Description of CHIA’s Cost Estimates Data File  
JULY 2019

The Cost Estimates Data File was originally created by CHIA for use on CompareCare ([www.MassCompareCare.gov](http://www.MassCompareCare.gov)), a website developed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to provide Massachusetts health care consumers the guidance and tools they need to become active partners in navigating their health care decisions. Certain modifications have been made to the file for purposes of the Price Is Your Right design challenge. Most notably, this file includes all-payer median prices, rather than payer-specific prices, for the eight Massachusetts carriers included on CompareCare.

Overview of Cost Estimate Development

Health care service cost estimates were derived using the MA APCD’s commercial, fee-for-service, medical claims data for Massachusetts residents and non-residents from the following payers: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts (BCBS), Boston Medical Center HealthNet Plan (BMCHP), Fallon, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care (HPHC), Health New England (HNE), Neighborhood Health Plan (NHP), Tufts Health Plan, and Tufts Health Plan - Direct (formerly Network Health) with service dates in State Fiscal Year 2015 (July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015). MassHealth and its associated Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), as well as Medicare claims were not included in the development of the SFY2015 cost estimates. Cost estimates are available for providers located in Massachusetts, as well as neighboring states including Connecticut, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Costs were estimated for a select set of outpatient services from each of the providers that rendered them. Cost estimates were calculated as the median service encounter cost for each service rendered by the provider, either for a single payer or median cost calculated across all eight payers. The cost included the amount the payer paid to the provider as well as the member cost sharing amounts (i.e., co-payment, coinsurance, and deductible) for each health care service. The median was determined to be the best estimate of service cost as it is less affected by outlier payments to providers. Cost estimates were intended to reflect the cost of typical, non-complicated encounters for services rendered by each provider.

For certain services, cost estimates were calculated on a per-unit basis rather than per-encounter. In these cases, a per-unit cost was calculated for each encounter, and service cost estimates were calculated as the median service encounter per-unit cost.

Only cost estimates meeting established threshold criteria were included in the final cost data set for the website. Service cost estimates had to be based on fifteen (eleven for maternity) or more service encounters and the 25th percentile for those service encounters had to be at least $1.

Cost Estimate Data File

The Cost Estimates Data File reflects the data underlying the CompareCare website. It includes one record per payer, provider NPI, and Service (i.e., OrgID-ProviderNPI-ServiceCode). Below are descriptions of the fields included in the data file.

Note that, as of July 2019, the Cost Estimates Data File reflects methodological improvements not yet implemented on the CompareCare website. These changes primarily relate to lab, radiology, and colonoscopy and endoscopy services. For these services, the primary provider now reflects the provider that billed for the service, rather than the servicing/rendering provider. Additionally, colonoscopy and endoscopy services that do not include a separate facility fee were omitted from CompareCare, but have been added to these data.

This file is restricted to payer-agnostic results for Massachusetts plans (consistent with the “I Don’t Know” label on CompareCare).

