Data Tips for Data Requesters

The following table contains information about data quality or data nuances that affect data in the Arkansas APCD. This information is provided at the Submitting Entity (SE) level where applicable, otherwise, the issue described affects all SEs. Data requestors should review and consider each of these as they move forward with their stated use of the data. Where possible, issues will be addressed in future Arkansas APCD releases. Issues categorized as "Informational" cannot or will not be addressed. Resolution is being addressed for issues categorized as "Active." Resolved issues are categorized as "Resolved."

Submitting Entity (SE)	Subject	Update Date	Resolution	Description
All	Alias Fields	2019-03-01	Informational	When system changes occur that result in changing member and/or subscriber IDs, the old IDs should be moved to the Alias fields at the end of each member or claim records. The new IDs should populate the original fields. The System ID field should be incremented by 1 to represent ID changes. Data user should use the System ID field as a trigger to determine if a member ID changed.
All	APCD Unique ID	2019-03-01	Informational	APCD Unique ID (ME998), otherwise called the APCD Hash ID, can be used to align individuals across carriers. Refer to this document for more methodologies and instructions.
All	Current Age Fields	2019-03-01	Active	Each Arkansas APCD table — Member, Medical Claims, Pharmacy Claims, Dental Claims — contains a derived field representing the current age of the member. The value in this field is calculated based on the date the data was loaded into the database table and the member date of birth. It is possible that the ages differ between data tables. This calculation will be changed for the upcoming Arkansas APCD build to ensure consistency among members' current ages.
All	Data Coverage	2019-03-01	Informational	All required fields received from SEs have data coverage thresholds. For example, the Member ZIP Code field (ME017) must contain a valid ZIP code value on 99% of the records received. However, if an SE cannot provide valid ZIP codes to meet this threshold, they must either correct the data or submit an exception to lower the threshold. Therefore, it is possible that any given field may not be populated completely because of the data issues encountered by the SE.

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All	DOB/AGE	2019-03-01	Active	The standard value delivered for data requests is age, calculated from a member's date of birth. Data quality errors within SE systems can sometimes result in multiple dates of birth for the same carrier specific unique member ID (ME107, MC137, PC107, DC056). This could result in different age values for a member.
All	DOB/AGE	2019-03-01	Active	The field ME014_ENROL_AGE is calculated using the member date of birth (ME014) and member enrollment date (ME162A). The ME014_ENROL_AGE value has been found to be negative on approximately 15,500 member records (3,987 members). Negative ages result when the member enrollment dates (ME162A) are earlier than the member date of birth. This anomaly is present among 17 submitting entities. This is a result of either data quality issues or children member records having the parent's enrollment dates. Less than 100 member records have a calculated age based on enrollment date that is over 125. Approximately half of these problematic records have date of birth data quality issues.
All	Masking	2019-03-01	Informational	Carrier specific unique member IDs (ME107, MC137, PC107, DC056) and/or carrier specific unique subscriber IDs (ME117, MC141, PC108, DC057) are masked prior to the fulfillment of data requests. Therefore, the original ID value provided by the SE is not visible to the data requestor. ID values are masked consistently to ensure accurate ID linkages over time. This requirement applies to the associated Alias ID fields (ME107A, ME117A, MC117A, MC141A, PC107A, PC108A, DC056A, DC057A).
All	Optional vs. Required Data Fields	2019-03-01	Informational	If a data field is identified as optional in the data request element list, SEs were not required to submit data for that field. Some SEs submitted data for optional fields but there is no guarantee that data coverage is complete. Also, optional fields are not checked for data quality so the data within these fields could be incorrect. Use with caution.
All	Provider Specialty	2019-03-01	Informational	Two types of provider specialty codes are required for the Arkansas APCD.

