Physician Compare Downloadable Databases - Data Dictionary

This data dictionary describes the four downloadable data files available for the Physician Compare website. They include one file of demographic data describing individual physicians and other health care professionals and three files with individual clinician and group practice performance rates on multiple CMS quality measures currently available for public reporting.

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Physician Compare National Downloadable File

The Physician Compare downloadable file is organized at the individual eligible professional (EP) level; each line is unique at the professional/enrollment record/Group Practice/address level. Professionals with multiple Medicare enrollment records and/or single enrollments linking to multiple practice location addresses are listed on multiple lines.

Physician Compare 2014 Individual EP Public Reporting - Clinical Quality of Care

This file contains performance rates for the 6 Individual eligible professional (EP) 2014 Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) measures reported via claims that are available for public reporting. EP measure data is available for 37,464 individual EPs.

Physician Compare 2014 Group Practice Public Reporting - Clinical Quality of Care

This file contains performance rates for the 14 group practice 2014 Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) measures reported via the Web Interface that are available for public reporting. Group practice measure data is available for 271 group practices.

Physician Compare 2014 Group Practice Public Reporting - Patient Experience

This file contains performance rates for the 8 Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) for PQRS measures reported by group practices that are available for public reporting. CAHPS for PQRS measure data is available for 281 group practices.

Physician Compare National Downloadable File

The Physician Compare National Downloadable File is organized at the individual eligible professional level; each line is unique at the professional/enrollment record/Group Practice/address level. Professionals with multiple Medicare enrollment records and/or single enrollments linking to multiple practice location addresses are listed on multiple lines.

Variable Label	Variable	Description	Length	Values
Professional Identification				
NPI	NPI	Unique professional ID assigned by NPPES	10	digits
Ind_PAC_ID	PAC ID	Unique individual professional ID assigned by PECOS	10	digits
Ind_enrl_ID	Professional Enrollment ID	Unique ID for the individual professional enrollment that is the source for the data in the observation	15	digits
lst_nm	Last Name	Individual professional last name	35	string
frst_nm	First Name	Individual professional first name	25	string
mid_nm	Middle Name	Individual professional middle name	25	string
suff	Suffix	Individual professional suffix	10	string
gndr	Gender	Individual professional gender	1	M/F/U
Medical Credentials				
Cred	Credential	Medical credential such as MD, DO, DPM, etc.	3	string
Med_sch	Medical school name	Individual professional's medical school	100	string
Grd_yr	Graduation year	Individual professional's medical school graduation year	4	digits
Pri_spec	Primary specialty	Primary medical specialty reported by the individual professional in the selected enrollment	50	string
Sec_spec_1	Secondary specialty 1	First secondary medical specialty reported by the individual professional in the selected enrollment	50	string

Variable Label	Variable	Description	Length	Values
Sec_spec_2	Secondary specialty 2	Second secondary medical specialty reported by the individual professional in the selected enrollment	50	string
Sec_spec_3	Secondary specialty 3	Third secondary medical specialty reported by the individual professional in the selected enrollment	50	string
Sec_spec_4	Secondary specialty 4	Fourth secondary medical specialty reported by the individual professional in the selected enrollment	50	string
Sec_spec_all	All secondary specialties	All four secondary specialties reported by the individual professional in the selected enrollment, separated by commas	200	string
Medical Practice				
Org_nm	Organization legal name	Legal name of the Group Practice that the individual professional works with- will be blank if the address is not linked to a Group Practice	70	string
Org_PAC_ID	Group Practice PAC ID	Unique Group Practice ID assigned by PECOS to the Group Practice that the individual professional works with- will be blank if the address is not linked to a Group Practice	10	string
num_org_mem	Number of Group Practice members	Total number of individual professionals affiliated with the Group Practice based on Group Practice PAC ID	4	numeric
adr_ln_1	Line 1 Street Address	Group Practice or individual's line 1 practice location address	55	string
adr_ln_2	Line 2 Street Address	Group Practice or individual's line 2 practice location address	55	string
ln_2_sprs	Marker of address line 2 suppression	Marker that address as reported may be incomplete	1	Y/blank
cty	City	Group Practice or individual's practice location city	30	string

