Medicare Provider Utilization and Payment Data

Inpatient/Outpatient PUFs: Frequently Asked Questions

Are the inpatient and outpatient charge data available for any additional APCs or DRGs?

Beginning with FY2014, the Inpatient PUF now includes all MS-DRG discharges. In prior years (FY2011 through FY2013) of the Inpatient PUF, only the top 100 MS-DRG discharges are released. Beginning with CY2015, the Outpatient PUF now includes 28 common APCs. In CY2014, the Outpatient PUF includes 32 common APCs. In prior years (CY2011 through CY2013) of the Outpatient PUF, 30 common APCs are released.

In the Inpatient and Outpatient Charge Data, what is the difference between "Average Charges" and "Average Total Payments"?

"Average Charges" refers to what the provider bills to Medicare. "Average Total Payments" refers to what Medicare actually pays to the provider as well as co-payment and deductible amounts that the beneficiary is responsible for and payments by third parties for coordination of benefits.

Who pays the difference between what the provider charges and Medicare pays?

The provider has an agreement with Medicare to accept Medicare's payment and the difference is not paid by Medicare or any other entity, including the beneficiary.

Are any of the data suppressed in the inpatient and outpatient charge data?

Data was suppressed if the provider had 10 or fewer outpatient services for a particular APC or if the provider had 10 or fewer discharges for a particular DRG.

In the context of the inpatient charge data, what does a discharge mean?

The total discharges indicate the number of beneficiaries who were released from the inpatient hospital after receiving care.

Is it possible to obtain a list of hospitals classified as teaching and non-teaching by CMS?

CMS has established a list of teaching hospitals (hospitals that received payment for Medicare direct graduate medical education (GME), inpatient prospective payment system (IPPS) indirect medical education (IME), or psychiatric hospital IME programs during the last calendar year for which such information is available) for the purposes of Open Payments: https://www.cms.gov/OpenPayments/Program-Participants/Physicians-and-Teaching-

Hospitals/Physicians-and-Teaching-Hospitals.html. Other than this list, there is no currently published database that includes this information.