

Health Care Payments Database (HPD) Data Access and Release Webinar

January 15, 2025

Introduction & Purpose

Michael Valle, Deputy Director, Chief Information Officer, HCAI

Overview of the Health Care Payments Database (HPD) Program

Michael Valle, Deputy Director, Chief Information Officer, HCAI

HPD Program

- Assembly Bill 80 (Chapter 12, Statutes of 2020) provides HCAI the authority to establish the Health Care Payments Database (HPD) Program.
- The Health Care Payments Database (HPD) is California's All Payer Claims Database or APCD and is a research database comprised of healthcare administrative data: claims and encounters generated by transactions among payers and providers on behalf of insured individuals. It collects claim and encounter data as submitted from California payers.
- The information from the HPD System is intended to support greater health care cost transparency and will be used to inform policy decisions regarding the provision of quality health care, and to reduce health care costs and disparities. It is also intended for the information to be used to develop innovative approaches, services, and programs that may have the potential to deliver health care that is both cost effective and responsive to the needs of all Californians.
- To maximize its utility and value for California policymakers, researchers, and others interested in improving California's healthcare system, HCAI intends for the HPD to be as comprehensive and complete as possible by increasing the quality, volume, and variety of data collected over time.

HPD Data Access and Release

- HCAI is required to develop a comprehensive data access and release program and convene a Data Release Committee (DRC) to advise HCAI and review requests for access to nonpublic data.
- HPD public reports, such as [HPD Snapshot](#) and [HPD Measures](#), provide examples for potential applicants to reference for what types of analyses may be possible with access to non-public HPD data.
- As California's APCD, the HPD contains data never before made available for research and analysis, providing an all-payer, all-setting, statewide view of the California healthcare system. Like other APCDs, the HPD contains common information used for billing, such as a patient's diagnosis, the procedure performed, and the amount paid for a claim.

Uses of HPD Data

HPD Uses:

HPD can be used to answer questions related to health care delivered to insured California patients and on topics related to:

- Systematic trends, such as comparing payers or counties
- Operational elements of the healthcare system, such as the utilization or cost of conditions and procedures
- Cost analyses based on claims data

HPD cannot be used for:

- Research about individual patients, the uninsured population, people who self-pay for health services, or about populations residing outside of California
- Research requiring clinical information such as medical chart notes or lab results
- Cost analyses based on non-claims data*

*Information on [HCAI's efforts to add non-claims payment information to the HPD](#)

HPD Data Files

Available for request for years 2018-2023, the HPD uses the [APCD Common Data Layout](#) for file formats, which includes all the data elements available in the database. Potential applicants should review the data layout in preparation for submitting their application.

Medical Claims

- Contains medical claims and encounter data for primary and specialist care, outpatient surgeries, inpatient stays, and laboratory testing. This also includes data for home health care and nursing home care. Diagnoses, procedures, charged amounts, and paid amounts data is also included.

Pharmacy Claims

- Contains pharmacy data, such as drug names, quantity dispensed, charged amount, paid amounts. Provider and pharmacy information including name, specialty, location, and mail-order data is also included.

Member Eligibility

- Contains member identifiers, age, gender, and location data. Payer/health plan information, assigned primary care provider (PCP), and enrollment in person-centered medical home (PCMH) data is included.

Provider Information

- Contains provider identifiers, taxonomy/specialty, and location data.

Datasets Available for Request

Standard Limited

- Record-level and includes enrollment, medical, pharmacy, and provider data for commercial health plans and Medi-Cal.
- Pre-built to be suitable for a variety of analyses, with new plan years of data added annually.
- All direct identifiers for patients, providers, and health plans have been removed.

Standard Limited Plus

- Identical to the Standard Limited dataset, except it includes direct identifiers for providers and health plans.

Custom Limited

- Subsets of the Standard Limited or Standard Limited Plus datasets, architected during the collaborative request review process to best meet a requestor's/applicant's needs.