Variable Label	Variable	Description	Length	Values
st	State	Group Practice or individual's practice location state	2	string
zip	Zip Code	Group Practice or individual's practice location zip code (9 digits when available)	9	digits
phn_numbr	Phone Number	Phone number is listed only when there is a single phone number available for the practice location address	20	string
hosp_afl_1	Hospital affiliation CCN 1	Medicare CCN of hospital where individual professional provides service	6	digits
hosp_afl_lbn_1	Hospital affiliation LBN 1	Legal business name of hospital where individual professional provides service	70	string
hosp_afl_2	Hospital affiliation CCN 2	Medicare CCN of hospital where individual professional provides service	6	digits
hosp_afl_lbn_2	Hospital affiliation LBN 2	Legal business name of hospital where individual professional provides service	70	string
hosp_afl_3	Hospital affiliation CCN 3	Medicare CCN of hospital where individual professional provides service	6	digits
hosp_afl_lbn_3	Hospital affiliation LBN 3	Legal business name of hospital where individual professional renders service	70	string
hosp_afl_4	Hospital affiliation CCN 4	Medicare CCN of hospital where individual professional renders service	6	digits
hosp_afl_lbn_4	Hospital affiliation LBN 4	Legal business name of hospital where individual professional provides service	70	string
hosp_afl_5	Hospital affiliation CCN 5	Medicare CCN of hospital where individual professional provides service	6	digits
hosp_afl_lbn_5	Hospital affiliation LBN 5	Legal business name of hospital where individual professional provides service	70	string
Medicare Assignment/Participation				
assgn	Professional accepts Medicare Assignment	Y = Professional accepts Medicare approved amount as payment in full M = Professional may accept Medicare Assignment	1	Y/M

Variable Label	Variable	Description	Length	Values
PQRS	Reported Quality Measures.	Quality measures can show how well a health care professional provides care to people with Medicare. The Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) is a Medicare program encouraging health care professionals and group practices to report information on their quality of care.	1	Y/blank
EHR	Used electronic health records.	Electronic health records are important because they may improve a health care professional's ability to make well-informed treatment decisions. The Electronic Health Records (EHR) Incentive Program encourages health care professionals to use certified EHR technology in ways that may improve health care.	1	Y/blank
MOC	Participated in the Medicare Maintenance of Certification Program.	A "Maintenance of Certification Program" encourages board certified physicians to continue learning and self-evaluating throughout their medical career.	1	Y/blank
MHI	Committed to heart health through the Million Hearts® initiative.	Million Hearts® is a national initiative that encourages health care professionals to report and perform well on activities related to heart health in an effort to prevent heart attacks and strokes.	1	Y/blank

Physician Compare 2014 Individual EP Public Reporting - Clinical Quality of Care

Individual eligible professional (EP) Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) measures performance rates reported via claims.

Variable Name	Variable Label	Description	Length	Values
NPI	NPI	Unique professional ID assigned by NPPES	10	digits
Ind_PAC_ID	PAC ID	Unique individual professional ID assigned by PECOS	10	digits
lst_nm	Last Name	Individual professional last name	35	string
frst_nm	First Name	Individual professional first name	25	string
EP_134	Screening for depression and developing a follow-up plan.	Depression is a leading cause of disability and suffering. Managing depression can lead to better coping and outcomes for patients. To give this health care professional a score, Medicare looked at the percentage of this health care professional's patients who were screened for depression and if they have depression, got a plan outlining next steps.	3	numeric/ blank
EP_226	Screening for tobacco use and providing help quitting when needed.	Quitting tobacco lowers a patient's chance of getting heart and lung diseases. To give this health care professional a score, Medicare looked at the percentage of this health care professional's patients that were asked at least once in the last two years if they use tobacco. If patients use tobacco, this health care professional spoke with them about ways to help them quit using tobacco.	3	numeric/ blank
EP_128	Screening for an unhealthy body weight and developing a follow-up plan.	When patients have a higher or lower than normal weight for their body type and height, they are at risk for certain health conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, or malnourishment. To give this health care professional a score, Medicare looked at the percentage of this health care professional's patients who were screened at least once in the last six months. If the patient's weight was higher or lower than normal for his or her body type and height, they received a plan of recommended next steps.	3	numeric/ blank

