

TESTIMONY OF
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Hearing on Claims-based Databases for Policy Development and Evaluation

Overview & Emerging Issues

Good Morning Chairman Suarez and members of the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics, my name is Karynlee Harrington; I am the Executive Director of the Maine Health Data Organization (MHDO). I would like to thank you for this opportunity to speak with you today on the value of the State of Maine's All Payer Claims Database. The MHDO is the State agency responsible for creating and maintaining a useful, objective, reliable, and comprehensive health information database that is used to improve the health care quality for Maine people and to promote transparency of the cost and quality of healthcare in the State of Maine by procedure, payer, facility and provider. The MHDO is governed by a 21 member board representing consumers, employers, payers, providers, hospitals and government. This morning I would like to provide more detail on three aspects of Maine's APCD:

1. The structure of the Maine APCD as a public model, which provides the greatest amount of transparency, accountability, comprehensiveness as well as fair and equal access to data for all users;
2. How the MHDO-APCD is being used in Maine to support the goals of the triple aim; and,
3. The importance of public reporting in the State of Maine.

1. Public Model

The US health care system is the most costly in the world, accounting for 17% of the gross domestic product with estimates that percentage will grow to nearly 20% by 2020. [Source: National Healthcare Expenditure Projections, 2010-2020. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Office of the Actuary.]. Access to health care data and information is not a “nice to have” but rather, is essential in order to move the system toward better outcomes and ultimately to a more sustainable system.

The State of Maine has been a leader in the collection of health data to facilitate analysis of state health care costs. The MHDO was directed by the Maine Legislature in 2003 to create and maintain the first all-payer claims data base (APCD) in the United States. This database includes a member eligibility file and claims files for medical, pharmacy, and dental treatments that are provided to Maine citizens and paid for by private and public insurers. The MHDO-APCD is a comprehensive set of data that captures approximately 97% of all claims transactions. As a State agency, the MHDO can achieve a high level of transparency and accountability to the public as well as a structure for fair and equal access to the data. (Note: The Maine Health Data Organization also collects inpatient and outpatient encounter information on all episodes of care provided by Maine’s hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers, as well as summary level financial and quality information provided by Maine hospitals).

2. Use Case of MHDO-APCD

The MHDO-APCD data is *administrative* as opposed to *clinical*. It has proven over the last ten years useful in the analysis of health care costs, utilization, and outcomes.

Many employers have used the MHDO-APCD information to identify high cost providers, high cost conditions by state regional geographic area, and the effects of employer-based wellness interventions on the cost of health care for their employee population. The State Innovative Model (SIM) represents the largest collective healthcare transformation effort in the state's history, and understanding the impact of this effort will help set future performance health care targets and priorities. Using the MHDO-APCD the Lewin Group has created a dashboard that shows progress on core metrics that have been selected by the SIM Steering Committee (a multi-stakeholder group that has guided SIM work from the beginning). The dashboard is broken out by MaineCare, Medicare, and commercial patients, and it includes metrics on things like non-emergent emergency department use, use of imaging studies for low back pain treatment, and developmental screenings for children in the first three years of life. Each metric shows how the measure has moved toward the goal.

The Dashboard is publically reported and can be found at:

<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/sim/evaluation/dashboard.shtml>

Other analyses have identified and advanced the understanding of the inappropriate use of hospital emergency department care by different groups; provided comparative data that have helped hospitals to advance value-based purchasing; and shown different patterns in Maine and two comparison states in service use and cost through a tri-state variation study.

MHDO is responsible for over one billion health care records and every month that number grows. We have been releasing data to authorized users for over 10 years. Several specific examples of how our comprehensive data sets are being used include:

