



## Arkansas All-Payer Claims Database (APCD) Frequently Asked Questions

If your question is not addressed in the following list, please contact the Arkansas APCD Team at 501-526-2244. Hours of operation are from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

1. What is an all-payer claims database (APCD)?
  - a. The APCD Council defines all-payer claims databases as “large-scale databases that systematically collect health care claims data from a variety of payer sources which include claims from most health care providers.” Currently, the Arkansas APCD relies on payers to voluntarily submit claims data.
2. Why is the purpose of an APCD in Arkansas?
  - a. A recent report by the Catalyst for Payment Reform shows Arkansas receiving an “F” on statewide transparency laws and efforts. The Arkansas APCD is intended to make this price and quality information more readily available to policymakers, researchers, and individual and business consumers to support more informed decision-making.
3. How is this effort funded?
  - a. The [Health Insurance Rate Review Division](#) (HIRRD), a division of the Arkansas Insurance Department (AID), was awarded a Cycle III grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight to “support health insurance rate review and increase transparency in health care pricing.” To achieve this goal, the award included specific funding for an APCD. HIRRD conducted a national search and solicitation for qualified and competitive bidders. Following an extensive evaluation process, the [Arkansas Center for Health Improvement](#) (ACHI) was awarded the contract to establish an APCD for the State of Arkansas. ACHI administers the Arkansas APCD with oversight from HIRRD.
4. How will data collected by the APCD be used?
  - a. The goal of the data collection with the Arkansas APCD is to increase health care system transparency by providing utilization, quality, and price information to consumers, researchers, and policymakers. APCD data will be used to conduct analyses and generate aggregate level reports to support these activities, including

reporting consumer-friendly reporting on this site. Importantly, individual level data will never be tracked or released from the APCD.

5. How is the data protected?

- a. ACHI is administratively housed within the University of Arkansas for Medical Services (UAMS). The UAMS network is protected by firewalls and security protocols. All claims data submitted to the APCD is encrypted while in motion and at rest. APCD data resides in a closed, limited access computer network that has no connection to the Internet. The APCD complies with all Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) security and privacy provisions.

UAMS performs regular audits of the APCD and its protocols. All staff members receive HIPAA training, Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) training, and must sign a UAMS Confidentiality Agreement that makes continued employment contingent upon its requirements.