Variable Name	Variable Label	Description	Length	Values
EP_317	Screening for high blood pressure and developing a follow-up plan.	High blood pressure can cause heart disease and stroke. To give this health care professional a score, Medicare looked at the percentage of this health care professional's patients who had their blood pressure checked. If the patient had high blood pressure, they received a plan of recommended next steps.	3	numeric/ blank
EP_46	Comparing new and old medications.	Comparing medications is important because it can help avoid medical errors. To give this health care professional a score, Medicare looked at the percentage of this health care professional's patients that had their medications compared within 30 days after coming home from an inpatient facility.	3	numeric/ blank
EP_204	Using aspirin or prescription medicines to reduce heart attacks and strokes.	Cardiovascular disease, which is a disease of the arteries and veins, can lead to a heart attack or stroke. Aspirin has been shown to be a safe, easy, and low cost way of reducing heart attacks and stroke. To give this health care professional a score, Medicare looked at the percentage of this health care professional's patients who have cardiovascular disease and are taking aspirin or prescription medicines to reduce their risk of heart attack or stroke.	3	numeric/ blank

Physician Compare 2014 Group Practice Public Reporting - Clinical Quality of Care

Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) measures performance rates reported by group practices via the Web Interface.

Variable Name	Variable Label	Description	Length	Values
Org_nm	Organization legal name or 'doing business as' name	Name of the Group Practice, as it appears on Physician Compare.	70	string
Org_PAC_ID	Group Practice PAC ID	Unique Group Practice ID assigned by PECOS to the Group Practice.	10	digits
ST	State	State with all or a majority of the group practice's locations.	2	string
PQRS	Participating in PQRS	Group practice participates in the Medicare Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) Group Practice Reporting Option (GPRO) Incentive Program - a pay-for-reporting program that that encourages eligible group practices to report information about the quality of care they provide to people with Medicare who have certain medical conditions. Group Practices that participated in PQRS GPRO via the Web Interface and met the public reporting criteria outlined in the 2014 Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule (78 FR 74230) will have performance rates for up to 14 PQRS quality measures as appropriate.	1	Y/blank
Grp_110	Getting a flu shot during flu season.	Getting a flu shot during flu season can help prevent the flu and the problems the flu causes. To give this group practice a score, Medicare looked at the percentage of this group practice's patients who could get the flu shot and either got one from this group practice or from someone else during flu season.	3	numeric/ blank
FN_Grp_110	Footnote for measure 110	1- Data are suppressed due to small sample size. 2- No cases met the criteria for this measure. 3- Data were not satisfactorily reported.	1	1/2/3/blank

Variable Name	Variable Label	Description	Length	Values
Grp_111	Making sure older adults have gotten a pneumonia vaccine.	Pneumonia is a common cause of illness and death in older adults and people with certain health conditions. A pneumonia vaccine helps prevent pneumonia and complications from pneumonia. To give this group practice a score, Medicare looked at the percentage of this group practice's patients who have ever gotten a pneumonia vaccine.	3	numeric/ blank
FN_Grp_111	Footnote for measure 111	1- Data are suppressed due to small sample size. 2- No cases met the criteria for this measure. 3- Data were not satisfactorily reported.	1	1/2/3/blank
Grp_134	Screening for depression and developing a follow-up plan.	Depression is a leading cause of disability and suffering. Managing depression can lead to better coping and outcomes for patients. To give this group practice a score, Medicare looked at the percentage of this group practice's patients who were screened for depression and, if they have depression, got a plan outlining next steps.	3	numeric/ blank
FN_Grp_134	Footnote for measure 134	1- Data are suppressed due to small sample size. 2- No cases met the criteria for this measure. 3- Data were not satisfactorily reported.	1	1/2/3/blank
Grp_226	Screening for tobacco use and providing help quitting when needed.	Quitting tobacco lowers a patient's chance of getting heart and lung diseases. To give this group practice a score, Medicare looked at the percentage of this group practice's patients that were asked at least once in the last two years if they use tobacco. If patients use tobacco, the group practice worked with them on ways to help them quit using tobacco.	3	numeric/ blank
FN_Grp_226	Footnote for measure 226	1- Data are suppressed due to small sample size. 2- No cases met the criteria for this measure. 3- Data were not satisfactorily reported.	1	1/2/3/blank

