

Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS)

Release Overview

Data files	Release
RIC K – Key Record	Access to Care, Cost & Use
RIC A – Administrative Identification	Access to Care, Cost & Use
RIC 1 – Survey Identification	Access to Care, Cost & Use
RIC 2 – Health Status and Functioning (Community)	Access to Care, Cost & Use
RIC 2F – Health Status and Functioning (Facility)	Access to Care, Cost & Use
RIC 2H – Health Status and Functioning (Helper)	Access to Care
RIC 2P – Health Status and Functioning (Prevention)	Access to Care
RIC 3 – Access to Care	Access to Care
RIC 4 – Health Insurance	Access to Care, Cost & Use
RIC 5 – Enumeration	Access to Care, Cost & Use
RIC 6 – Facility Residence History	Access to Care
RIC 7 – Facility Characteristics	Access to Care, Cost & Use
RIC 7S – SNF Characteristics	Cost & Use
RIC 8 – Interview Description	Access to Care, Cost & Use
Ric 9 – Residence Timeline	Cost & Use
Ric 10 – MDS/OAS Timeline	Cost & Use
RIC H – HMO Supplement	Access to Care
RIC DUE - Dental Events	Cost & Use
RIC FAE - Facility Events	Cost & Use
RIC IPE - Inpatient Hospital Events	Cost & Use
RIC IUE - Institutional Events	Cost & Use
RIC MPE - Medical Provider Events	Cost & Use
RIC OPE - Outpatient Hospital Events	Cost & Use
RIC PME - Prescribed Medicine Events	Cost & Use
RIC SS – Type of Service Summary	Cost & Use
RIC PS - Person Summary	Cost & Use
RIC KN – Beneficiary Knowledge & Information Needs	Access to Care
RIC RX – Drug Coverage	Access to Care
RIC X – Cross-sectional Weights	Access to Care, Cost & Use
RIC X2 – 2 years' Longitudinal Weights	Access to Care
RIC X3 – 3 years' Longitudinal Weights	Access to Care, Cost & Use
RIC X4 – 4 years' Longitudinal Weights	Access to Care, Cost & Use
RIC MDS – MDS Supplement	Cost & Use
RIC OAS – OAS Supplement	Cost & Use

Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS)

Segment Overview

RIC K: KEY RECORD

The BASEID Key Record file 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. There is one record for each person who completed an interview.

RIC A: ADMINISTRATIVE IDENTIFICATION

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 and sex), insurance information (Medicare entitlement, Medicaid eligibility, HMO enrollment), and summarizes the sample person's Medicare utilization for the calendar year. There is one record for each person who completed an interview.

RIC 1: SURVEY IDENTIFICATION

The Survey Identification file contains demographic information collected in the survey. Similar data obtained from CMS administrative files such as date of birth and sex may be found in RIC A. There is one record for each person who completed an interview. There is one record for each person who completed an interview

RIC 2: HEALTH STATUS & FUNCTIONING (COMMUNITY)

The Health Status & Functioning (Community) file includes data about the sample person's health including height and weight, self-assessments of vision and hearing, history of medical conditions, functioning, among others.

From 1991 through 1996, this file contained one record for each person who completed an interview whether in the community or facility. This changed in 1997 when the facility instrument was converted to a Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing format. Since then, this file contains data from community interviews only; RIC 2F contains similar data from facility interviews.

RIC 2F: HEALTH STATUS & FUNCTIONING (FACILITY)

The Health Status & Functioning (Facility) file includes data about the sample person's health including height and weight, self-assessments of vision and hearing, history of medical conditions, functioning, among others. There is one record for each facility interview.

This file started in 1997 when the facility instrument was converted to a Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing format. It contains one record for each person who completed a facility interview. From 1991 through 1996, similar data may be found in RIC 2.

RIC 2H: HEALTH STATUS & FUNCTIONING (HELPER)

The Health Status & Functioning (Helper) file contains information about those persons who helped the SP perform various activities. These are activities of daily living (ADLs), instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs), making Medicare insurance decisions, and/or taking care of Medicare paperwork. It includes each helper's relationship to the respondent and specifies which activities in which the helper assists.

There is one record for each person who helped the SP with an ADL, an IADL, or other activity. Therefore, it is possible to have one, several, or no records per respondent.