Research Identifiable

- Record-level and includes enrollment, medical, pharmacy, and provider data for commercial health plans and Medi-Cal.
- Contains direct patient identifiers, which are typically used to link to other datasets.

Methods of Access

Secure Data Enclave

- Centralized service for 24/7 remote access to sensitive data.
- Houses the data in a secure environment, protected in accordance with state and federal security and privacy rules, where it can be accessed via a virtual machine launched from the user's computer.
- Comes equipped with a suite of statistical tools and provides scalable computing power to perform analysis on a high volume of data.
- Datasets can only be downloaded from the Enclave after they have been properly de-identified and after HCAI administrator review and approval is granted.

Direct Transmission

- Direct Transmission is a method where HCAI sends copies of program data outside the secure data enclave directly to an individual or organization.
- Request for Direct Transmission of data will only be provided after a recommendation of approval by the HPD Data Release Committee.

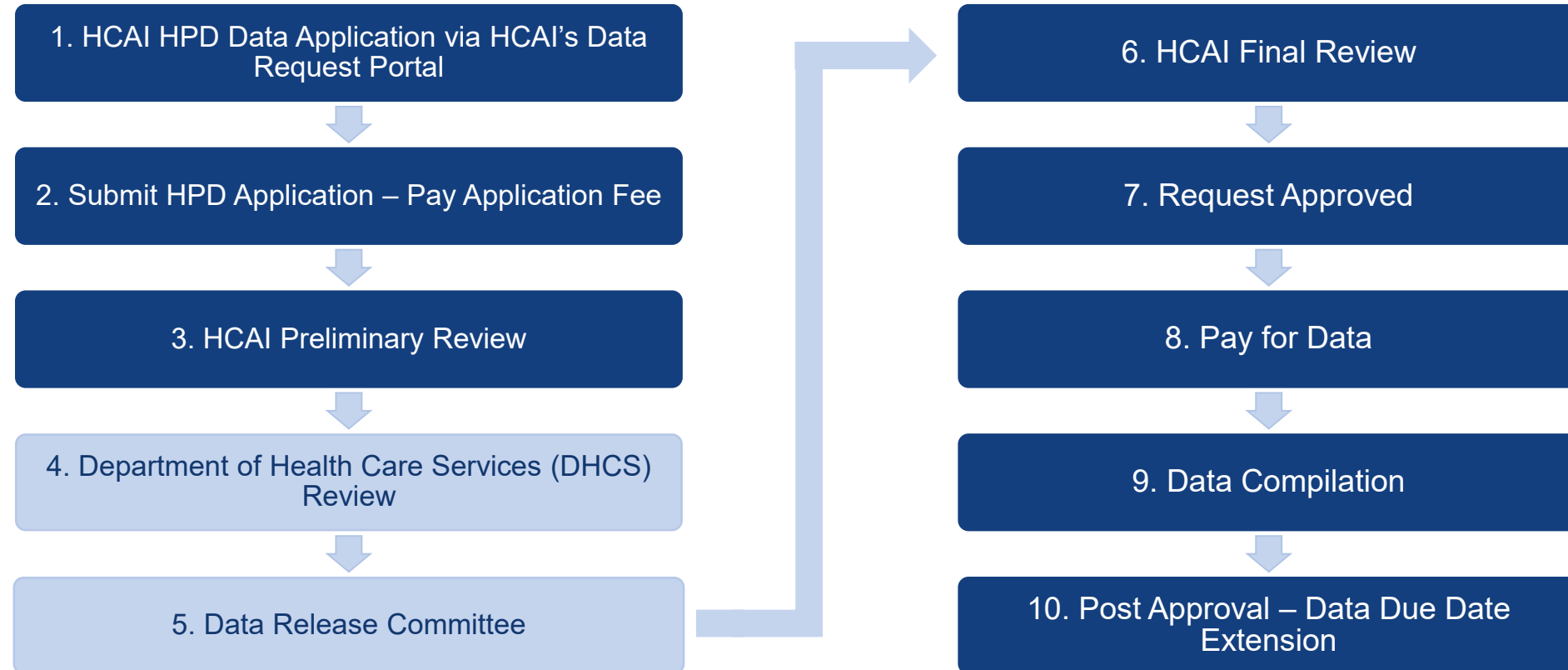
HPD Data Request Process

Christopher Krawczyk, Ph.D., Chief Analytics Officer, HCAI

HPD Data Sets: How to Apply

Standard Limited and Standard Limited+ Datasets

Before beginning, register an account with [HCAI's Data Request Portal](#).