Variable Name	Variable Label	Description	Length	Values
Grp_128	Screening for an unhealthy body weight and developing a follow-up plan.	When patients have a higher or lower than normal weight for their body type and height, they are at risk for certain health conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, or malnourishment. To give this group practice a score, Medicare looked at the percentage of this group practice's patients who were screened at least once in the last six months. If the patient's weight was higher or lower than normal for his/her body type and height, he/she received a plan of recommended next steps.	3	numeric/ blank
FN_Grp_128	Footnote for measure 128	1- Data are suppressed due to small sample size. 2- No cases met the criteria for this measure. 3- Data were not satisfactorily reported.	1	1/2/3/blank
Grp_317	Screening for high blood pressure and developing a follow-up plan.	High blood pressure can cause heart disease and stroke. To give this group practice a score, Medicare looked at the percentage of this group practice's patients who had their blood pressure checked. If the patient had high blood pressure, they received a plan of recommended next steps.	3	numeric/ blank
FN_Grp_317	Footnote for measure 317	1- Data are suppressed due to small sample size. 2- No cases met the criteria for this measure. 3- Data were not satisfactorily reported.	1	1/2/3/blank
Grp_112	Screening for breast cancer.	Breast cancer is a leading cause of death in women. Mammograms can help find breast cancer early, when treatment works best. All women 50 years old and older should get a mammogram at least every two years. To give this group practice a score, Medicare looked at the percentage of this group practice's female patients that got a mammogram within the past 27 months.	3	numeric/ blank
FN_Grp_112	Footnote for measure 112	1- Data are suppressed due to small sample size. 2- No cases met the criteria for this measure. 3- Data were not satisfactorily reported.	1	1/2/3/blank

Variable Name	Variable Label	Description	Length	Values
Grp_113	Screening for colorectal (colon or rectum) cancer.	Colorectal cancer is a leading cause of cancer death in the United States. All patients 50 years old and older should be checked for colorectal cancer. The patient's health care professional will recommend the most appropriate test(s) based on the patient's age, risk factors, and current conditions. To give this group practice a score, Medicare looked at the percentage of this group practice's patients that got tested for colorectal cancer.	3	numeric/ blank
FN_Grp_113	Footnote for measure 113	1- Data are suppressed due to small sample size. 2- No cases met the criteria for this measure. 3- Data were not satisfactorily reported.	1	1/2/3/blank
Grp_46	Comparing new and old medications.	Comparing medications is important because it can help avoid medical errors. To give this group practice a score, Medicare looked at the percentage of this group practice's patients that had their medications compared within 30 days after coming home from an inpatient facility.	3	numeric/ blank
FN_Grp_46	Footnote for measure 46	1- Data are suppressed due to small sample size. 2- No cases met the criteria for this measure. 3- Data were not satisfactorily reported.	1	1/2/3/blank
Grp_DM_13	Controlling blood pressure in patients with diabetes.	Most people with diabetes have other conditions such as high blood pressure. High blood pressure can cause heart disease and stroke. It is important to control high blood pressure to avoid additional health problems. To give this group practice a score, Medicare looked at the percentage of this group practice's patients with diabetes whose most recent blood pressure was at a healthy level (less than 140 over 90).	3	numeric/ blank
FN_Grp_DM_13	Footnote for measure DM 13	1- Data are suppressed due to small sample size. 2- No cases met the criteria for this measure. 3- Data were not satisfactorily reported.	1	1/2/3/blank

