

Medicare Part B Spending by Drug Data Dictionary

Term Name	Variable Name	Definition
Medicare Billing Code (HCPCS Code)	HCPCS_Cd	Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code used to identify the drug furnished by the provider.
Drug Description	HCPCS_Desc	Description of the HCPCS code for the drug furnished by the provider.
Brand Name	Brnd_Name	Name of the drug furnished by the provider. This includes both brand names (drugs that have a trademarked name) and generic names (drugs that do not have a trademarked name).
Generic Name	Gnrc_Name	A term referring to the chemical ingredient of a drug rather than the trademarked brand name under which the drug is sold.
2015 Total Spending	Tot_Spndng_2015	Aggregate drug spending for the Part B program during 2015.
2015 Total Dosage Units	Tot_Dsg_Units_2015	The sum of the dosage units of medication dispensed in 2015 (e.g. number of tablets, grams, milliliters or other units). For Part B, the quantity of a drug in a dosage unit is the same as the quantity of the drug in a HCPCS billing unit.
2015 Total Claims	Tot_Clms_2015	Number of claims for each drug in 2015.
2015 Total Beneficiaries	Tot_Benes_2015	Number of Medicare Part B fee-for-service beneficiaries utilizing the drug during 2015.
2015 Average Spending Per Dosage Unit	Avg_Spndng_Per_Dsg_Unt_2015	Part B drug spending in 2015 divided by the number of dosage units in 2015.
2015 Average Spending Per Claim	Avg_Spndng_Per_Clm_2015	Part B drug spending in 2015 divided by the number of claims in 2015.
2015 Average Spending Per Beneficiary	Avg_Spndng_Per_Bene_2015	Total Part B drug costs in 2015 divided by the number of unique beneficiaries utilizing the drug during 2015.
2015 Outlier Flag	Outlier_Flag_2015	Yearly outlier flag variable, which is set to "1" when a drug's Average Spending per Dosage Unit is substantially impacted by outlier records in a given year. These potentially anomalous drugs are identified as outliers so that users can exercise caution when interpreting results. See the methodology document for additional details.
2016 Total Spending	Tot_Spndng_2016	Aggregate drug spending for the Part B program during 2016.
2016 Total Dosage Units	Tot_Dsg_Units_2016	The sum of the dosage units of medication dispensed in 2016 (e.g. number of tablets, grams, milliliters or other units). For Part B, the quantity of a drug in a dosage unit is the same as the quantity of the drug in a HCPCS billing unit.

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Term Name	Variable Name	Definition
2016 Total Claims	Tot_Clms_2016	Number of claims for each drug in 2016.
2016 Total Beneficiaries	Tot_Benes_2016	Number of Medicare Part B fee-for-service beneficiaries utilizing the drug during 2016.
2016 Average Spending Per Dosage Unit	Avg_Spndng_Per_Dsg_Unit_2016	Part B drug spending in 2016 divided by the number of dosage units in 2016.
2016 Average Spending Per Claim	Avg_Spndng_Per_Clm_2016	Part B drug spending in 2016 divided by the number of claims in 2016.
2016 Average Spending Per Beneficiary	Avg_Spndng_Per_Bene_2016	Total Part B drug costs in 2016 divided by the number of unique beneficiaries utilizing the drug during 2016.
2016 Outlier Flag	Outlier_Flag_2016	Yearly outlier flag variable, which is set to “1” when a drug’s Average Spending per Dosage Unit is substantially impacted by outlier records in a given year. These potentially anomalous drugs are identified as outliers so that users can exercise caution when interpreting results. See the methodology document for additional details.
2017 Total Spending	Tot_Spndng_2017	Aggregate drug spending for the Part B program during 2017.
2017 Total Dosage Units	Tot_Dsg_Uns_2017	The sum of the dosage units of medication dispensed in 2017 (e.g. number of tablets, grams, milliliters or other units). For Part B, the quantity of a drug in a dosage unit is the same as the quantity of the drug in a HCPCS billing unit.
2017 Total Claims	Tot_Clms_2017	Number of claims for each drug in 2017.
2017 Total Beneficiaries	Tot_Benes_2017	Number of Medicare Part B fee-for-service beneficiaries utilizing the drug during 2017.
2017 Average Spending Per Dosage Unit	Avg_Spndng_Per_Dsg_Unit_2017	Part B drug spending in 2017 divided by the number of dosage units in 2017.
2017 Average Spending Per Claim	Avg_Spndng_Per_Clm_2017	Part B drug spending in 2017 divided by the number of claims in 2017.
2017 Average Spending Per Beneficiary	Avg_Spndng_Per_Bene_2017	Total Part B drug costs in 2017 divided by the number of unique beneficiaries utilizing the drug during 2017.
2017 Outlier Flag	Outlier_Flag_2017	Yearly outlier flag variable, which is set to “1” when a drug’s Average Spending per Dosage Unit is substantially impacted by outlier records in a given year. These potentially anomalous drugs are identified as outliers so that users can exercise caution when interpreting results. See the methodology document for additional details.

