High Impact Research Conducted Using Medicare Claims Data

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This document provides an incomplete list of high-impact scholarship that was conducted using Medicare claims data. This includes scholarship that[1]:

- Formed the intellectual basis for the Affordable Care Act
- Helped motivate the Medicare Hospital Readmission Reduction Program
- Informed and helped assess Medicare payment policy, including ACOs and bundled payments
- Analyzed the efficiency of the Medicare Advantage program
- Identified the causes of mortality differences across regions
- Identified the causes of the opioid epidemic
- Described the causes and consequences of variation in Medicare spending across the US and identified strategies to address it
- Documented racial disparities in the Medicare program
- Identified the effect of private equity firms on the survival of Medicare beneficiaries
- Illustrated how hospital competition and mergers impact mortality
- Proposed strategies to identify and root out Medicare fraud
- Documented how to measure providers' quality and insurance plan quality
- Described the presence of low value care delivered to Medicare beneficiaries

This list includes a sample of the type of research that would be curtailed with the recent Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services proposal to shift all Medicare claims data access to the CMS Virtual Research Data Center. This is research which improved public policy, led to reductions in mortality, likely led to billions of dollars of savings for the federal government, and reduced Medicare fraud.

Policy Programs and Evaluation

The Medicare Hospital Readmission Reduction Program

- Gupta, A. (2021). Impacts of performance pay for hospitals: The readmissions reduction program. *American Economic Review*, 111(4), 1241-1283.

[1] This list is not exhaustive. There are numerous amazing studies that have not been listed. Feel free to share additional studies that should be included.

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