Variable Name	Variable Label	Description	Length	Values
Grp_DM_16	Using aspirin or prescription medicines to reduce heart attacks and strokes in patients with diabetes.	Most people with diabetes have other conditions, such as heart disease. Heart disease can lead to a heart attack or stroke. Aspirin has been shown to be a safe, easy, and low cost way of reducing heart attacks and stroke. To give this group practice a score, Medicare looked at the percentage of this group practice's patients who have both diabetes and heart disease and are taking aspirin or prescription drugs daily to reduce their risk of heart attack or stroke unless they have a medical reason for not taking these medicines.	3	numeric/ blank
FN_Grp_DM_16	Footnote for measure DM 16	1- Data are suppressed due to small sample size. 2- No cases met the criteria for this measure. 3- Data were not satisfactorily reported.	1	1/2/3/blank
Grp_204	Using aspirin or prescription medicines to reduce heart attacks and strokes.	Cardiovascular disease, which is a disease of the arteries and veins, can lead to a heart attack or stroke. Aspirin has been shown to be a safe, easy, and low cost way of reducing heart attacks and stroke. To give this group practice a score, Medicare looked at the percentage of this group practice's patients who have cardiovascular disease and are taking aspirin or prescription medicines to reduce their risk of heart attack or stroke.	3	numeric/ blank
FN_Grp_204	Footnote for measure 204	1- Data are suppressed due to small sample size. 2- No cases met the criteria for this measure. 3- Data were not satisfactorily reported.	1	1/2/3/blank
Grp_8	Patients with heart failure and a weakened pumping chamber of the heart who got a beta blocker.	The left ventricle is the main pumping chamber of the heart. When patients have a weakened left ventricle, or LVSD, treatment recommendations say health care professionals should prescribe a type of medication called a "beta-blocker." Beta-blockers slow the heart rate and help blood vessels open up, which lets the heart pump blood more easily. To give this group practice a score, Medicare looked at the percentage of this group practice's patients with heart failure and a weakened left ventricle who got a beta-blocker.	3	numeric/ blank

Variable Name	Variable Label	Description	Length	Values
FN_Grp_8	Footnote for measure 8	1- Data are suppressed due to small sample size. 2- No cases met the criteria for this measure. 3- Data were not satisfactorily reported.	1	1/2/3/blank
Grp_118	Prescribing medicine to improve the pumping action of the heart in patients who have both heart disease and certain other conditions.	If patients with heart disease also have diabetes or if the main pumping chamber of their heart (the left ventricle) is not pumping well, treatment recommendations say that doctors should prescribe an ACE inhibitor or ARB drug. ("ACE" means "Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme" and "ARB" means "Angiotensin Receptor Blocker.") These types of medication help lower blood pressure and make it easier for the heart to pump blood. To give this group practice a score, Medicare looked at this group practice's patients with heart disease who also have diabetes or a weakened left ventricle. The score is based on the percentage of these patients who were prescribed medicine to improve the pumping action of the heart.	3	numeric/ blank
FN_Grp_118	Footnote for measure 118	1- Data are suppressed due to small sample size. 2- No cases met the criteria for this measure. 3- Data were not satisfactorily reported.	1	1/2/3/blank

Physician Compare 2014 Group Practice Public Reporting - Patient Experience

Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) for PQRS measures performance rates reported by group practices.

Variable Name	Variable Label	Description	Length	Values
Org_nm	Organization legal name or 'doing business as' name	Name of the Group Practice, as it appears on Physician Compare.	70	string
Org_PAC_ID	Group Practice PAC ID	Unique Group Practice ID assigned by PECOS to the Group Practice.	10	digits
ST	State	State with all or a majority of the group practice's locations.	2	string
Grp_CAHPS_1	Getting timely care, appointments, and information.	Getting care, appointments, and information when you need it is an important part of having access to health care that you deserve. To give this group practice a score, Medicare looked at the percentage of patients that said they always got timely care including: • Getting an urgent care appointment as soon as needed. • Getting answers to medical questions on the same day when calling during regular office hours. • Seeing a health care professional within 15 minutes of the scheduled appointment time.	3	numeric/ blank
FN_Grp_CAHPS_1	Footnote for measure CAHPS 1	4- Data are suppressed due to low reliability.	1	4/blank
Grp_CAHPS_2	How well health care professionals communicate.	An important part of high quality health care is having a health care professional listen to you and talk to you about your health in a way that is easy for you to understand. To give this group practice a score, Medicare looked at the percentage of patients that said health care professionals always communicated well including: • Explaining things in a way that was easy to understand. • Listening carefully. • Showing respect for what patients had to say. • Spending enough time with patients.	3	numeric/ blank
FN_Grp_CAHPS_2	Footnote for measure CAHPS 2	4- Data are suppressed due to low reliability.	1	4/blank