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All				1. SE-specific provider specialty codes are included in the supplemental Lookup file received as part of the data request (if medical claims are included). This file provides SE-specific provider specialty definitions for fields Service Provider Specialty (MC032) and Billing Provider Specialty (MC212). Some SEs have no custom provider specialty codes and use CMS specialty codes instead. 2. CMS specialty codes or CMS taxonomy codes are required for PV019, PV020, and PV021. If an SE cannot provide the CMS taxonomy code, it provides the associated 2 byte CMS specialty codes. CMS specialty codes can be found at this link: https://www.cms.gov/medicare/provider-enrollment-and-certification/medicareprovidersupenroll/downloads/jsmtdl-08515medicarprovidertypetohcptaxonomy.pdf
All	Source of Coverage Fields (ME018, ME019, ME020)	2019-03-01	Active	Source of Coverage fields (ME018, ME019, ME020) flag the types of plans offered by the SE. When profiling these fields, some SEs may have differing results. For example: SE 10155 has three combinations of flags: me001 me018 me019 me020 10155 1 1 2 10155 2 1 2 10155 1 2 2 This happens when different groups within a large SE are pulling data. These groups may be unaware of the presence of other plans and set the value to "2" (No), "3" (Unknown), "4" (Other), or "5" (Not Applicable). One SE has submitted the value "2" for each of these fields, while a second SE has submitted the value "5" for each of these fields. The

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				Arkansas APCD team is working with these entities to resolve these issues. The recommended workaround for these SEs is to join the member data to the medical, pharmacy, and/or dental claims data on carrier specific unique member ID to determine the presence of those claim types.
All	Subscriber/Member ID Linkage	2019-03-01	Informational	Where the carrier specific unique subscriber ID does not exist as a carrier specific unique member ID for a carrier, the following approach can be used to identify the subscriber among the member records. Group by carrier specific unique subscriber ID and carrier specific unique member ID. Then when the subscriber and member ages matches, review the relationship code and/or the member suffix/person code. When these ages matches and relationship codes indicate "self" or "employee", and/or the person code matches the last two or three digits in the carrier specific unique subscriber ID, you probably have the subscriber.
All	Unique Member Identification by SE	2019-03-01	Active	Because different SEs can use the same value structure for carrier specific unique member IDs, always concatenate the Entity Code (ME001, MC001, PC001, DC001) with the carrier specific unique member ID (ME107, MC137, PC107, DC056) and/or carrier specific unique subscriber ID (ME117, MC141, PC108, DC057) when querying individuals.
All	Valid Value Identification	2019-03-01	Informational	Values present in the data that are not included in the Arkansas APCD Data Dictionary should be considered invalid. Where possible, the Arkansas APCD removes these values when appropriate. For example, extraneous values for Gender such as "T" for Transgender will be replaced with NULL. No such checks are made on fields with widely varied values such as diagnosis codes, procedure codes, revenue codes, bill types, etc.
All	Versioning	2019-03-01	Informational	Not all SEs provided instructions for "versioning" — the process to update claims with changed information. If no versioning rules have been applied, the Versioning Method field (MC706, PC706, DC706) will be Null or will contain the value "8". Refer to the versioning application

				and use methodologies in the online reference, Arkansas APCD Versioning.
All	ZIP, State and County Code Values	2019-03-01	Informational	See Appendix A: Arkansas APCD County and State Code Value Transformation Approach
Arkansas Medicaid	Multiple Member IDs	2019-03-01	Informational	Because Arkansas Medicaid offers many different plan types that are managed from different systems, it is possible that members will have different carrier specific unique member IDs. When identifying members for Arkansas Medicaid, also utilize date of birth or age, gender, and the APCD Unique ID.
Submitting Entities: 71420, 79413D	Member IDs and Subscriber IDs	2019-03-01	Active	Values for carrier specific unique member ID and carrier specific unique subscriber ID changed for most members from these SEs in 2018. When IDs change, the original value was placed in the Alias fields at the end of each records. The new value was placed in the Original ID fields. However, the System ID was not incremented to 1 and currently contains the value "0". Where the System ID value > 0 indicates an ID change, use the presence of data in the alias fields as the trigger.
Submitting Entities: 71420, 79413A, 79413D, 95446	APCD Unique IDs	2019-03-01	Active	The APCD Unique ID values for these SEs are incorrect and should not be used in identifying individuals across SEs.
Submitting Entities: 71420, 79413D	Versioning	2019-03-01	Informational	SEs 71420 and 79413D utilize a custom versioning application that does NOT replace claim lines with changes or replacements. To find total costs for the claim, all claim lines must be aggregated.
Submitting Entity: 62286A	Member/Claim Linkage	2019-03-01	Active	Several issues exist with member and subscriber dates of birth and carrier specific unique member IDs on all file types — Member, Medical Claims, and Pharmacy Claims for this SE. These data cannot be used to associate members with claims data. Also, these issues render the APCD Unique ID (ME998) unusable. The Arkansas APCD team is working with the submitter to resolve this issue.

