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Executive Summary

An analysis of the number of unique patients and the pay ratio, which is the proportion of the amount that providers are payed compared to their submitted charge, for common outpatient services led to finding 3 unique clusters. The clusters were separated in the following way:

Cluster 0: Average service count, relatively low pay ratio.

Cluster 1: Average service count, relatively high pay ratio.

Cluster 2: Relatively high service count, average pay ratio.

A comparison of the clusters with US regional and treatment relative frequency data led only to the conclusion that further analysis is necessary to make a conclusion about the differences between the clusters. However, it is supposed that the disparity is due to a difference in provider type, such as higher volume walk-in clinics in cluster 2 and specialists, more likely to be frequented by older Medicare patients, in clusters 0 and 1. Based on this intuition, it was concluded that regions with zip codes starting with 2, 3, and 7 most likely have better access to high volume clinics that other US regions.