CEDAR Data Inventory

Medicare Limited Data Sets Standard Analytical Files (SAF)

All Medicare projects are subject to a data use agreement (DUA) limitations.

For information please submit a CEDAR SPARC request

or contact Dr. Kit Simpson at: simpsonk@musc.edu

Data Set	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Skilled Nursing Facility	X	X	X	X	X	X
Outpatient SAF	X	X	X	X	X	X
Inpatient SAF	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hospice SAF	X	X	X	X	X	X
Home Health SAF	X	X	X	X	X	X
Durable Medical Equipment SAF	X	X	X	X	X	X
Carrier SAF	X	X	X	X	X	X
Master Beneficiary Summary File	X					
Denominator File		X	X	X	X	X

The Medicare 5% Sample data sets in the CEDAR repository contain a random sample of bills paid for Medicare enrollees. The files contain patient demographics (age, sex, race type of Medicare eligibility, patients' county of residence and date of death. Medicare billing files in CEDAR exclude any bills for prescription data. We also do not have filed detailing patient assessments performed as part of rehabilitation services. LDS SAFs are created by CMS from a randomly selected 5% sample of beneficiaries. Sampled patients have an ID number which is continuous across calendar years. The de-identified data sets are organized by year and claim type (e.g. 2017 bills for Inpatient, Outpatient, Skilled Nursing Facility, Home Health, Hospice, Carrier, and Durable Medical Equipment). The files are in a SAS format. A study protocol which meets the requirements of the DUA is required for each analysis, and all studies are done in collaboration with CEDAR staff named on the DUA. Please not that a substantial amount of data cleaning and variable specification are needed for most studies because billing data are not usually in the format required for statistical analysis.

Description simplified from: https://www.resdac.org/articles/medicare-limited-data-set-lds-quarterly-claims-and-enrollment-data

Data dictionaries for these data sets may be found at:

https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Files-for-Order/LimitedDataSets/StandardAnalyticalFiles.html