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Does Ohio Need an All Payer Claims Database?

Discussions regarding healthcare payment reform in Ohio are gaining momentum, with initiatives such as the State Innovation Model grant, Comprehensive Primary Care initiative, and local and payer initiatives. If Ohio will be successful with payment reform, a credible measure of value is needed. An All Payer Claims Database could serve as a tool for measuring value.

What is an APCD?

An All-Payer Claims Database (APCD) is a statewide database that is used to systematically collect and aggregate health care cost and quality data from all health care payers in order to promote cost containment and quality improvement efforts. Data could include medical claims, dental claims, pharmacy claims, patient eligibility files, and provider files. APCDs may be driven by state law or voluntary data collection efforts. APCDs combine data from all payers, providing statewide information to answer questions related to costs, quality, utilization patterns, and access to care. When the data are made publically available, consumers and purchasers have the tools they need to compare prices and quality, in order to make informed health care decisions.

According to the [All-Payer Claims Database Council](#), eleven states currently have mandated APCDs (i.e., Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Maryland, Tennessee, Minnesota, Kansas, Colorado, Utah, and Oregon). An additional three states have voluntary APCDs in existence (i.e., Washington, California, and Wisconsin). Six states are in the process of implementing an APCD (i.e., Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Virginia, West Virginia, and Nebraska).

Why is an APCD a good idea for Ohio?

Numerous stakeholders in Ohio are working to achieve the Triple Aim of improving the patient experience of care, improving the health of populations, and reducing the per capita cost of care for all Ohioans. In order to be truly successful with payment reform efforts, a tool such as an APCD could be crucial in providing a credible source of measuring value. An APCD could assist with these efforts in numerous ways, including:

- Serve as a tool for health equity work
- Serve as a tool for patient safety work
- Aid in payment reform work, including enabling strategies to pay for value (e.g., shared savings)
- Enable price transparency for health care consumers
- Answer important questions about cost and quality of care
- Enable data-driven policymaking (e.g., population health) and legislative efforts

- Enable measurement of impacts of treatments and policy interventions
- Encourage consumer engagement and informed decision-making

Who may benefit from an APCD?

Many stakeholders in Ohio would benefit from an APCD, including consumers, employers, insurers, health professionals, health care facilities, researchers, and government (e.g., Medicaid, public health). Consumers, for example, could benefit if an APCD is used to improve patient safety, address health disparities, and increase price transparency. Healthcare providers may be interested in an APCD for the purposes of quality improvement and payment reform efforts. Employers may benefit by obtaining information about employee utilization of preventative health services, quality of care, and cost of care.

The [APCD Showcase](#) provides examples from existing state all-payer claims databases (APCDs) that have been organized in order to provide stakeholders with tangible examples of APCD reports and websites. The examples have been organized by intended audience and topic: consumers, employers, providers, researchers, population health, insurance department, Medicaid, and health reform.

How can I learn more?

OPCPCC encourages you to explore the [APCD Council](#) website and the [APCD Showcase](#) to learn more about existing APCDs and the possibilities for an APCD in Ohio. Additionally, some information about APCDs is available on the [Health Policy Institute of Ohio website](#).

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