



# Quarterly Newsletter

Fall 2017

**Welcome** to the Fall 2017 Arkansas APCD Newsletter! Here we will provide status updates and other important information to Arkansas APCD submitting entities. Thank you for your participation and hard work as we improve healthcare transparency in Arkansas.

We invite you to take a [quick two-question survey](#) to inform and enrich the validation, processing, and usage of submitted data. Your input will help us develop strategies addressing these subjects.

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## ***Arkansas Data Submission Guide Update***

Submitting entities have done a great job updating their submissions from the original 4.1.2015 Data Submission Guide (DSG) format to the new 5.1.2017 DSG format. The latest version, 6.0.2018, [is now available](#). In this version, the Arkansas APCD team has added a few new fields to the end of each record to accommodate potential member ID changes resulting from system changes.

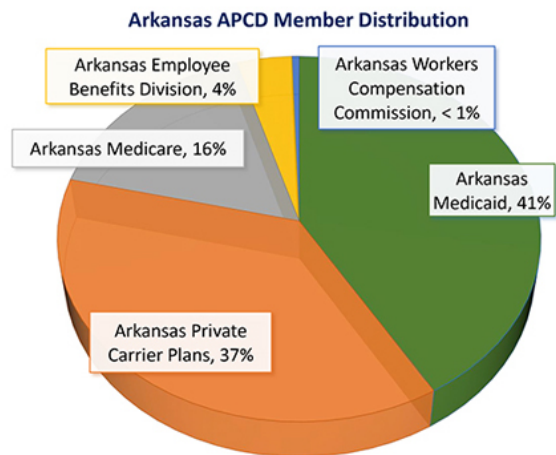
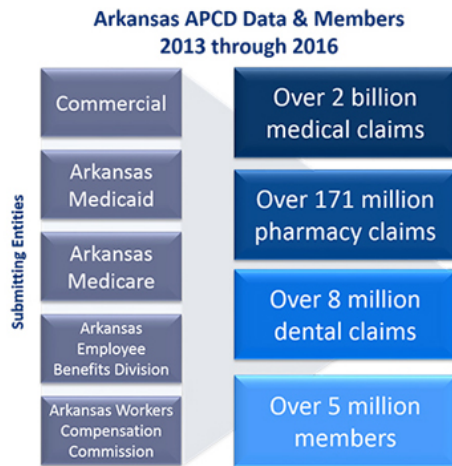
The biggest change in the new DSG is a change in control count files requirements. The new process will reduce the number of required files submitted and make it easier for both submitting entities and the Arkansas APCD team to submit data.

**Important:** Data submissions in DSG 4.1.2015, 5.0.2017, and 5.1.2017 formats will no longer be accepted as of March 31, 2018. At that time, the submission rules that allow those formats will be transitioned to the DSG 6.0.2018 version.

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## ***Current Data Coverage Status and Member Distribution***

The Arkansas APCD has been collecting data for almost two years. Data coverage begins with 2013 and extends into 2017, with the most complete coverage for years 2013-2016. The graphics below illustrate the data coverage to date.



## Arkansas APCD Data Submission Tips

The Arkansas APCD team works closely with submitting entities covering all aspects of data submission, and we have noted some commonly asked questions about the data exception process. The following are a few tips that we have found useful with other submitting entities:

### 1. When the values listed in the DSG for a data element contain the value *U* for unknown.

When mapping values to DSG data element values:

- Map the submitting entity's value that best represents the meaning described in the DSG to the appropriate DSG data element value.
- Map the submitting entity's value to *U* if it **does not** represent any of the values represented in the DSG for that data element.
- Do not request an exception if the submitting entity's value is not an option for the DSG data element and the value *U* is available for the DSG data element. Map the value to *U*.

