SynPuf versus
SEER Medicare and Medicare LDS

Comparison Between Medicare Data Files

Presentation to OHDSI Medicare ETL Group

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SIMILARITIES

SynPuf vs SEER Medicare and Medicare LDS

Available Files are Similar

SynPuf

- BEN- enrollment
- INP – inpatient facility
- OUT – outpatient facility
- CAR – physician
- MED – Rx events

SEER Medicare

- PEDSF- enrollment
- MED – inpatient facility
- OUT – outpatient facility
- NCH – physician
- PDE – Rx events
- DME – durable medical equipment
- HSP - hospice
- HHA – home health

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Similar File Structure

- Both SynPuf and SEER Medicare/Medicare LDS are organized by claim
- The beneficiary file (BEN/PEDSF) are organized by patient – one row per patient
- The INP/OUT/CAR/MED files have a list of claims with patient IDs assigned to each claim – multiple rows per patient
- The analysis data (claim files) are similar to the source data (actual claims submitted by providers to Medicare)
  - U.S. Physicians and Facilities submit claims by patient and are paid separately
  - Medicare does minimal processing of these claims for data analysis files, preserving granularity
    - Medicare does not "roll up" multiple claims into one event (i.e. inpatient admission claims and physician claims for admitted patients)
    - Medicare does remove some information on claims to preserve patient privacy

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Similar Variables across Files

SynPuf

- BEN: Date of Birth, Gender
- INP/OUT/CAR: ICD9 Diagnosis/Procedure Codes for each claim
- INP/OUT/CAR: HCPCS by claim
- MED: NDC codes, quantity, dates for Part D events

SEER Medicare

- PEDSF: Date of Birth, Gender
- MED/OUT/NCH: ICD9 Diagnosis/Procedure Codes for each claim
- MED/OUT/NCH: HCPCS by claim
- PDE: NDC codes, quantity, dates for Part D events

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DIFFERENCES

SynPuf vs SEER Medicare and Medicare LDS

Enrollment Information is Different

- SEER Medicare gives enrollment information on a monthly basis for all four Medicare plans: Part A, Part B, HMO, Part D.
  - Example: The patient was enrolled in Part A from April through December in 2008.
  - ETL the exact dates the patient was enrolled in each plan (Payer Plan Table)
- SynPuf gives enrollment information on an annual basis for the same four Medicare plans.
  - Example: The patient was enrolled in Part A for 9 out of the 12 months in 2008.
  - Assumptions are needed to ETL plan information.

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Dates for CAR & OUT Different

- SynPuf only reports the claim dates, not the line dates.
- This creates a date range for services that do not represent what actually happened.
  - SynPuf Data:

Clm_From	Clm_Thru	HCPCS1	HCPCS2
3/1/2008	3/25/2008	99214	99214

- This will only be an issue with SynPuf – SEER Medicare and Medicare LDS give lines dates (the actual date of service for each HCPCS or Revenue Code).
  - SEER Medicare or Medicare LDS:

Clm_From	Clm_Thru	HCPCS	Line Date
3/1/2008	3/25/2008	99214	3/1/2008
3/1/2008	3/25/2008	99214	3/25/2008

Place of Service in CAR Different

- SynPuf does not report the Place of Service for each Physician Claim, while SEER Medicare/LDS does.
- Place of Service indicates where the physician actually saw the patient.
  - Physician claims are all claims submitted by physicians
  - Physicians can see patients in the office, inpatient hospital, outpatient facility, dialysis center, off-site laboratory, etc.
- Broad assumptions are required when ETL SynPuf into the Visit Occurrence table.
  - Based on claim dates
  - Assume physician claims are for facility visit

Some Claim Files Missing in SynPuf

- SEER Medicare and Medicare LDS include the following claim files:
  - DME – Durable Medical Equipment claims
    - Manages all durable medical equipment (i.e. crutches, wheelchairs, etc) claims billed to Medicare
    - If the physician prescribes a DME, the DME provider (i.e. store front that sells the device to the patient or physician) will bill Medicare with the DME HCPCS. No separate physician claim is submitted.
  - HHA – Home Health Facility claims
    - Manages all claims from Home Health facilities that manage nurses when working with patients in their home.
    - Physicians are required to review patient charts on a monthly basis to review patient status – a physician claim will accompany the home health facility claims for that time span.
  - HSP – Hospice Facility claims
    - Manages all claims from Hospice facilities that see and provide room/board and other facility-related charges to patients in hospice.
    - Private physicians can see patients in a hospice facility – a physician claim will accompany the hospice facility claim for that visit.
- ETL will have to change to include information in from these files.

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Some Variables Missing in SynPuf

- SynPuf is comparable to a subset of SEER Medicare/LDS data.
- SynPuf is missing some variables that are available in SEER Medicare/LDS
  - Enrollment information:
    - Enrollment status by month
    - Medicaid eligibility
  - Claims information:
    - Dates of service by procedure (line dates)
    - Units and modifiers
    - Revenue codes, value codes, occurrence codes
  - Cost information:
    - Charge amount
    - Revenue line payment
- ETL for SEER Medicare/LDS will have to change to include these new variables

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