RIC 2P: HEALTH STATUS & FUNCTIONING (PREVENTION)

The Health Status & Functioning (Prevention) 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. It also contains some behavioral or lifestyle data that differ from year to year. There is one record for each community interview.

RIC 3: ACCESS TO CARE

The Access to Care file contains information about the respondents' use of all types of medical services and about their usual source of medical care. This file also contains each sample person's assessment of the quality of the medical care that they receive. There is one record for each community interview.

RIC 4: HEALTH INSURANCE

The Health Insurance file summarizes current health insurance information for each person who completed an interview.

RIC 5: ENUMERATION (HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION)

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 to the respondent. Beginning in 2001, RIC 5 also contains data about the SPs' housing. There is one record for each person who completed a community interview.

RIC 6: FACILITY RESIDENCE HISTORY

The Facility Residence History file 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.

RIC 7: FACILITY CHARACTERISTICS

The Facility Characteristics 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.

RIC 7S: SNF CHARACTERISTICS

The SNF Characteristics 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.

RIC 8: INTERVIEW DESCRIPTION

The Interview Description file summarizes the characteristics of the interview, including type of questionnaire, duration, and whether or not the interview was conducted with a proxy respondent. There is one record for each person who completed an interview.

RIC 9: RESIDENCE TIMELINE

The Residence Timeline file tracks the movement of individuals between Community, facility, and skilled nursing facility settings. While the majority of respondents have only one setting throughout the year, the records allow for up to twenty occurrences of movement between a community and a facility setting. There is one record for each sample person who completed an interview.

RIC 10: MDS/OASIS TIMELINE (Supplement)

The MDS/OASIS Timeline file is a timeline built from MDS and OASIS assessments and inpatient hospital stays from the RIC IPE (both from Medicare claims and survey-reported hospitalization). Dates from MDS and OASIS assessments were analyzed to determine periods of nursing home stays and home health care. These were combined with dates of inpatient hospital stays to produce a timeline showing movement between nursing homes, hospitals and home health care. There is one record for any respondent who had an MDS or OASIS assessment.

RIC H: HMO SUPPLEMENT

The HMO Supplement file consists of one record for each SP who met two conditions as of the fall round. First, the SP had to report that he or she was enrolled in a Medicare HMO at the time of the community interview in the fall round. Second, CMS records had to show a capitation payment to a Medicare HMO on behalf of the SP for the month of the interview.

These data augment information from the Access to Care and Satisfaction with Care sections of the questionnaire. It contains information about access to and satisfaction with medical services received through the HMO. It also contains the SP's assessment of the quality of medical care they are receiving, types of additional coverage offered, and any out-of-pocket costs associated with the HMO.

RIC DUE: DENTAL EVENTS

The Dental Events file contains data about all dental events of the MCBS population, whether community or facility interviews. This file combines data obtained from the survey with information obtained from CMS administrative records.

RIC FAE: FACILITY EVENTS

The Facility Events file contains data about all facility events of the MCBS population, whether community or facility interviews. There is one record for each stay that occurred, at least partly, during the calendar year. The cost and use data contained in the file is limited to the current calendar year.

RIC IPE: INPATIENT HOSPITAL EVENTS

The Inpatient Hospital Events file contains data about all inpatient hospital stays of the MCBS population, whether community or facility interviews. This file combines data obtained from CMS administrative records with information obtained from the survey.

RIC IUE: INSTITUTIONAL EVENTS

The Institutional Events file contains data about all short-term facility (usually SNF) stays of the MCBS population that were either reported during a community interview or created from Medicare claims data.

RIC MPE: MEDICAL PROVIDER EVENTS

The Medical Provider Events file contains data about a variety of medical services, equipment and supplies collected in the survey, including: medical provider (MP), separately billing doctors (SD), separately billing lab (SL), and other medical expenses (OM).

RIC OPE: OUTPATIENT HOSPITAL EVENTS

The Outpatient Hospital Events file contains data for individual hospital outpatient events for the MCBS population. This file combines data obtained from CMS administrative records with information obtained from the survey.

RIC PME: PRESCRIBED MEDICINE EVENTS

The Prescribed Medicine Events file contains cost and utilization of prescribed medicines for the MCBS community population.