[Read More Tips](#)



The Arkansas APCD recently published the following to the [Reports and Maps](#) page:

- Data Watch: [EpiPen® and EpiPen® Jr Cost Trends in Arkansas](#)
- Data Watch: [Days to Paid Claim by Payer – Professional/Office](#)
- Chronic Condition Maps:
  - [Asthma](#)
  - [Breast Cancer](#)
  - [Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease \(COPD\)](#)
  - [Coronary Heart Disease](#)
  - [Depression](#)
  - [Diabetes](#)
  - [Hypertension](#)
  - [Lung Cancer](#)
  - [Stroke](#)

# UPCOMING DATES

## **Dec. 31**

Quarter 4, 2017, data submission  
Data required: July 1, 2017 - September 30, 2017

## **March 31**

Quarter 1, 2018, data submission  
Data required: Oct. 1, 2017 - Dec. 31, 2017

## **June 30**

Quarter 2, 2018, data submission  
Data required: Jan. 1, 2018 - March 31, 2018

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## ***Recent FAQs Added to DSG***

The Arkansas APCD team has added some new FAQs to the latest Data Submission Guide, version 6.0.2018. Here are latest additions for your information:

**Q: Where are the instructions for file encryption and key exchange?**

A: The instructions for encrypting data files to the Arkansas APCD standard [can be found on the Arkansas APCD website under Training](#).

**Q: Regarding the requirement: "Previous DSGs, versions 4.1.2015, 5.0.2015, and 5.1.2015, are no longer being used. All data received after March 31, 2018, must be in the format outlined in the current Arkansas DSG version 6.0.2018 until which time a new version is released."**

**Does this also include historical data submitted after March 2018? Will those submissions need to reflect the 6.0.2018 DSG Version?**

A: For submitting entities who qualified to participate in the Arkansas APCD, the historical data should be submitted as final paid claims but should be submitted under the DSG version in place when submission is scheduled. For example, if a submitting entity was required to submit in January 2016 (because they qualified in 2015), but has received the appropriate exemptions for late delivery in June 2018, they would submit historical data (final paid claims) under the DSG version in effect at the time they qualified for the Arkansas APCD—in this case the DSG in place in January 2016.

[Read More New FAQs](#)

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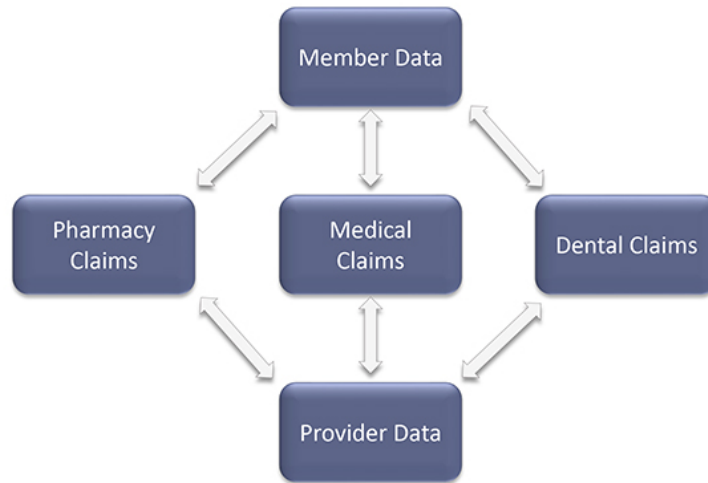
## ***About the Arkansas APCD***

The Arkansas All-Payer Claims Database (APCD) is enabled by the Arkansas Healthcare Transparency Initiative. The vision of the Arkansas APCD is to help empower Arkansans to seek out value in the healthcare system as part of the Arkansas Health Information Transparency Initiative. Its mission is to serve as a trusted and timely source of dynamic



information to guide meaningful action to improve health, enhance healthcare quality, and lower costs. The Arkansas APCD team strives to build and maintain a rich data asset to enable this vision and mission, helping advance the health and well-being of Arkansans through relevant, accessible health information.

The Arkansas APCD is based on a logical data platform that associates the five main data categories (member data, medical claims, pharmacy claims, dental claims, and provider data) at both the submitter/individual and provider levels. This model facilitates health data relationships that can address complex health care utilization and access questions.



The Arkansas All-Payer Claims Database (APCD) is administered by the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement (ACHI) with support from the Arkansas Insurance Department Health Insurance Rate Review Division.



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