

Arkansas All-Payer Claims Database (APCD)

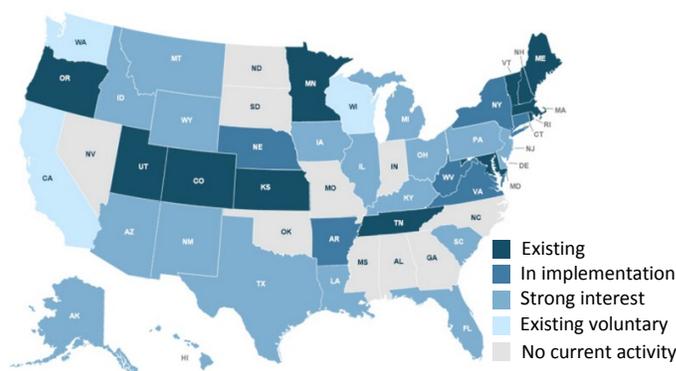


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The era of health care consumerism has arrived. As consumers share in a greater percentage of health care costs and payers shift to value-based purchasing designs, there is a growing demand among consumers and providers for access to more detailed price and quality information. However, transparency of this information in Arkansas is currently limited. A 2014 report gave Arkansas an "F" grade in an evaluation of each state's transparency laws and public accessibility to price information.¹ Many surrounding states received equally poor grades. Consequently, Arkansas has an opportunity to be a leader in yet another area of health care transformation. Several states have taken aggressive approaches to improve health care transparency. Regardless of how progressive states are with respect to the availability of price and quality information, many have recognized the need for developing a data infrastructure to support even a basic level of transparency. A number of states have established an all-payer claims database (APCD) to address this need. Arkansas is now on a path to join those states.

WHAT IS AN APCD?

An APCD is a large-scale database that systematically collects health care data from a variety of payer sources. APCD functionality varies from state to state due to state-specific considerations (e.g., technical capacity, funding, and authority to collect, use, and release data), but all share similar goals. APCDs are tools that may be used to increase health care transparency, better understand and address health care cost, quality, and utilization, and support state health system transformation efforts. Fifteen states currently have an APCD, and several more are working to implement one.² Twelve of these states mandate data submission.



Source: www.apcdouncil.org

This map created by the APCD Council—a collaboration between the University of New Hampshire and the National Association of Health Data Organizations—shows the status of APCDs across the United States.²

APCD BENEFITS

Help consumers make informed decisions about their health care

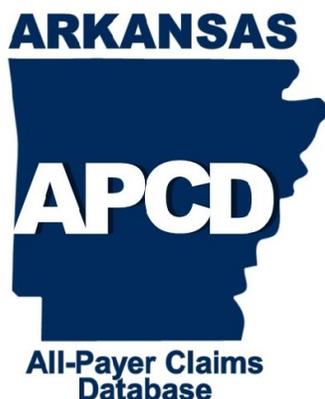
Support research and quality improvement activities

Allow for peer-to-peer provider comparison

Help target and assess population health initiatives

Provide more robust data for health care transformation efforts and evaluation

The APCD project is supported by the Arkansas Insurance Department—Health Insurance Rate Review Division (HIRRD).



APCD STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Stakeholder engagement is key to optimal APCD utility and long-term sustainability. ACHI capitalizes on the valuable perspective of each stakeholder and encourages stakeholders to provide input and expertise throughout the project. Since August 2014, stakeholders have helped guide APCD development, inclusive of establishing a mission and vision statement and outlining objectives.

VISION

Empower Arkansans to drive, deliver, and seek out value in the health system.

MISSION

Serve as a trusted and timely source of dynamic information to guide meaningful action to improve health, enhance quality, and lower cost.

OBJECTIVES

- Support efforts to improve health care quality
- Support the development cost-containment strategies
- Provide information about health care spending and utilization
- Inform consumers, health insurance carriers, policymakers, and providers in health care decision-making
- Serve as a public good
- Support research

ARKANSAS APCD PROJECT

Recognizing the need for increased health care transparency, the Arkansas Insurance Department, Health Insurance Rate Review Division (HIRRD) applied for and was awarded funds from the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight to build an APCD. Following a request for proposal process, HIRRD selected the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement (ACHI) to build an APCD for the state. Learning from lessons in other states and from stakeholder input, ACHI is developing an APCD that is intended to serve as a valuable resource for Arkansans. Initial data submission will be on a voluntary basis.

APCD PROJECT STATUS

The Arkansas APCD is currently in development with anticipated production in February 2015. The APCD reporting component is underway with a preliminary design of the first report complete. This report will show the average payment of selected procedures in different areas of the state. Reports will be available through the APCD website, www.arkansasapcd.net, which is currently under construction. The APCD infrastructure is in place to receive and house data. Data will be received into the APCD via an established data collection process utilizing Secure File Transfer Protocol and a web portal. The website will also include information on APCDs, health consumer transparency, and other resources.

RESOURCES

¹Catalyst for Payment Reform; Health Care Incentives Improvement Institute. (2014, March 25). *Report Card on State Price Transparency Laws*. Retrieved from <http://www.catalyzepaymentreform.org/images/documents/2014Report.pdf>.

²ACPD Council. Interactive State Reports Map. Retrieved from <http://www.apcdouncil.org/state/map>.

APCD IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

APCD Award

June 2014

Stakeholder Engagement

August 2014

Data Submission Guide Release

September 2014

Data Intake Process Deployed

November 2014

APCD Website

February 2015

Initial Reports Available

April 2015

Summer Reports Available

June 2015

Fall Reports Available

September 2015

Winter Reports Available

December 2015