Hospital Service Area Methodology

The Hospital Service Area (HSA) is a summary of calendar year Medicare inpatient hospital fee-for-service claims data. A standard IBM utility sort (Syncsort) is used to select and sum the specified data elements from the designated Medpar source files to produce the HSA output file. It contains number of discharges, total days of care, and total charges summarized by hospital provider number and the ZIP code of the Medicare beneficiary.

The HSA file is created by joining the data from three short stay Medpar hospital files that are created on an annual basis in March of every year for claims data from the previous year. The data pull includes Fee-for-Service claims data and Medicare Advantage claims data, if applicable.

This file is produced annually and is typically available in May (i.e., data for CY2019 is usually available in May 2020). The first year of data available is 2013.