

All Payor Claims Database Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting

April 13, 2022 – 5:30 – 6:30 pm

Meeting Notes

Attendees:	
Dr. Trudy Krause, UTHealth	Pati McCandless, BCBS
Dr. Cecilia Ganduglia Cazaban, UTHealth	Elena Marks, Episcopal Health Foundation
Dr. Bob Morrow, UTHealth	Dr. Bob Town, UT Austin
Lee Spangler, UTHealth	Charles Miller, Texas 2036
Donna Alexander, UTHealth	Dr. Lane Aiena, Huntsville Family Medicine
Devin York, UTHealth	John McCord, TX Retailers Association
Joseph Harrison, UTHealth	Jeff Tullos, DistributionNOW
Kara Crawford, UTHealth	John Petrilla, MMHPI
Liam McElhiney, UTHealth	Karen Love, CCHP
Rachel Bowden, TDI	Jennifer Miff, DFWHC Foundation
Dylan MacInerney, TDI	Holly Holcomb, Childress Regional Med Center

1. Welcome:

Robert Morrow, M.D.; Executive in Residence & Associate Professor, UT Health School of Public Health

- Dr. Morrow commenced the discussion with general reminders for the group (i.e., conflict of interest disclosures; etc.).

2. Medicare Supplement Inquiry:

Lee Spangler; Executive Director, APCD; UT Health School of Public Health

- Mr. Spangler provided the group a brief overview of the informal regulation process that included a comment period for the public to provide feedback. One area that was raised for further discussion involved the applicability of Medicare Supplement data. The informal comments TDI received were unfavorable to the inclusion of Medicare Supplement. In response to the feedback, TDI requested that the CHCD bring the concerns raised to the Stakeholder Advisory Group to elicit guidance and expertise prior to the publishing of the formal rules. Additional items mentioned included:
 - Examples of Medicare Supplement claims that are not included in other types of claims
 - Distinguishing between primary Medicare claims vs. supplemental (secondary) claims being submitted by a provider.
 - Information included in the secondary claim may provide valuable information for researchers (e.g., non-participating providers in Medicare that may charge for service than allowable my Medicare of which is not viewable by CMS).
 - Review of statutes/regulations of other state APCD approaches to this concern. Out of the 25 states that have an APCD, only 6 have the requirement for Medicare supplement to be submitted.

- The Stakeholder Advisory group held an open discussion. Some of the highlights are as follows:
 - Ms. McCandless (BCBS) and Ms. Love (CCHP) – Expressed concern that there may be an issue with the statutory interpretation of HB 2090 in that it does not provide proper notice to life insurers and some health insurers, especially the small carriers. Many small carriers may not be aware and will be caught by surprise if Medicare supplement is included. The value of the data may not outweigh the administrative burden. There are 50 carriers listed on the TDI website as selling Med Supp. Of which, 8-10 are large carriers. The rest may be small entities. Ms. McCandless shared that BCBS TX (HCSC) is submitting such information in other states, but that once you have Medicare claims, from an industry perspective, the APCD does not need Med Supp claims.
 - Ms. Love (CCHP) – Concerned for smaller companies where Medicare supplement may be their only contribution. The idea of a threshold would need to be further discussed.
 - Mr. Miller (Texas2036) – Highlighted the potential of a threshold issue on authority and shared that TDI, rather than the Advisory Group, was best able to determine the statutory question. Commented on the need for more details on the administrative burden.
 - Dr. Aiena (Huntsville Family Medicine) – Would be beneficial to ask the other state APCDs on the value of the data and how these states navigated the inclusion of Medicare supplement.
 - Dr. Town (UT, Austin) – Commented that the value of Medicare supplement is powerful when merged with primary Medicare claims data. As a standalone dataset, the data may not be as informative. Medicare supplement data collection would be worthwhile.
 - Dr. Krause & Mr. Spangler (UTHealth SPH, CHCD) – In response to an Advisory Group inquiry, it was pointed out that West Virginia and Virginia both collect Medicare Supplement and Medicare claims data. This was made possible by having Medicare supplement written into the statute. However, not certain if other states purchase Medicare data when not collecting Medicare data through their APCDs.
 - Ms. Miff (DFWHCF) – Inquired about the quality of the Medicare Supplement data. If carriers of this data are predominately small in scale, the collection of the data may not be necessary.
 - Mr. Jeff Tullos (DistributionNOW) – stated that he gathered from the previous Advisory Group discussion that there are concerns around small carriers. He inquired about the details of the objections in the informal comments sent to TDI. APCD staff stated that the objections focused on two themes – 1) there is little additional data in Med Supp data; and 2) there is an administrative burden in collecting the information. Mr. Tullos said he would be aligned with the consideration of another threshold for this sort of submission [small carriers offering Medicare supplement coverage]. Further, he shared his concern that a carrier who can't submit claims data to the APCD, may not be capable of performing other services.

- Dr. Morrow summarized the discussion by reiterating the administrative burden discussed by the group and its relation to the lack of clarity in the bill. However, more data is beneficial to the goals of the APCD. The establishment of a threshold may help to support the addition.

3. Future meetings & Adjourn: Robert Morrow, M.D.; Executive in Residence & Associate Professor, UT Health School of Public Health

- Dr. Morrow and Mr. Spangler provided closing comments:
 - The further development of the Texas APCD and the complexity of rulemaking is a learning process.
 - The input from the Advisory Group will be shared with TDI and the commissioner.
 - External audiences have reached out to the CHCD with other topics of concern which may require an additional Stakeholder Advisory Group session. Topics of discussion and agenda items will be shared with the group in advance (i.e., 7 days from the meeting date).
 - The 2nd Quarterly meeting (May 2022) is being planned. Confirmation of day/time will be announced soon.

For comments or questions, please respond to: txapcd@uth.tmc.edu

General Attendees:

Helen Davis, TX Medical Association
Kelly Walla, TX Medical Association
Clayton Stewart, TX Medical Association
Ben Wright, TX Medical Association
Jason Baxter, TAHP
Kevin Stewart, TAHP
Melissa Eason, TAHP