Variable Name	Variable Label	Description	Length	Values
Grp_CAHPS_5	Health promotion and education.	A part of high quality care is having your care team give you information about things you can do every day to stay healthy. This includes talking with you about how to prevent illness, keep a healthy diet, exercise, and set goals for your own health. To give this group practice a score, Medicare looked at the percentage of patients that said their care team always talked with them about what they can do to stay healthy.	3	numeric/ blank
FN_Grp_CAHPS_5	Footnote for measure CAHPS 5	4- Data are suppressed due to low reliability.	1	4/blank
Grp_CAHPS_3	Patients' rating of doctors.	To give this group practice a score, Medicare looked at the percentage of patients who gave their doctors a rating of 9 or 10 on a scale from 0 (lowest) to 10 (highest).	3	numeric/ blank
FN_Grp_CAHPS_3	Footnote for measure CAHPS 3	4- Data are suppressed due to low reliability.	1	4/blank
Grp_CAHPS_8	Courteous and helpful office staff.	Office staff are the clerks and receptionists you talk with when you want to schedule appointments or have questions. To have a high quality patient experience, it is important that office staff help you when you need it. To give this group practice a score, Medicare looked at the percentage of patients that said office staff were always helpful, polite, and respectful.	3	numeric/ blank
FN_Grp_CAHPS_8	Footnote for measure CAHPS 8	4- Data are suppressed due to low reliability.	1	4/blank
Grp_CAHPS_9	Health care professionals working together for your care.	Care coordination involves important parts of your care like getting referrals and conducting visit follow ups. To give this group practice a score, Medicare looked at the percentage of patients that said their care was always coordinated by the practice including: • Having medical records ready and available during visits. • Following up after visits to give patients results of tests or x-rays. • Managing tests, treatments, and appointments from different health care professionals.	3	numeric/ blank

Variable Name	Variable Label	Description	Length	Values
FN_Grp_CAHPS_9	Footnote for measure CAHPS 9	4- Data are suppressed due to low reliability.	1	4/blank
Grp_CAHPS_10	Between visit communication.	Patients may not always remember the time of their next medical appointment. Getting reminders from the group practice is part of a high quality patient experience. To give this group practice a score, Medicare looked at the percentage of patients that said they always got reminders from the practice about scheduled appointments and about making appointments for tests or treatments.	3	numeric/ blank
FN_Grp_CAHPS_10	Footnote for measure CAHPS 10	4- Data are suppressed due to low reliability.	1	4/blank
Grp_CAHPS_12	Attention to patient medication cost.	When your health care professionals discuss medication costs with you, they can be sure that you will be able to afford to follow your care plan. To give this group practice a score, Medicare looked at the percentage of patients that said the care team always talked with them about the cost of their prescription medication.	3	numeric/ blank
FN_Grp_CAHPS_12	Footnote for measure CAHPS 12	4- Data are suppressed due to low reliability.	1	4/blank

Additional Information

Information in this downloadable file does not match the information as displayed on the Physician Compare website exactly, because:

- Website professional profiles represent all professional-level details while the downloadable file observations are at the professional-enrollment-address level. If a professional has more than one enrollment, more than one address per enrollment, or both, the individual professional will have multiple entries in the downloadable file.
  - o This means that a single professional may have different specialties and different credentials from each enrollment.
- The downloadable physician demographic database is focused on professionals and their practice locations. There is no group practice level demographic information in the downloadable file as there is on the website.
  - o You can manipulate this file to group professionals with affiliations to the same group to evaluate the data at the group practice level.
- Professional IDs (including the NPI, PECOS PAC ID, and PECOS enrollment ID) and group practice or hospital IDs (including PECOS PAC ID and Medicare CCN) are included in the downloadable file to help distinguish professionals and group practices or hospitals with similar names. These IDs also help identify individual professionals who are affiliated with a group practice or hospital. These IDs are not currently included on the website profile pages.
- The marker of line 2 suppression means that there were multiple possible addresses for that professional in the same building. This is a flag indicates there is additional information like a suite number that is not included in this file.
- Only Medicare data (PECOS and claims) are used in the downloadable file. All licensed data from third parties are excluded from this dataset.
  - o There is no Board Certification information.
  - o There is no residency data.