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Term Name	Variable Name	Definition
2018 Total Spending	Tot_Spndng_2018	Aggregate drug spending for the Part B program during 2018.
2018 Total Dosage Units	Tot_Dsg_Unts_2018	The sum of the dosage units of medication dispensed in 2018 (e.g. number of tablets, grams, milliliters or other units). For Part B, the quantity of a drug in a dosage unit is the same as the quantity of the drug in a HCPCS billing unit.
2018 Total Claims	Tot_Clms_2018	Number of claims for each drug in 2018.
2018 Total Beneficiaries	Tot_Benes_2018	Number of Medicare Part B fee-for-service beneficiaries utilizing the drug during 2018.
2018 Average Spending Per Dosage Unit	Avg_Spndng_Per_Dsg_Unt_2018	Part B drug spending in 2018 divided by the number of dosage units in 2018.
2018 Average Spending Per Claim	Avg_Spndng_Per_Clm_2018	Part B drug spending in 2018 divided by the number of claims in 2018.
2018 Average Spending Per Beneficiary	Avg_Spndng_Per_Bene_2018	Total Part B drug costs in 2018 divided by the number of unique beneficiaries utilizing the drug during 2018.
2018 Outlier Flag	Outlier_Flag_2018	Yearly outlier flag variable, which is set to “1” when a drug’s Average Spending per Dosage Unit is substantially impacted by outlier records in a given year. These potentially anomalous drugs are identified as outliers so that users can exercise caution when interpreting results. See the methodology document for additional details.
2019 Total Spending	Tot_Spndng_2019	Aggregate drug spending for the Part B program during 2019.
2019 Total Dosage Units	Tot_Dsg_Unts_2019	The sum of the dosage units of medication dispensed in 2019 (e.g. number of tablets, grams, milliliters or other units). For Part B, the quantity of a drug in a dosage unit is the same as the quantity of the drug in a HCPCS billing unit.
2019 Total Claims	Tot_Clms_2019	Number of claims for each drug in 2019.
2019 Total Beneficiaries	Tot_Benes_2019	Number of Medicare Part B fee-for-service beneficiaries utilizing the drug during 2019.
2019 Average Spending Per Dosage Unit	Avg_Spndng_Per_Dsg_Unt_2019	Part B drug spending in 2019 divided by the number of dosage units in 2019.
2019 Average Spending Per Claim	Avg_Spndng_Per_Clm_2019	Part B drug spending in 2019 divided by the number of claims in 2019.

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Term Name	Variable Name	Definition
2019 Average Spending Per Beneficiary	Avg_Spndng_Per_Bene_2019	Total Part B drug costs in 2019 divided by the number of unique beneficiaries utilizing the drug during 2019.
2019 Outlier Flag	Outlier_Flag_2019	Yearly outlier flag variable, which is set to “1” when a drug’s Average Spending per Dosage Unit is substantially impacted by outlier records in a given year. These potentially anomalous drugs are identified as outliers so that users can exercise caution when interpreting results. See the methodology document for additional details.
Average Sales Price	ASP_2019	The average of the quarterly payment amount listed on the ASP Drug Pricing files for the most recent year, including the 6 percent or other applicable add-on.
Change in Average Spending Per Dosage Unit (2018-2019)	Chg_Avg_Spndng_Per_Dsg_Unt_18_19	The percent change in average spending per dosage unit from the prior year.
Annual Growth Rate in Average Spending Per Dosage Unit (2015-2019)	CAGR_Avg_Spnd_Per_Dsg_Unt_15_19	The constant average change in spending per unit over the most recent five years of data availability, calculated using the compound annual growth rate (CAGR).