

Welcome Board Members

We welcome you to the first issue of the Arkansas Healthcare Transparency Initiative Newsletter. This newsletter is intended to provide Arkansas All-Payer Claims Database (APCD) status updates and healthcare transparency news. It will also be posted at www.arkansasapcd.net. It is our hope that this newsletter will be an avenue for board members and others to stay informed on the latest developments. Please let us know if there is anything we can add or improve on to help support you in your role as a board member. We thank you for your commitment to improve healthcare transparency in Arkansas.

APCD Status

Registration—On October 30, 2015, the Arkansas Insurance Department (AID) posted a [bulletin](#) explaining the APCD registration and attestation process. Upon registration, entities may attest to a belief that they are not subject to submission requirements. To date, the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement (ACHI) has received over 60 group registrations and 38 attestations. A group may include several companies. ACHI has provided 63 companies with a username and password, allowing the submitting entity web portal access for data submission.

Webinars—ACHI hosted bi-weekly data submission guide (DSG) question and answer [webinar](#) that began on October 20, 2015. These webinars focused on the DSG and the data submission process. In addition, a weekly onboarding [webinar](#) began on November 5, 2015. These webinars provided training on web portal set-up, file encryption requirements, technical support processes, and data file structure requirements.

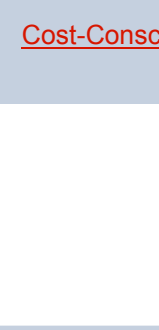
Data Submission—Test files must be submitted no later than January 1, 2016. Some entities have been approved for an extension of this deadline by filing an exemption request with the Arkansas Insurance Department Commissioner. Entities may request extensions, variations, or waivers of rule requirements through the exemption process.

Report Card on Transparency of Physician Quality

The Health Care Incentives Improvement Institute (HCII) has released the third annual [State Report Card on Transparency of Physician Quality Information](#). The Report Card pointed out that APCDs generally provide price information but not quality information, indicating a need to tie measures of quality, particularly avoidable complications, to the cost of care to derive value scores useful to consumers.

Each state is graded on transparent quality information, measures, and accessibility of information. Arkansas received an F, with only 4% of clinicians providing information to consumers on the quality of care.

APCD Council News



The APCD Council prepared a report with assistance and support from the New York State Health Foundation (NYSHealth) that examines the potential of the New York All-Payer Database (APD) and provides recommendations for New York policymakers. The report captures lessons from other states and several possible use cases that could be replicated in Arkansas. You can find the full report at www.apcdouncil.org/publications.

Gobeille v. Liberty Mutual Insurance Company

On December 2, 2015, the Supreme Court of the United States heard oral arguments in *Gobeille v. Liberty Mutual Insurance Company*. The case involves the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and APCDs, asking the question whether a state law requiring companies to submit medical claims data to the state is preempted by ERISA? The Supreme Court's decision could impact data submission to the Arkansas APCD. Arkansas Act 1233 of 2015 requires plans subject to ERISA to submit claims data. In anticipation of the decision, Arkansas Insurance Department Rule 100 provides for the exclusion of ERISA plans until further notice. The National Academy for State Health Policy released an issue brief, [What's at Stake for States? The Lines are Drawn in Gobeille v. Liberty Mutual](#), on the case.

More Transparency News

[Cost-Consciousness Dawning on Healthcare Providers](#)

Staffed by:
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