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				To date, no issue has been found with the claims level utilization or cost data for this SE, however if plan data, member and/or subscriber demographics are required for analyses, it is recommended that this SE be omitted from analyses until further notice.
Submitting Entity: 64246	Overall Data Issues	2019-03-01	Active	Data provided by SE 64246 has been found to contain multiple data quality errors. If data purchased includes this SE, it is advised to omit these data from any analyses until further notice.
Submitting Entity: 67369D	Problematic APCD Unique ID Values	2019-03-01	Active	This SE submitted four months of data — July through October 2017 — with no values in ME998. The Arkansas APCD team is working with the submitter to resolve this issue.
Submitting Entity: 99EBD1	ICD Diagnosis and Procedure Codes	2019-03-01	Informational	Inconsistencies and truncation exist in this SE's ICD Diagnosis Code and Procedure Code fields resulting from the third party administrator (TPA) transition from ICD9 to ICD10. Two issues occurred: 1) the ICD10 codes were truncated to six characters, and 2) they were inconsistently populated between Diagnosis Code and Procedure Code fields. Once the issues were identified, the Arkansas APCD team determined that historical data could not be corrected. ICD9 codes were still available. Therefore, wherever possible, the Arkansas APCD team used ICD9 diagnosis codes and procedure codes, even after the 2015 transition. Toward the end of 2017, the ICD9 codes were no longer provided, so the ICD10 codes were used. These codes are still truncated to six characters. This issue cannot be corrected at the TPA.
Submitting Entity: 99HSM1	Subscriber DOB and Age	2019-03-01	Active	Subscriber date of birth data received from SE 99HSM1 contained the value "9999-12-31" on all records. Because date of birth is translated into current age, enrollment age, age at service, and age at fill, the values in these fields for this SE will be invalid. They should not be used in analyses until this data quality issue is resolved.

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Appendix A: Arkansas APCD State and County Code Value Transformation Approach

The rules used to address state and county code transformations are described below. Note, where the state or county code cannot be validated and transformed to FIPS, the original source value was kept.

USPS ZIP Codes:
- If the value in the USPS ZIP Code field is invalid, make the USPS ZIP code value NULL.

County Name/FIPS Code:
- County FIPS codes are assigned based on valid USPS ZIP codes.
- If the USPS ZIP code is invalid, county value is transformed to FIPS based on a state and county name match.
- If the USPS ZIP code is invalid the value is replaced with NULL.

State Code:
If the value in the state field is "AR" and

- The associated USPS ZIP code is valid AND in the range of AR USPS ZIP codes, the value in the state field is transformed to FIPS code = "05".
- The associated USPS ZIP code is NOT valid but in the range of AR zip codes, transform state to "05".
- The associated USPS ZIP code is valid but NOT in the range of AR zip codes, transform state value to the state FIPS of that USPS ZIP code.

If the value in the state field is a valid non-AR state and

- The ZIP code is a valid USPS ZIP code and the state value corresponds with the state value associated with that USPS ZIP code, transform state to the state FIPS code of that state.
- The ZIP code is a valid USPS ZIP code but the state value does NOT correspond with the state value associated with that USPS ZIP code, the state code should be moved without transformation.
- The ZIP code is NOT a valid USPS ZIP code, the state code should be moved without transformation.

If the value in the state field is NOT a valid state code, transform to NULL.

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