

Rhode Island’s All-Payer Claims Database (RI-APCD)

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Frequently Asked Questions

General Questions

What Is the RI-APCD?

The RI-APCD is a large database that collects and stores enrollment, medical claims, pharmacy claims, and provider data from commercial insurers, Medicare and Medicaid on a monthly basis. To date, over a dozen states have started to implement an APCD similar to the one in Rhode Island.

What is the Main Purpose of the RI-APCD?

The RI-APCD will be used to ensure transparency of information about the quality, cost, efficiency, and access of Rhode Island's healthcare delivery system. It will also provide state agencies and policy makers with the information they need to improve the value of healthcare for Rhode Island residents.

What is the enabling legislation for the RI-APCD and where can I find a copy of it?

In 2008, the Rhode Island General Court enacted Chapter 23-17.17-9, Health Care Quality and Value Database. This law directed the Rhode Island Department of Health to establish and maintain the Rhode Island All-Payer Claims Database, and gave the State of Rhode Island the authority to require insurance companies to provide de-identified healthcare claims data for services paid on behalf of enrollees. You can find a copy of the legislation here: <http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/title23/23-17.17/23-17.17-9.HTM>

Will the APCD have access to my health information?

All information collected by the APCD is completely anonymous and complies with the highest industry standards for privacy and security (including HIPAA). The APCD will never collect any information that can link you to your medical information and health insurance claims. In fact, when submitting claims information to the RI-APCD, insurance companies remove all information that could possibly identify an individual and their dependents. This includes name, SSN, health insurance policy number, address, and date of birth.

If the APCD does not collect identifiable information, why do I have to provide certain personal information in order to opt-out?

The opt-out website is operated by Arcadia Solutions, a completely separate entity from the State of Rhode Island. The reason that the website asks for certain personal information, is so that the website can accurately and reliably instruct your health plan to keep your records out of the All Payer Claims Database. Your health plan is the only entity that will ever know that you have chosen to keep your information out of the database. The information provided on the website to opt-out will NEVER be seen by the state, nor will the state know who chose to opt-out, and who chose to stay in.

Which Agency Is In Charge of/Runs the APCD?

The RI-APCD is managed by four state agencies:

1. RI Department of Health
2. RI Executive Office of Health and Human Services
3. RI Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner
4. RI Health Benefits Exchange

Who Can I Contact If I Have Additional Questions about the APCD?

There are several places an individual can look for additional information about the APCD.

1. General Information? State of Rhode Island Department of Health APCD Website:
<http://www.health.ri.gov/partners/collaboratives/allpayerclaimsdatabase/>
2. Specific Questions? Please email OHIC.RIAPCD@ohic.ri.gov
(Please allow for 48-hour response time)
3. Detailed inquiry, high-level or technical questions:
Jim Lucht, Informatics Manager, RI Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner
Tel: 401 462-2144
Email: James.Lucht@ohic.ri.gov
4. Individuals wishing to make a formal written complaint should contact the Department of Health:
Samara Viner-Brown, MS
Chief, Center for Health Data and Analysis
Rhode Island Department of Health
3 Capitol Hill, Room 407
Providence, RI 02908

Questions about the Opt-Out Process

What is Opt-Out?

Even though the RI-APCD is completely anonymous, it is your right to choose to have your information excluded if you wish. You can opt-out of the APCD at any time to exclude your information going forward. This means that if you opt-out in January, your anonymous medical information will not be sent to the APCD in February or any month afterwards. You can also opt-*back-in* any time you like.

How Can I Opt-Out?

There are two ways that someone can opt-out and opt-back-into the APCD.

1. The first and preferred way is to visit www.riapcd-optout.com. This website allows individuals to opt-out or opt-back-into the APCD, check the status of their opt-out request, and learn a little bit more about the opt-out process and the APCD in general.
2. If you do not have internet access, the second way to opt-out is by calling RIREACH toll-free at 1-(855)-747-3224, and providing some information about yourself to the call center representative. The representative will opt-out on your behalf.

Can I Opt-Back-In?

Yes. The opt-out website allows individuals to opt-back-into the APCD. Individuals can also contact RIREACH and speak to a representative, to opt-back-in.

What Information Do I Need to Provide In Order to Opt-Out?

Information required to opt-out (or opt-back-in), includes:

- Name
- Address
- Date of Birth
- Health Insurance Plan (e.g. Blue Cross Blue Shield, Neighborhood Health Plan, etc.)
- Health Plan Member ID

Can I Opt-Out on Behalf of My Young Child or Elderly Parent?

While the expectation is that individuals will opt-out on their own behalf, we understand that there will be some cases in which a person will need assistance. Common examples include minor children, disabled individuals, the elderly, and individuals without internet access. In such cases, you *may* opt-out on behalf of someone else as long as you have the necessary information (see above).

What If I Have Two Different Insurance Providers (i.e. Commercial Insurance and Medicare Advantage)? Do I Need to Opt-Out Twice?

No. The opt-out website collects information that will identify you across all of the various insurance plans and products that you may have. This includes commercial insurance, Medicare Advantage, and Medicaid. Therefore, you only need to opt-out once. When opting out, please provide the Health Insurance Plan name and Member ID number for your primary insurance provider. The opt-out website will automatically find all of the other plans that you participate in. If you do not know what your primary insurance is, don't worry, just provide the name and member ID number of any of the plans that you have. The opt-out process will identify you and make sure that none of your information ever goes to the APCD.