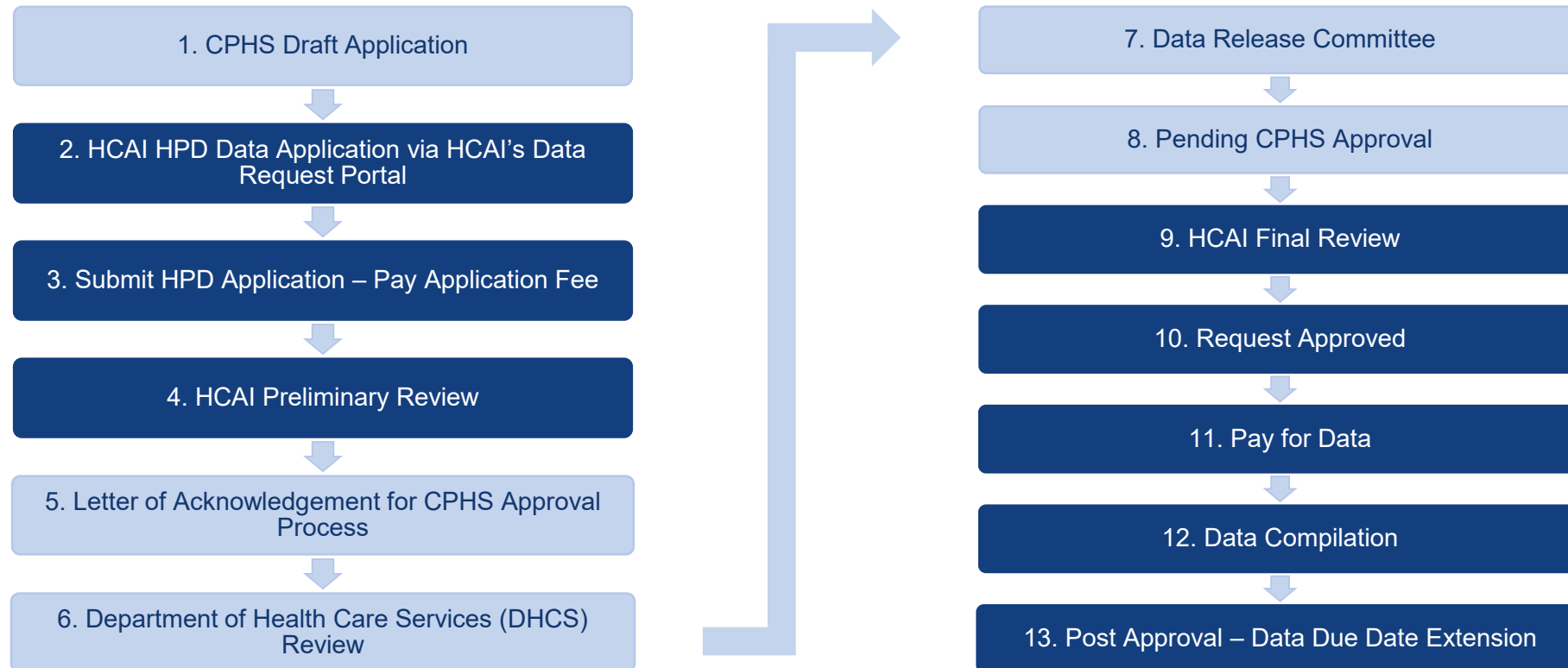


For complete instructions and additional details, please see the [Healthcare Payments Database \(HPD\) Standard Limited and Standard Limited Plus Data Request Process Instructions](#) page

HPD Data Sets: How to Apply

Custom Limited and Research Identifiable Datasets

Before beginning, register an account with [HCAI's Data Request Portal](#). When applying for a Research Identifiable Dataset, the Principal Investigator (PI) and Point of Contact will also need to register accounts with the CPHS online portal, [IRBManager](#).



