

# Your Business Can Help Control the Cost of Health Care in Massachusetts: PARTICIPATE IN THE MASSACHUSETTS ALL-PAYER CLAIMS DATABASE

As an employer, you know firsthand the significant burden rising health care costs place on your business and your employees. To address this growing concern, Massachusetts is dedicated to lowering health care costs and establishing a more affordable, effective, and transparent health care system. The success of this effort, however, requires complete and accurate data about the use of our health care system.

## That's where you come in.

Health insurers report data to Massachusetts's Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA), which manages the state's All-Payer Claims Database (APCD). This information is critical for policymakers, insurers, employers, and others to identify cost drivers and to take action to keep health care affordable. By keeping your data a part of the APCD, you help promote cost containment and transparency.



## How can you help control the cost of health care?

Contact your plan administrator or broker today, and make sure that your organization participates in the APCD.

### Learn more:

[www.chiamass.gov/ma-apcd](http://www.chiamass.gov/ma-apcd)

**Your support is essential. Contact your plan administrator or broker today to make sure that your organization participates in the APCD to support efforts to control rising health care costs and preserve quality in Massachusetts.**

## Q What Data Is in the APCD?

**A** The APCD is a database that includes health care claims or records of health care services provided and paid for by both public and private payers – including commercial health plans, Medicare and MassHealth. The database has important information about how, when and where Massachusetts residents get their care.

## Q Why Does My Data Matter?

**A** The more complete and representative the data in the APCD, the more informed and effective our efforts are to lower costs and improve access and quality. Including your information helps ensure that the APCD is representative of all health care dynamics in Massachusetts, including unique trends at larger employers.

## Q How Is the Privacy of My Employees Protected?

**A** Federal health care privacy law (HIPAA) allows employers to provide data to ‘health oversight agencies,’ like CHIA. Data are securely submitted to the APCD in encrypted files in order to protect the privacy of health care information. CHIA has robust privacy and security protections in place to ensure that data is protected, and all data is maintained in compliance with state and federal health privacy laws.

## **Q** Is My Confidential Business Information Protected?

**A** Yes. The name of your business may be included in limited data fields in the APCD but this information is strictly confidential and only accessible by state agencies for limited, legally authorized purposes. All uses of the APCD are required to be in the public interest, and the APCD has never been used to identify individual employers.

## **Q** How Is Data in the APCD Used?

**A** Data from you and other employers are used by policymakers, insurers, businesses, providers, researchers, and others to improve the delivery of high quality cost-effective health care in the Commonwealth. For example, the APCD has been used to:

- Improve transparency of health care prices for employers, employees and their families.
- Help shed light on the causes of and effective responses to public health crises, including the Commonwealth's opioid epidemic that has touched so many families in our state.
- Provide a better understanding of the burden of chronic conditions, health dynamics of aging populations, and other population health challenges that impact you and your employees. The APCD is currently being used to evaluate the quality and costs of care for lung, colorectal, breast and prostate cancer – the four most common causes of cancer mortality.
- Scrutinize health care mergers and affiliations that may increase costs or reduce quality. The APCD is used by the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission and the Attorney General's Office for market oversight – like their recent review of proposed hospital system consolidation.
- Identify cost drivers in our health care system and develop policies to reduce wasteful spending that provides no value to patients.

## **Q** What Can I Do to Help?

**A** Your support is essential. Contact your plan administrator or broker today to make sure that your organization participates in the APCD. Maximizing employer participation means maximizing the opportunities to control costs and improve quality.

## **Q** How Can I Find out More?

**A** If you want to learn more about how the MA APCD is used, contact Andrew Jackmauh at (617) 701-8125, or visit CHIA's website: [www.chiamass.gov/ma-apcd](http://www.chiamass.gov/ma-apcd)



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