RIC SS: SERVICE SUMMARY

The Service Summary file summarizes utilization and expenditure data by each of nine different types of service, with detail of expenditures for each by payer. Note that there are two sets of payment/expenditure variables, such as SAMTTOT and AAMTTOT. The series of variables beginning with S are payments during periods covered by interviews. Those beginning with A are payments during periods covered by interviews plus estimated payments for periods not covered by interviews, if any. There are nine records for each person in the sample.

RIC PS: PERSON SUMMARY

The Person Summary file summarizes utilization and expenditure data (1) in total by type of service and (2) in total by payer. Note that there are two sets of payment/expenditure variables, such as SAMTTOT and PAMTTOT. The series of variables beginning with S are payments during periods covered by interviews. Those beginning with P are payments during periods covered by interviews plus estimated payments for periods not covered by interviews, if any. There is one record for each person in the sample.

RIC KN: BENEFICIARY KNOWLEDGE & INFORMATION NEEDS (Supplement)

The Beneficiary Knowledge & Information Needs file combines parts of RICs BK and BN that were released in 1998 through 2000. These data provide the opportunity to quantify many of CMS's Strategic Plan objectives and to measure beneficiary information needs. Specifically, to involve the beneficiaries in defining their health care information needs by aggregating and using data for continuous policy and process improvement, to assess outreach by the Medicare program and general knowledge of the Medicare program (services and health care choices) by the beneficiaries. There is one record for each sample person who completes a community interview.

RIC RX: DRUG COVERAGE (Supplement)

The Drug Coverage file collects data on exposure to and knowledge of the Medicare prescription drug benefit by the respondent. Questions probe for general knowledge and experiences with this program.

RIC X: CROSS-SECTIONAL WEIGHTS

The Cross-Sectional Weights file contains cross-sectional weights, including general-purpose weights and a series of replicate weights. All weights have been adjusted for nonresponse. There is one record for each person who completed an interview.

RIC X2 (FORMERLY RIC W3): LONGITUDINAL WEIGHTS

The Longitudinal Weights file contains longitudinal weights, including general-purpose weights and a series of replicate weights. All weights have been adjusted for nonresponse. There is one non-zero weight for each individual who completed interviews in two successive years (current and first preceding year); there is a missing value (".") for all others. Together, there is one record for every person who completed an interview in the current year.

RIC X3 (FORMERLY RIC W2): LONGITUDINAL WEIGHTS

The Longitudinal Weights file contains longitudinal weights, including general-purpose weights and a series of replicate weights. All weights have been adjusted for nonresponse. There is one non-zero weight for each individual who completed interviews in three successive years (current and two preceding years); there is a missing value (".") for all others. Together, there is one record for every person who completed an interview in the current year.

RIC X4 (FORMERLY RIC W1): LONGITUDINAL WEIGHTS

The Longitudinal Weights file contains longitudinal weights, including general-purpose weights and a series of replicate weights. All weights have been adjusted for nonresponse. There is one non-zero weight for each individual who completed interviews in four successive years (current and three preceding years); there is a missing value (".") for all others. Together, there is one record for every person who completed an interview in the current year.

RIC MDS/OAS: MDS/OASIS SUPPLEMENT (Supplement)

MDS and OASIS assessment data.

RIC PA: PATIENT ACTIVATION (Supplement, Discontinued)

The Patient Activation file provides insight into the degree to which Medicare beneficiaries are personally engaged in matters concerning their health care. There is one record for each sample person who completes a community interview.

RIC BN: BENEFICIARY INFORMATION NEEDS (Supplement, Discontinued)

The Beneficiary Information Needs file provides the opportunity to quantify many of CMS's Strategic Plan objectives. Specifically, it is designed to obtain an understanding as to how beneficiaries want to receive information about their benefits and about developments in the Medicare program.

RIC BK/PR: BENEFICIARY KNOWLEDGE (Supplement, Discontinued)

The Beneficiary Knowledge file provides the opportunity to quantify many of CMS's Strategic Plan objectives, specifically: to involve the beneficiaries in defining their health care needs by aggregating and using data for continuous policy and process improvement, to assess outreach by the Medicare program, and general knowledge of the Medicare program (services and health care choices) by the beneficiaries. There is one record for each sample person new to the MCBS interviewed between January and April of the following year.

RIC DA: DISCOUNT AWARENESS (Supplement, Discontinued)

The Discount Awareness file summarizes the sample person's awareness of prescription drug discount cards. There is one record for each sample person who completed a community interview.