Healthcare Data Set Review

Drexel University

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The healthcare data set analyzed in this paper is from the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) Certified Health IT and the title of the data set is, “EHR Products Used for Meaningful Use Attestation Public Use File”. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid initiated the Electronic Health Record Incentive Program and a key part of the program is the requirement for eligible hospitals and professionals to make meaningful use of qualified EHR technology (Habte, Kalyvas, Rifenbark, Scarano, & Sevell, 2012). The information in the dataset is a combination of meaningful attestations from the Medicare EHR Incentive Program and the certified EHR product data to recognize the specific vendors, product types, and products of each EHR used to prove to meaningful use (Habte et al, 2012).

The data elements available in this data set range from numeric data to text data. The first data element in this data set is the EHR certification number, this exclusive number is related to a specific vendor that may have more than one EHR product. The vendor name represents the company name of the EHR seller who established the certified product for meaningful use attestation. The electronic health record (EHR) product certified health IT product list (CHPL) identification number and the CHPL are matched to the EHR certification number used for attestation. The EHR product name and product version identifies what product and version numbers were used for attestation. The product classifications can be either complete or modular, identifying if the products met all of the meaningful use (MU) requirements or if they met one of more but not all of the MU requirements. The product setting data element identifies where the EHR product is certified, inpatient or ambulatory care settings. The product certification edition year helps to identify what year the EHR product was certified. The attestation month and attestation year are two important data elements that help recognize what calendar month and year the provider submitted MU attestation to the Medicare EHR Incentive Program. The Business State Territory identified where the practice or hospital is located. This data set includes two provider groups, eligible professionals and eligible hospitals. Eligible professionals can then be classified by their specialty. The program year and the payment year are both displayed to note the year that the EHR program started and the payment year to identify the number of years of participation in the program. The provider stage number helps to identify what stage the hospital or professional is attesting to. The stage 2 scheduled 2014 data element will help identify if the provider is scheduled for stage 2 of meaningful use. A single provider and a single program year will have a unique attestation ID number to help understand each line of data in the set. The national provider identifier (NPI) is an exclusive identifier given to all ambulatory and inpatient providers and a CMS certified number is a distinctive number given to certified health care facilities participating in federal health care programs.

The Health IT Dashboard and the Health IT data sets are open to the public and the information contained in them are gathered from government sponsored studies and programs. The data can be accessed publically in more than one format from CSV, JSON, and XML. All of the data sets have detailed documentation explaining each data element and the method used for collection and design. All of the files can be downloaded publically from the data page without any restrictions, requirements or limitations.

In order to manage the issue of privacy and confidentiality of healthcare data sets, data owners do not use direct identifiers in the set. As we can see in this data set, the data owner used a National Provider Identifier to ensure privacy and confidentiality. The information found in the data sets through Health IT and Data.gov must be in compliance with current HIPAA privacy and confidentiality requirements. With that said, personal identifiable information is not released in the data sets to ensure compliance with current privacy and confidentiality requirements.

The goal of this data set it to identify what eligible hospitals and eligible professionals have attested for meaningful use, when they attested, where they are and the type of setting they are, and what software they are using. The data set addresses issues of product compatibility with meaningful use requirements. The data in this set is strictly based in the United States, so if you are a trying to use this data set for a global analysis of product capabilities, the information in the set will not be helpful. Some other important issues surrounding attestation are going to be related to choosing the right vendor/software. With that said, you can use this data to show who the majority is that made it to stage 2 and what software they used. The provider specific data in the set are important features because it helps the viewer identify the provider’s participation and status in the program. This data set offers over 1 million rows of data and any data entered outside of the allotted rows will be omitted by Excel resulting in poor optimization and use of the data. Extremely large amounts of data, also known as big data, can increase a user’s concern about the quality and accuracy of the information that is being released. When we look at government data open to the public, there are challenges and barriers that we need to pay close attention to. Data collection, management, access, and protection can be questionable. With that said, the viewer will need to fully understand the data quality and any potential limitations before the data is used.

References

Habte, L. M., Kalyvas, J. R., Rifenbark, R. K., Scarano, M. R., Jr., & Sevell, R. D. (2012, May 1). CMS Releases Proposed Stage 2 meaningful use regulations for Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs. Managed Care Outlook, 25(9), 1+. Retrieved from http://go.galegroup.com.ezproxy2.library.drexel.edu/ps/i.do?p=AONE&sw=w&u=drexel\_main&v=2.1&it=r&id=GALE%7CA289432904&sid=summon&asid=b8cb8090448c998835e7da9c5bc4fa81

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