For complete instructions and additional details, please see the [Healthcare Payments Database \(HPD\) Custom Limited and Research Identifiable Data Request Process Instructions](#) page

HPD Data Sets: Following Approval

Once your data request has been approved:

DUA

Data applicants will need to sign the Data Request Form and Data Use Agreement (DUA) and pay for their data. The requestor will be invoiced based on the HPD pricing schedule.

Accepted forms of payment are credit card and check. Payment instructions are provided in the data request portal.

Data Access

Enclave accounts and data access will be granted through the HCAI Secure Data Enclave within 2 weeks of final approval.

Direct transmission instructions will be provided for this method if selected.

Data Due Date

After a request has been approved, HCAI issues a Data Due Date, upon which the HCAI patient-level data must be destroyed or returned to HCAI.

Data Due Dates can be extended annually, to align with the requestor's CPHS protocol expiration date.

Request Changes

If there are changes or date extensions requested, requestors must notify HCAI of changes to the project.

Supplemental Requests

If a requestor wishes to make changes to their request such as adding additional data users, or requesting additional years of data, they will submit a Supplemental Request.

HPD Data Request Application

Application Sections: High Level

Overview

- Data applicant information, qualifications, and prior experience
- Alignment of request with HPD purpose, goals, and requirements
- Submit data to HPD program
- Requesting a price reduction
- New or supplemental requests

Project Specific

- Description of project purpose, goals and data use/methods
- Requested HPD data product, timeframe of data, and desired delivery format
- List of data elements with justification based on project purpose
- DHCS data requested
- Proposed linkages to other sources with justification

Data Security

- Method of data access: Enclave or Direct Transmission
- Data user information
- Data security plan
- Description of how results and key findings will be shared
- Small cells

Additional Information

- Does the project offer significant opportunities to achieve HPD goals?
- All records vs. subsets of records
- Minimum data necessary
- Planned data products
- Applicant history, including the breaches/convictions/civil actions

HPD Data Request Form

HPD Data Request

*Request Type

Select *New* if this is a HPD Data Request that has not been previously submitted in this Data Request Portal. 

If you have submitted a Research Data Request before, and are requesting additional years, or are adding additional information to your existing request, select *Supplemental*.

New Supplemental

*Data Request Type

Limited Data Research Identifiable Data

*Which method of data access are you requesting?

Secure Data Enclave Environment Direct Transmission

Point of Contact Information (if different from Data Applicant/ PI)

*Is the point of contact for the project different than the data applicant or Principal Investigator

Yes No

Organization Information


*Do you submit data to the HCAI HPD program?

Yes No

Purpose

*Project Title

*Is your project for the purposes of research?

Research is defined as a systematic investigation, including research development, testing, and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge as stated in Section 164.501 of Title 45 of the Code of Federal Regulations. 

Yes No

*Clearly state the purpose and goals of your project. Please include details regarding your methodology, research questions, and expected results.

*HPD Program Goals

- Provide public benefit for Californians and the state while protecting consumer privacy.
- Increase transparency about health care costs, utilization, quality, and equity.
- Inform policy decisions on topics including the provision of quality health care, improving public health, reducing disparities, advancing health coverage, reducing health care costs, and oversight of the health care system and health care companies.
- Support the development of approaches, services and programs that deliver health care that is cost effective, responsive to the needs of enrollees, and recognizes the diversity of California and impacts of social determinants of health.
- Improve data transparency to achieve a sustainable health care system and more equitable access to affordable and quality health care for all.
- Learn about and seek to improve public health, population health, social determinants of health, and the health care system, not about individual patients.

