Fee Basis Data

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Overview of Fee Basis Program

- Pays for care at <u>non-VA facilities</u> when
  - it is the only source available, or
  - VA could save money

- Will cover any therapeutic, medically necessary treatment

- Nearly all outpatient care is pre-authorized; limited emergent care

Growth in Fee Basis

- Meteoric growth in last 10 years
  - $556 million in FY2003, $3.8 billion in FY2009
  - 10-20% growth per year

- Examples of major spending areas
  - long-term care (community NHs)
  - kidney dialysis
  - radiology

Uses of Fee Basis Data: Examples

- Quality and cost
  - comparing VA to Fee Basis providers
  - comparing alternative Fee Basis providers
  - benchmarking: comparing Fee Basis providers to outside standard

- Access to care
  - use of Fee Basis to reduce wait times at VA
  - effect of new CBOCs on number of VHA enrollees

- Coordination of care
  - how VA and Fee Basis services are blended

8 Fee Basis Files per Fiscal Year

- Inpatient care
  - Hospital stays (facility or facility+physician)
  - Ancillary, physician (if billed separately)
- Outpatient care
  - Outpatient non-pharmacy
  - Payments to pharmacies
- Travel expenses
- Two vendor files (pharmacy, all other)
- Veterans with Fee Basis ID cards

Clinical Data: Diagnosis Codes

	Admission Diagnoses	Discharge Diagnoses
Inpatient Facility (INPT)	-FY2008: 0 FY2009-: 25	-FY2008: 5 FY2009-: 25
Inpatient Ancillary (ANIP)	-FY2008: 0 FY2009-: 0	-FY2008: 0 FY2009-: 1
Outpatient non-Rx (MED)	-FY2008: 0 FY2009-: 0	-FY2008: 1 FY2009-: 1
Outpatient Rx (PHR)	all years: 0	all years: 0

Clinical Data: Procedure Codes

	ICD-9 Procedure Codes	CPT Procedure Codes[1]	CPT Modifier Codes
Inpatient Facility (INPT)	-FY2008: 5 FY2009-: 25	-FY2008: 0 FY2009-: 0	-FY2008: 0 FY2009-: 0
Inpatient Ancillary (ANIP)	all years: 0	0[2]	-FY2007: 0 FY2008-: 4
Outpatient non-Rx (MED)	all years: 1	1	-FY2004: 0 FY2005-: 4
Outpatient Rx (PHR)	all years: 0	0	0

[1] both HCPCS Level I ("CPT") and Level II ("HCPCS") codes
[2] variable exists but is always blank

Financial Data

- Amount claimed (PAMTCL)

- Amount paid (DISAMT, AMOUNT)
  - often much less than amount claimed
  - since FY2007, DISAMT and AMOUNT are equal but have slightly differing numbers of missing values

- Many financial processing variables

Highlights of Vendor Data

- Vendor ID (link to utilization/claims records)

- Name

- Location (county, state, zip)

- Related VA station number

- Payment totals by month

Selected Vendor Data: Examples

sta3n	vzip	homecnty	homstate	venname *(true names not used here)*
358	944000000	88000	88	Santa Teresa Hosp
405	57531483	50001	50	Counseling Service of Highland
405	56010647	50007	50	Jefferson County
436	591026686	30111	30	Adlai Stewart DDS

Records vs. Encounters

- LINENO refers to consecutive records for the same person

- Each row of data represents a service provided for a particular date (outpatient) or time period (inpatient)
  - TREATDTF: Inpatient start of invoice period
  - TREATDTO: Inpatient end of invoice period
  - TREATDT: Outpatient date of service

Records vs. Encounters

- Inpatient encounters
  - Locate all records for the same encounter using SCRSSN and treatment dates (TREATDTF, TREATDTO)
  - Use vendor ID to distinguish between contiguous stays over two or more locations, such as these:
    - transfer from NH to hospital or hospital to NH
    - transfer between hospitals
  - Concatenate inpatient records to estimate overall length of stay

Overlap with Other Files

- A majority of stays in the PTF Non-VA Hospitalization (NVH) file also appear in the Fee Basis data.

  - The reverse is not true: most Fee Basis records are <u>not</u> in the Non-VA Hospitalization file.

- Monthly community nursing home (CNH) claims are recorded as *outpatient* services in DSS national data extracts (NDEs).

Records vs. Encounters

- Outpatient services
  - Each billable procedure (CPT or HCPCS code) will have its own Fee Basis record

- Outpatient pharmacy
  - For prescriptions obtained from a pharmacy, Fee Basis files show only the total VA payment to the pharmacy for the month
  - Medications injected in a clinic should have a separate Fee Basis record with a "J code" (HCPCS code begins with letter 'J')

Notes

- Blank fields are common! They could mean "not applicable" as well as "missing."

- Each paid invoice has a separate record.
  - Example: an inpatient stay typically has one invoice (and therefore one record) for <u>each</u> calendar month.

Notes

- Over 90% of claims are processed within 30 days

    BUT

- Claims (invoices) may be sent LONG after services are rendered.

    THEREFORE

- To find all services in a fiscal year, look in the Fee Basis files in that year <u>and</u> the following 1-2 years.

- Search by
    - TREATDTF and TREATDTO for inpatient records
    - TREATDT for outpatient records

Completeness by Window Length

If you look for FY*nn*　　　you will find about this
records over this many　　　　percent of FY*nn* records:
years…

1…………………………70%

2…………………………96%

3…………………………99%

Example: About 96% of claims pertaining to services rendered in
FY08 will be paid by the end of FY09.

Cautions

- Watch for outliers: extremely long stays

- If a stay appears to end on September 30, check the October records

- Look over a long period (2+ years) to find all records pertaining to an inpatient stay

Sharing Agreements

- Sharing agreements are contracts with non-VA providers. They represent an alternative way of hiring non-VA services.

- Some care from sharing agreements is recorded in the Fee Basis files.
  - e.g., DoD hospitals in Alaska and Hawaii

Person-Level Summary Data

HERC Person-Level Cost Datasets

- summarize total cost by person, fiscal year, and category

- data sources: HERC Average Cost datasets, DSS Pharmacy
    Extract

New! Summary variables for Fee Basis will soon be added:

- total Fee inpatient spending (facility + ancillary)

- total Fee outpatient spending (services + pharmacy)

An updated guidebook will list variables and estimation details.

Other Resources

- Fee Basis intranet web site

     * record of national Fee monthly calls

- HERC intranet web site

     * guidebook on Fee Basis data

     * technical report analyzing FY2003 data
        (coming soon: FY2007 update)

- HERC customer service: herc@va.gov

Questions on Fee Basis Files?