plan cover nursing home?	Added
MHMOPAY	Does SP pay additional for HMO coverage?	Added
D_ANHMO	Annual additional cost for MHMO coverage	Added
MHMOCOST	Did anyone else pay portion of premium?	Added
MHMOWHO	Who else pays a portion of the premium?	Added

RIC KN

Variable Name	Description	Change
	KN: Beneficiary Knowledge & Info. Needs	Added

RIC PA

Variable Name	Description	Change
	PA: Patient Activation	Added