HPD Data Request Form

Data Access

*Please list all individuals who are anticipated to observe, use, or access confidential data, including yourself

Add

Remove All


Actions	Data User Name	Data User Organization	Business Address	Phone number	Data User Email Add
---------	----------------	------------------------	------------------	--------------	---------------------


No data to display

*Will a contractor be used for this project?

Yes No

Linkage

*Will the requested data be used to link record-level information? 

This includes linking patients within the HPD datasets 

Yes No

*Will you be combining or merging the requested data with any external datasets?

Yes No

Project Security

*Have you previously applied for HPD data for another project?

Yes No

*Has the data applicant been involved in a data breach, or other similar issue, in which Personally Identifiable Information (PII) and/or Protected Health Information (PHI) was misused or improperly disclosed, within the last 7 years?

Yes No

*Has the data applicant been involved in any criminal convictions or substantiated violations of California, or other state, or federal laws regarding fraud, theft, data breach, data misuse or related offenses in the past 7 years? This includes civil or administrative penalties, civil judgements, or disciplinary actions.

Yes No

Price Reduction

*Are you applying for a data price reduction?

Yes No


Is your organization a non-profit?


Yes No

HPD Data Request Form

Data Products

* What products will be developed from project? Please include a brief description of each product, including the level of detail to be contained in any charts, graphs, tables, or maps.


* Do you plan to submit your findings for publication in any reports or scientific writings? 

CMS/DHCS data cannot be used for marketing product 

Yes No

* How will the results of the research be shared or published?

* How do you plan to treat small cells (<11) to prevent identifying individuals? 

Small cells are considered <11 

* Please provide your de-identification methodology for any data tables, charts, graphs, and other aggregated data that will be released or published as a part this project. Please reference the California Health and Human Services (CHHS) Data De-Identification Guidelines in your response.


Data Use

* Provide a broad overview of how the data you are requesting will be used to achieve the purpose of this project. Please include a description of both the study population and any control groups that are utilized.

* Briefly explain why the years of data being requested are necessary for your research.

* Are you requesting all available records or can your project be accomplished with a subset of records?

All Records Subset of Records

 Save Request as Draft

Submit

HPD Data Request Form: Additional Documents

During Review

Variable Justification Grids

CPHS Protocol

Data Requestor CV

Contract

Final Approval

CPHS Approval Letter

Data Use Agreement (DUA)

Signed Request Form

Structured Q&A: HCAI Staff

Darian Howard, Stakeholder Engagement Analyst, Moderator

- Michael Valle, Deputy Director, Chief Information Officer
- Chris Krawczyk, Ph.D., Chief Analytics Officer
- Dionne Evans-Dean, Chief Data Programs Officer
- Adrian Aryarad, Supervisor, HPD Services Unit
- Wade Iuele, Consultant, HPD Senior Project Manager

HPD Data Additional Resources

[Standard Limited and Standard Limited Plus Data Dictionary](#)

[Custom Limited and Research Identifiable Justification Grid](#)

[HPD Data Submission Guide](#)

[APCD Common Data Layout \(CDL\)TM](#)

[HPD Data Use, Access, and Release Regulations](#)

[HCAI Data Release Committee Manual](#)

[HCAI Data Release Committee Public Meetings](#)

Adjournment – Thank You!

HCAI will publish an FAQ containing answers to questions asked during this webinar.

HCAI will send out a survey to inform future events; please let us know how we did!

- Did you find this webinar helpful?
- Would you be interested in another webinar?
- What topics would you like to see discussed?

Register an account and submit a data request: datarequest.hcai.ca.gov/csm?id=csm_login

Have more questions, suggestions? Send them to dataandreports@hcai.ca.gov

Subscribe for notifications of public meetings and future events: hcai.ca.gov/mailling-list

Follow Us!



Website



Twitter



Facebook



YouTube



LinkedIn

**#WeAreHCAI #HCAI #HealthWorkforce
#HealthFacilities #HealthInformation**