

Types of Medicare Data

- Enrollment & Demographics
- Claims & Stay level file
- Part D events
- Annual Summary files
- Medicare Advantage
 - Encounter
 - HEDIS

Medicare Advantage Encounter Data

- Utilization for beneficiaries in managed care plans
- Data submitted to CMS by insurance companies
- Data structure and files types are similar to claims files, except:
 - No hospice file
 - No cost variables
 - Includes chart review records
- Limitations
 - Only 1 year currently available (CY 2015)
 - Best practices & pitfalls unknown

HEDIS

Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set

- Tool used by health plans to measure quality of care
- Can be used to approximate amount and types of utilization
 - One record per person, per plan, per calendar year
- Examples
 - Received eye exam?
 - Number of hospitalizations, length of stay
- Limitations
 - No dates, diagnosis or procedure codes, provider info
 - More limited assistance for researchers

Session roadmap

- ✓ Medicare 101
- ✓ Types of Medicare Data
- ✓ Using Medicare Data in Research
- **Research Examples**
- Data Access and Assistance

Common Ways Medicare Data are used in VA Research

Compare groups of users

- VA users
- Medicare users
- “Dual” users

Add Medicare data for more complete healthcare utilization or health status

Example 2

Radomski T, et al. Use of a medication-based risk adjustment index to predict mortality among veterans dually enrolled in VA and Medicare. *Healthcare*. 2019 Dec; 7(4).

Overview (Radomski, 2019)

Objective

Compare the accuracy of a medication-based risk adjustment index (RxRisk-VM) to diagnostic claims-based indices for predicting mortality

Cohort

- Veterans dually enrolled in VHA & Medicare FFS & Part D
- Had opioid prescription during CY 2012
- N=271,184

Methods (Radomski, 2019)

Data Sources

- VA CDW
- VA PBM
- Medicare Denominator/MBSF, MedPAR, Carrier, Outpatient, Home Health, Hospice
- Medicare Part D & DME

Used VA and Medicare data to capture

- ICD-9 diagnosis codes for risk adjustment scores
- Outpatient prescriptions for risk adjustment scores
- Death dates

Selected Results (Radomski, 2019)

| Comorbidity Index Score | Dual Users | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| | VA records only | Medicare records only | All records (combined) |
| RxRisk-VM | 6.1 | 6.9 | 10.7 |
| RxRisk-V | 5.9 | 5.9 | 9.9 |
| Charlson (Deyo) | 1.6 | 2.7 | 3.2 |
| Elixhauser (van Walraven) | 1.4 | 4.3 | 5.0 |
| Gagne | 0.9 | 2.1 | 2.6 |

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- ✓ Research Examples
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VA/CMS DATA



FOR RESEARCH

- The data steward for Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) data used for VA research
- Distributing data from to VA approved projects since 2003
- Providing assistance to VA research projects using CMS data
- No cost to VA researchers

Requesting Medicare data

- Pre-Request Consultation
- Request Process and Forms
- Data Descriptions and Documentation

vaww.virec.research.va.gov/Index-VACMS.htm (VA intranet only))

The screenshot shows the VIREC INTRANET website. The header includes the VIREC logo and the word "INTRANET". A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area is titled "VA INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER (VIREC)" and "VA/CMS Data Standard Request Packet". Below this is an "Overview" section with a table summarizing project types and their corresponding request packet uses. The "Initial Request Packet" section provides detailed instructions and a numbered list of requirements for requesting access to VA/CMS data.

| Projects that... | Use |
|---|---|
| Are requesting VA/CMS data for the first time | Initial Request Packet |
| Have already submitted an initial request packet and are requesting additional data | Subsequent Request Packet |

Initial Request Packet

The Initial Request Packet is required for projects requesting access to VA/CMS data for the first time. When projects are engaged in research at multiple sites, each project site that will access the VA/CMS data is required to submit the Initial Request Packet. All projects must submit the following:

1. [Project Information and Authorization Form](#) signed by the Principal Investigator (PI) and approved by the PI's supervisor and the local facility Associate Chief of Staff for Research (ACOS-R).
2. [Data Security Compliance Form](#) signed by the PI and the Information Security Officer (ISO) at the VHA facility where research is being conducted, and if different, the ISO at the VHA facility where the VA/CMS data will be stored. If the data will be stored on VINCI, the ISO's signature is not required.
3. [VA/CMS Rules of Behavior \(ROB\) Agreement](#) signed by the PI and each project staff member who will have access to the VA/CMS data
4. Data Description Form(s) pre-reviewed by VIREC then signed by the PI and approved by the local Privacy Officer (PO) or central IRB Privacy Officer. Projects may submit one or more of the following data description forms for their project:
 - [VA/CMS Data for Veterans Only](#)
 - [VA/CMS Data for Veterans and Non-Veterans](#)
 - [VA/CMS Non-Repository Data](#)

General Resources

- VA/CMS Repository Data
- Non-Repository Data
- Provider Data
- Cohorts & Identifiers
- Requests
- Current Data Users

Other VIREC Resources

HSRData Listserv

- Community knowledge sharing
- ~1,500 VA data users
- Researchers, operations, data stewards, managers
- Subscribe by visiting <https://vaww.virec.research.va.gov/Support/HSRData-L.htm> (VA Intranet)



HelpDesk

- Individualized support



virec@va.gov

(708) 202-2413



- Field office of Office of the Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Policy and Planning
- Data steward for CMS (Medicare) data used for VHA operations
 - VHA Program Offices
 - Quality Improvement/Quality Assurance
- vaww.va.gov/medicareanalysis/ (VA intranet only)

- CMS contractor based at the University of Minnesota
- Provides free assistance and training to researchers using CMS data
 - Help desk
 - Knowledge base
 - Webinars
 - In-person workshops
- www.resdac.org

Chronic Conditions Data Warehouse

Your source for national CMS Medicare and Medicaid research data

- Source of most CMS data that VA receives
- Documentation
 - Data dictionaries
 - Summary tables
 - User guides & technical guides
 - White papers & presentations
- www.ccwdata.org

Contact information

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**Next session:
March 2nd at 1 pm Eastern**



Database & Methods Cyberseminar Series

Meet VIREC: The Researcher's Guide to VA Data

Maria Souden and Jenifer Stelmack

Register at

[https://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/cyberseminars/
catalog-upcoming-session.cfm?UID=3696](https://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/cyberseminars/catalog-upcoming-session.cfm?UID=3696)