- **Div. of Unintentional Injury Prevention, Nat'l Center for Injury Prev. and Control, CDC-** MHDO's all payer claims data (MHDO-APCD) is being used to evaluate the impact of MaineCares' (state of Maine's Medicaid program) innovative Prior Authorization (PA) policy for opioids. The intended goals of the PA policy are more appropriate use of opioids and better pain management among MaineCares' patients.
- **Maine Office of Attorney General-**MHDO-APCD is used for competitive analysis of merger and non-merger reviews by the Maine Attorney General pursuant to antitrust laws.
- **Maine Department of Health and Human Services-**MHDO-APCD is being used to evaluate our SIM work in healthcare quality and effectiveness as well as statewide healthcare utilization and expenditure trends.
- **Maine Health Management Coalition-**MHDO-APCD is used to create Primary Care Practice Reports which provide practices with utilization and quality information specific to their patients. These reports have been used to support Maine's Patient Centered Medical Home Pilot (PCMH) for over four years.
- **MaineHealth-**MHDO-APCD is being used to inform MaineHealth system's efforts to (1) improve the quality and safety of the services provided, (2) identify opportunities to make the services provided less costly, and (3) support member organizations and strategic affiliates to assume the responsibilities and risks of an Accountable Care Organizations participating in the Medicare Shared Savings Program and similar arrangements with commercial payers. **Benefit to Citizens of Maine:** MaineHealth is the largest healthcare system in Maine and has a direct impact on the health, healthcare services, and cost of care for a large majority of Maine people. The use of the MHDO all payer claims data directly impacts quality and cost improvement activities in our organization and therefore directly benefits patients who receive our services.
- **Eastern ME Healthcare Systems-**MHDO-APCD is being used by the planning department to determine utilization patterns to plan for future needs.
- **St. Mary's Health System and St. Joseph Hospital-**MHDO-APCD is being used to determine if pricing is in line with the market and where there is variation.

- **Anthem BCBS ME-MHDO-APCD** is being used to: explore the impacts of regional variations in care; assist with the development of payment innovation models; and understand the dynamics of the market as a result of the Affordable Care Act.
- **VA Medical Center-MHDO-APCD** was used to determine the healthcare services of V.A. enrollees outside of the V.A. system.
- **Muskie School of Public Service-MHDO-APCD** is being used to support an evaluation of the state's community paramedicine pilot project to determine if the pilot projects have helped the Maine health care system avoid a limited number of inpatient admission costs.
- **Yale University, School of Medicine-MHDO-APCD** is being used to examine the relationship between cardiovascular and all-cause hospitalization/ED utilization with population well-being at the zip code and/or county level.

3. Public Reporting

MHDO's governing statute also requires the agency to promote public reporting of the cost and quality of health care in the State of Maine. The statute requires that the MHDO create and maintain a publicly accessible website that reports payments by procedure, payer, and facility. The MHDO-APCD is the data source. Similar to the findings nationally, studies done in the State of Maine show that significant variation exists in both health care price and quality of services across our State. The price for an identical procedure within the state can vary up to five times with no corresponding difference in the outcome. Now more than ever the need for information about the price and quality of specific health care procedures is critical especially as consumers and employers face paying higher out of pocket costs. One of the goals of providing better access to more comprehensive information on the cost and quality of health care services in the State of Maine is to raise awareness, open the conversation between all the parties and help consumers choose the highest value option.

In the fall of 2015, with the support of two federal grants totaling approximately \$3.7 million dollars, the MHDO released its newly enhanced site, www.CompareMaine. There are currently

over 200 procedures listed on CompareMaine for over 150 facilities statewide with a drill down function for the top five payers in the State. The MHDO is required to update the cost and quality data on the site biannually. MHDO will also track changes in pricing patterns over time to help inform future policy discussions.

Summary

The State of Maine's APCD is one of the essential components needed to support and advance a wide range of health reform efforts-as measurement should be the baseline for all delivery system and payment reform efforts. The needs of the broad group of data users will continually evolve especially as new delivery and payment models are developed and tested. In an effort to align our legislative mandates with the data and information needs of the stakeholders the following strategic priorities have been established by the MHDO Board of Directors:

1. Manage a high-quality, comprehensive health information data warehouse
2. Promote the availability and utilization of healthcare data and information to help users improve the health of Maine people and the cost of healthcare
3. Promote the transparency and utility of healthcare cost and quality information
4. Undertake meaningful engagements with our data providers, data users, and consumers of healthcare to understand and meet their needs
5. Support a culture of transformation in our organization and in Maine's healthcare environment
6. Seek out opportunities to collaborate and advance the use of health data.

These are challenging times and like so many other areas it is access to the data and resulting information that will help guide us toward better outcomes and ultimately to a more sustainable health care system. I will close with a quote credited to Arthur C. Nielsen (Market Researcher & Founder of ACNielsen) that helps keep this work in perspective; *the price of light is less than the cost of darkness.*

That concludes my testimony. I look forward to answering any questions and continuing this important conversation.