| Field Name | description |
| --- | --- |
| ProviderNPI | Provider NPI  NPI of the primary servicing/rendering provider of the service.  Note that in the case of lab, radiology, and colonoscopy/endoscopy services this will reflect the NPI of the facility or group that billed for the service. |
| ProviderName | Provider name  Standardized provider name associated with the provider NPI. Displayed on the CompareCare website. |
| ProviderName\_Additional | Additional provider name information  Reflects the billing organization for the provider, **if differs substantially from the provider name**. Examples include the group name under which the provider practices. Information is based on the organizational billing NPI “anchored” to the provider based on an algorithm to assign servicing providers with multiple billing entities to a single billing provider. The algorithm prioritized criteria such as claims activity in the second half of SFY2015, the volume of services, organizations as opposed to individual providers, and matching billing and servicing provider address.  Used for display purposes on the CompareCare website. |
| ProviderOrgName\_Anchored | Billing organization name (anchored)  Reflects the billing organization for the provider, based on the organizational billing NPI “anchored” to the provider based on an algorithm to assign servicing providers with multiple billing entities to a single billing provider. The algorithm prioritized criteria such as claims activity in the second half of SFY2015, the volume of services, organizations as opposed to individual providers, and matching billing and servicing provider address.  Included to support group/organizational level analysis. |
| ProviderOrgNPI\_Anchored | Billing organization NPI (anchored)  Reflects the billing organization for the provider, based on the organizational billing NPI “anchored” to the provider based on an algorithm to assign servicing providers with multiple billing entities to a single billing provider. The algorithm prioritized criteria such as claims activity in the second half of SFY2015, the volume of services, organizations as opposed to individual providers, and matching billing and servicing provider address. |
| ProviderTaxonomyType | Provider taxonomy type  Broad taxonomy types, reflecting servicing/rendering provider primary specialty, leveraged from taxonomy code classifications established in the National Uniform Claim Committee’s (NUCC’s) Health Care Provider Taxonomy code set  Note that in the case of lab, radiology and colonoscopy/endoscopy services this will reflect the taxonomy of the facility or group that billed for the service. |
| ProviderTaxonomyGroup | Provider taxonomy group  Servicing/rendering provider taxonomy groupings, reflecting servicing/rendering provider primary specialty, for display on the CompareCare website. Derived by CHIA as a primarily rolled up version of ProviderTaxonomyType.  Note that in the case of lab, radiology and colonoscopy/endoscopy services this will reflect the taxonomy of the facility or group that billed for the service. |
| ProviderTaxonomyGroupDetail | Provider taxonomy group (detailed)  Servicing/rendering provider taxonomy groupings at a slightly more granular level than ProviderTaxonomyGroup, reflecting servicing/rendering provider primary specialty, for display on the CompareCare website. Derived by CHIA as a primarily rolled up version of ProviderTaxonomyType.  Note that in the case of lab, radiology and colonoscopy/endoscopy services this will reflect the taxonomy of the facility or group that billed for the service. |
| TaxonomyCode | Provider taxonomy code  Primary taxonomy code associated with the servicing/rendering provider NPI. Primary code supplied by providers themselves in the NPI Registry administered by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS)  Note that in the case of lab, radiology and colonoscopy/endoscopy services this will reflect the taxonomy of the facility or group that billed for the service. |
| ProviderAddress | Provider address  Servicing/rendering provider practice address, supplied by providers themselves in the NPI Registry administered by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS)  Note that in the case of lab, radiology and colonoscopy/endoscopy services this will reflect the address of the facility or group that billed for the service. |
| PracticeState | Provider state  Servicing/rendering provider practice state, supplied by providers themselves in the NPI Registry administered by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS)  Note that in the case of lab, radiology and colonoscopy/endoscopy services this will reflect the address of the facility or group that billed for the service. |
| Zip | Provider zip code  Servicing/rendering provider practice zip code, supplied by providers themselves in the NPI Registry administered by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS)  Note that in the case of lab, radiology and colonoscopy/endoscopy services this will reflect the address of the facility or group that billed for the service. |
| ServiceCode | Service code  Short label reflecting the service in the form of a CPT or HCPCS code. In some cases also includes a brief description of additional codes bundled in with the service (e.g., “45380 w/ Endoscopy” representing a colonoscopy including biopsy that occurred along with an endoscopy). |
| CostEstimate | Cost estimate  Represents the provider cost estimate for the service code under the payer. For some services, this reflects a per-unit cost estimate. Cost estimates reflect both payer paid and member cost sharing amounts, combined (i.e., the allowed amount for the service). |
| NumberServices | Number of services  Represents the number of service encounters that factored into the cost estimates. |
| ServiceType\_Level1 | Service type level 1  A brief type service description reflecting the service drill path on the CompareCare website. |
| ServiceType\_Level2 | Service type level 2  A brief type service description reflecting the service drill path on the CompareCare website. |
| ServiceType\_Level3 | Service type level 3  A brief type service description reflecting the service drill path on the CompareCare website. |
| ServiceType\_Level4 | Service type level 4  A brief type service description reflecting the service drill path on the CompareCare website. |
| ServiceDescription | Service description  A detailed consumer-friendly description of the service |
| NumberProvs\_forPayerAndService | Number of providers reported  Captures the number of distinct providers (i.e., NPIs) reported for each payer and service. Allows for restriction of results to only those services with cost estimates for a meaningful number of providers for each payer. |
| NumberServices\_All | Total number of services  Represents the total number of service encounters for the provider. Includes encounters that were not factored into the cost estimates due to exclusion criteria, but is limited to encounters captured in commercial, primary paid, fee-for-service medical claims. |
| TotalCost\_All | Total cost for service  Represents the total cost for the service rendered by the provider, reflecting both payer paid and member cost sharing amounts. Includes encounters that were not factored into the cost estimates due to exclusion criteria, but is limited to encounters captured in commercial, primary paid, fee-for-service medical claims. |