

Frequently Asked Questions

Accessing Medicaid Claims Data through the MU MO HealthNet Data Project

Q: What data elements are available through the University of Missouri Center for Health Policy?

A: The University of Missouri Center for Health Policy (CHP) holds a complete database of Missouri Medicaid (aka MO HealthNet) claims, enrollment, and provider data from 2006 to present. Data access is managed through a data request process coordinated by CHP. Please refer to “MO HealthNet variable list” for the full list of data elements available from the claims, enrollment and provider files.

Q: Can I get individual level data?

A: De-identified, individual level data is available for researchers who require individual level data to answer their research question. For most projects, the HIPAA Safe Harbor method is used for de-identification: <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/privacy/special-topics/de-identification/index.html#standard>.

Q: Can I get identified data?

A: You can get identified data if you have established a clinical relationship with the individuals to be included in your data request. You will need to provide the list of DCNs, SSNs and other identifiers to identify your study population in the claims, enrollment and provider files.

Q: How do I access data?

A: Data access is managed through a data request process coordinated by CHP. Most data requests follow the following process:

Step 1: Apply and gain approval through your institution’s IRB.

Most IRBs consider claims to be secondary data, and most IRB proposals are submitted as “exempt.”

Step 2: Complete an “Application to Conduct Research.”

Submit your application to CHP Honest Broker (healthpolicy@missouri.edu), along with your IRB application materials and determination letter.

Step 3: Your application is reviewed by CHP.

CHP may ask clarifying questions to prepare your application for submission to MO HealthNet.

Step 4: CHP submits your application on your behalf to MO HealthNet for their

Step 5: MO HealthNet reviews your application.

MO HealthNet may ask clarifying questions. The review process normally takes between 2-4 weeks.

Step 6: MO HealthNet communicates their decision about your application to CHP and your research team.

MO HealthNet may approve your request outright or ask for clarifications or modifications. Your approval letter serves as a Data Use Agreement and includes a number of provisions for your access to data.

Step 7: CHP provides data and technical assistance to your research team, following the procedures outlined in your “Application to Conduct Research” and your approval letter.

Q: What are my responsibilities to MO HealthNet as part of my Data Use Agreement/approval letter?

A: You agree to share publications and/or presentations with MO HealthNet at least 1 week in advance before release to the public or other audience. Your publication or presentation should be submitted to MO HealthNet through CHP. Academic publications and manuscripts may require up to 2 weeks for review.

You agree to inform MO HealthNet if any elements of your project change from the original proposal, including a change in data storage location or research staff. Changes may require an amendment to the agreement or a new data request.

You agree to destroy data within 60 days upon conclusion of your research study. Data destruction is documented with a letter to CHP and MO HealthNet via email.

Q: What happens if my project changes after I receive approval and/or data?

A: Data requesters are able to submit an amendment to their project if they need to add additional personal, request additional data elements or extend their dates of interest. Amendments will be submitted through CHP.