Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research
Overview of Community Databases

1) Medicare Chronic Conditions Data Warehouse (CCW)

   The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Chronic Conditions Data Warehouse (CCW) database provides researchers with Medicare beneficiary enrollment and medical services, including pharmacy, claims data. All CCW data files can be linked using a beneficiary identifier to enable research across the continuum of care. The CCW data linkage capabilities are embedded in the data files within the Community Database Program. The CCW data can support research designed to improve the quality of care and reduce costs and utilization.

   Specifications of the available CCW data:
   a. Years Inclusive: 2006-2022 (2023 anticipated Q1-2 2026; 2024 anticipated Q2-3 2026). The 2006-2016 is based on a 5% random sample while the 2017 data and onward is based on a 20% random sample.
   b. Data Use Agreement required: Yes
   c. Other Restrictions: Yes

      The CCW datasets are restricted to research projects and analyses covered by an active Data Use Agreement (DUA) and an associated protocol approved by the University of Maryland Baltimore (UMB) Institutional Review Board. All research activities are governed by the stipulations of the CMS DUA and Pharmaceutical Research Computing (PRC) Data Access Agreement (DAA).

2) Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS)

   The Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS) is a continuous, multipurpose survey of a nationally representative sample of the US Medicare population.
   a. Years Inclusive: 1991-2013, 2015-2017 (Note: 2014 survey not conducted)
   b. Data Use Agreement Required: Yes
   c. Other Restrictions: Yes

      CMS MCBS datasets are restricted to research projects and analyses covered by an active DUA. All research activities are governed by the stipulations of the CMS DUA and PRC DAA.

3) IQVIA Pharmetrics®Plus for Academics 25% Sample

   The IQVIA PharMetrics®Plus is a longitudinal health plan database containing fully adjudicated integrated medical and pharmacy claims. The PharMetrics® Plus database is provided specifically for unfunded academic research. It includes patient enrollment data from national, regional, and self-insured employer group health plans. Most beneficiaries in the data have a private commercial insurance plan, with fewer under a commercial Medicare plan or Medicaid.
   a. Years Inclusive: 2006-2024 (with data refreshes to update the years)
   b. Data Use Agreement required: No
   c. Other Restrictions: Yes

      The Pharmetrics Plus database is available for use in projects led by Principal Investigators (PI) whose primary affiliation is with the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy (UMSOP). Projects led by PIs who are not affiliated with UMSOP must have a co-investigator with a primary appointment in UMSOP and who is listed on the IRB protocol. Researchers sign the PRC DAA.