Background
DRG's mission is to improve health outcomes for patients across the country, including Arkansas. We achieve this by delivering quality health market reports for consumers, to support their needs as they strategize marketing and operational planning. We work with several providers and market research actors in biotech and life sciences that are using our products to improve the efficiency of their operations and understand what the best practices for certain drugs and procedures should be according to trends in healthcare populations. The Arkansas APCD data will ultimately help us improve the value we are bringing to providers in Arkansas who can return that value to the people of Arkansas.

The ongoing project my team is working on is an internal initiative to evaluate the quality of the reports DRG is providing to our clients. These reports include patient betterment/HEOR analyses that address concerns of Arkansas patients: Often times patients in Arkansas who are suffering from a particular disease are under treated due to missed diagnosis in current care or their insurance company's lack of coverage for the level of treatment necessary to treat the disease. These cases are an opportunity for DRG to educate healthcare providers to identify un-diagnosed patients and to educate payers on the negative ramifications of not paying for a patient's treatment (i.e. under treated patients become more sick and cost payers and providers more money). In both these cases, DRG works to improve patient outcomes.

DRG is acquiring APCD data in order to validate and benchmark our quality control methodologies. An example of this would be to detect if DRG is over or under reporting populations due to incomplete data and fallacies in analytical methodologies. The data will be used to evaluate claims patterns in Arkansas and help DRG's quality assurance team assess the algorithms used to predict expected claim coverage for a given diagnosis and treatment in observed locations.

Approach
DRG's quality assurance team will be assessing DRG products at several claim level dimensions including provider information, payer information, diagnosis, procedure, drug, and patient location information that could contribute to biases that lead to issues such as under/over estimating populations in need. The team will use the Arkansas APCD as a benchmark for a comparative analysis to DRG products. The quality assurance team will be using the results of the benchmark analysis to minimize misuse and improve transparency about the pitfalls of DRG products. These results will be especially important for the academic research DRG partners with as well as key actors in the life sciences who partner with DRG to better access populations in need.