CompareMaine

health costs & quality

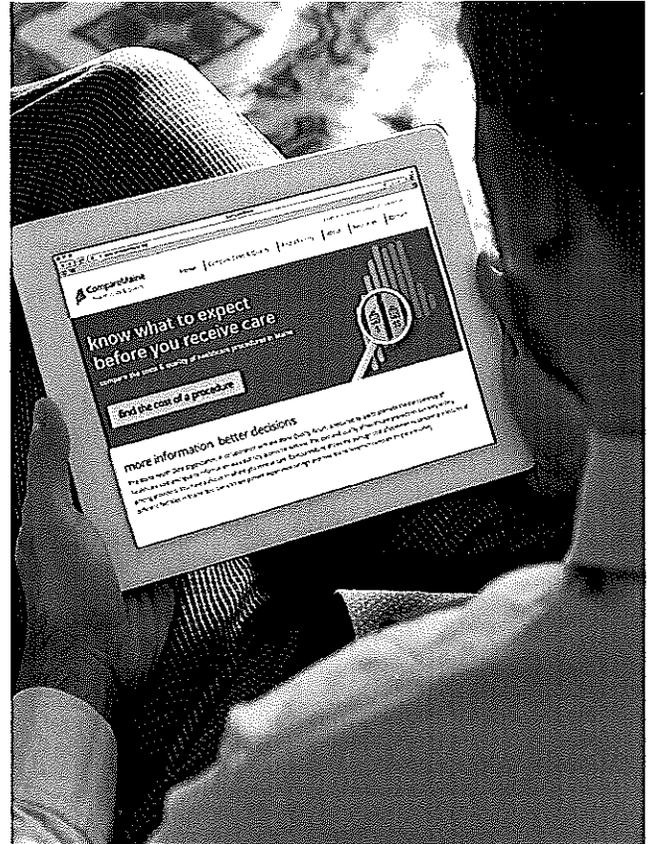
Compare the cost and quality of over 200 common health care procedures at Maine health care facilities at

comparemaine.org

making health care more transparent

The *Maine Health Data Organization*, in collaboration with the *Maine Quality Forum*, is required by Maine law to promote the transparency of healthcare cost and quality information for common healthcare procedures via a publicly accessible website.

The cost and quality of healthcare procedures can vary widely among facilities. You may have a choice in where you receive care. CompareMaine shows the average cost of common healthcare procedures at different facilities in Maine. You can also see patient experience ratings and how Maine hospitals compare on patient safety.



here's what you can find on CompareMaine:

health care procedures

Over 200 are listed – from childbirth to knee replacement surgery to blood tests.

costs

The amount the facility typically gets paid by the insurer including member cost sharing for a medical procedure.

insurers

See the average payments made by the top five insurers (including consumer payments) to facilities. Cost data are not included for MaineCare (Medicaid) or Medicare.

patient experience

Facilities are rated by their patients on their overall experience and quality of care.

complications

Facilities are rated on their ability to prevent serious complications.

infections

Facilities are rated on how well they keep patients safe from infections.

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how to use the CompareMaine website:

Maine Health Data Organization launched comparemaine.org in October to let people compare costs and patient experiences at more than 160 Maine health care facilities.

1 Enter procedure: Use common name or medical code, a procedure list includes hundreds of options

2 Search fields: Lets you narrow to specific insurance coverage and region

3 Results: Hospital location, patient ratings, cost comparison

Facility	Address	Phone	Maine State Average
Southern Maine Health Care	41 Spring Hill Road, Sebaste, ME 04972-9550	Multiple locations	\$27,127
Mercy Hospital	144 State St., Portland, ME 04101-3795		\$32,293
Maine Medical Center	22 Bramhall St., Portland, ME 04102-3134		\$32,314
York Hospital	15 Hospital Drive, York, ME 03909-1099		\$45,323

graphic courtesy of www.comparemaine.com 2/29/16

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CompareMaine was developed by the Maine Health Data Organization (MHDO) in partnership with Human Services Research Institute, NORC and Wowza. A Consumer Advisory Group was convened to provide feedback throughout the website development process.

CompareMaine is for informational purposes only. MHDO has made every effort to provide accurate information. Cost estimates are based on typical payments and do not represent what you should expect to pay. Consult your provider and insurer to get a personalized estimate. Neither MHDO nor this website endorse any particular healthcare facility or physician in the State of Maine.