



**All-Payer Claims Database Data Release Committee**  
**DRAFT Meeting Minutes**  
**February 14, 2023**

Date	Time	Location
February 14, 2023	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	<a href="#">Zoom Meeting Recording</a>

**Participant Name and Attendance**

**Committee Members**

Patricia Checko, Chair	R	Sheryl Turney	R	Lisa Freeman	R
Michael Girlamo	X	John Brady	R	Michael Fields	R
Justin Peng	R	Kun Chen	R		

**Supporting Leadership & Other Participants**

Olga Armah, OHS	R	Vasi Gournaris, OHS	R	Brent Miller, OHS	R
Amy Tibor, OHS	R	Jeannina Thompson, OHS	R	Alla Veyberman, OHS	

**R** = Remotely, **IP** = In Person

**Agenda**

	Topic	Responsible Party	Time
1.	<b>Welcome and Call to Order</b>	<b>Dr. Patricia Checko</b>	<b>1:06 PM</b>
	The regularly scheduled meeting of the All Payer Claims Database Data Release Committee (APCD-DRC) was held on Tuesday, February 14, 2023, by webinar. Dr. Checko called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.		
2.	<b>Public Comment</b>	<b>Dr. Patricia Checko</b>	<b>1:07 PM</b>
	There was no public comment.		
3.	<b>Action: Review &amp; Approve Minutes: Jan. 10, 2023</b>	<b>Dr. Patricia Checko</b>	<b>1:07 PM</b>
	Dr. Checko requested a motion to approve the APCD-DRC January 10, 2023 meeting minutes. A motion was made (Freeman) and seconded (Turney). There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.		
4.	<b>Hospitals' Community Benefit Presentation</b>	<b>Brent Miller &amp; Olga Armah, OHS</b>	<b>1:09 PM</b>
	Dr. Checko introduced the purpose for the Hospitals' Community Benefit presentation as it relates to the APCD. Further introductory remarks were made by Sumit Sajnani via a pre-recorded video. Brent Miller provided the presentation, key highlights included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General background and overview of hospital community benefit program:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <i>Community benefits</i> are defined by the Hilltop Institute as the initiatives and activities undertaken by nonprofit hospitals to improve health in the communities that they serve.</li> <li>◦ <i>Community benefit program</i> is defined in CGA PA 22-58 as any voluntary program or activity to promote preventive health care, protect health and safety, improve health equity and reduce health disparities, reduce the cost and economic burden of poor health and improve the health status for all populations within the geographic service areas of a hospital.</li> <li>◦ Nonprofit hospitals are relieved of taxes for demonstrating community benefit pursuant with IRS tax law.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Examples of community benefit programs.</li> <li>• Overview of past and present legislation – OHS was ultimately designated to oversee program requirements. Among other requirements, PA 22-58 §50 requires: 1) hospitals to submit an annual report, 2) OHS to make a community benefit report including stakeholder engagement, 3) APCD data must be made available for hospitals, 4) now extends to for-profit hospitals.</li> <li>• Overview of statutory language permitting the release of APCD data to hospitals. The law limits access to data for three purposes only. A data request application must be completed, and a DUA executed in order for hospitals to receive a standard limited data set.</li> </ul> The floor was opened for questions. Dr. Checko inquired about data destruction. Ms. Armah described DUA specifications related to destruction. Ms. Armah also commented that the DUA permits OHS to conduct inspections of data use and access and will require hospitals to provide a copy of HIPPA audits. Upon an inquiry made by John Brady, a discussion on		

	<p>the definition of <i>linking</i> took place. Mr. Brady commented that hospitals will need clarification on this. Dr. Chen explained that sophisticated tools are available that enable linking to re-identify individuals. Ms. Armah indicated that the DUA explicitly prohibits re-identification. She also encouraged members to share definitions and any other recommendations as the DUA is being developed. Mr. Peng requested clarification on whether hospitals will receive data across the state. Ms. Armah indicated that statute requires hospitals to develop programs for the community, not just their patients, thus, the DUA provides a standard data set but limits use of the data. Dr. Checko encouraged members to email any additional questions to staff. The DUA will be shared with Dr. Checko upon finalization.</p> <p>Link to presentation can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	
5.	<b>OHS Data Compendium Overview</b>	<b>Alla Veyberman, OHS</b> <span style="float: right;">1:35 PM</span>
	<p>Alla Veyberman provided an overview of the OHS Data Compendium. The compendium keeps information on key OHS databases and portals in a centralized location for easier access. Each database or portal is assigned a tab within the document, and each tab points to information such as the purpose for data collection, an overview of the uses of the database, public access information, and a dictionary of data fields associated with each database.</p>	
	<p>Link to OHS <a href="#">data compendium</a>.</p>	
6.	<b>APCD Strategic Planning Proposals</b>	<b>Olga Armah, OHS</b> <span style="float: right;">1:50 PM</span>
	<p>Ms. Armah presented a draft concept of how OHS hopes to improve the APCD and utilization. Ms. Armah summarized each of the draft proposals that are within two categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data Enhancement and Utilization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Produce and publish data visualizations with APCD data;</li> <li>○ Enhance and enrich APCD data;</li> <li>○ Increase the external uses of APCD data;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Operational Enhancements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Explore fee structure changes;</li> <li>○ Refine APCD data request application and process;</li> <li>○ Enact new APCD policies and procedures; and</li> <li>○ Fill APCD DRC and APCD Advisory Group vacancies</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Ms. Freeman inquired whether enhancements to the website will include beneficial information for CT residents. Ms. Armah replied that a mandated cost estimator is currently under internal review and will provide consumers the ability to compare prices for procedures across healthcare facilities. Ms. Freeman asked if CT residents will be able to provide input before it goes live. Ms. Armah stated that the intent of going live with the first phase of the cost estimator is to socialize it along with holding focus groups to gather comments and feedback to inform phase 2.</p> <p>Dr. Checko encouraged members to review the strategic plan and contact staff with any recommendations.</p>	
7.	<b>2022 Annual APCD-DRC Report</b>	<b>Dr. Patricia Checko</b> <span style="float: right;">2:10 PM</span>
	<p>Dr. Checko presented on the annual APCD-DRC report. Dr. Checko stated that last year the DRC approved two data requests. The DRC also approved its first charter, including incorporating equity language in the data release process. The DRC also heard from several other states on their applications and data releases processes. The DRC also joined the Advisory Group for a related presentation from the national APCD Council co-chair, whose invitation was initiated by the DRC.</p>	
8.	<b>Update on APCD Applications and Releases</b>	<b>Olga Armah, OHS</b> <span style="float: right;">2:20 PM</span>
	<p>Dr. Checko announced that one application is currently pending and will be brought to the DRC once ready.</p> <p>Dr. Checko and Ms. Armah provided an update on APCD projects in-flight:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The APCD snapshot and cost estimator are currently undergoing internal review.</li> <li>• APCD provides data to identify cost drivers to support the Cost Growth Benchmark, an initiative under OHS's Innovation unit.</li> <li>• Several studies are under way using APCD data.</li> <li>• With regard to the Race, Ethnicity and Language data standards, collection and release mandate, work is underway statewide, to update healthcare forms and electronic systems for implementation.</li> <li>• Dr. Checko provided a standing update on current claim type and years available in the APCD. Ms. Armah announced that OHS is requesting funds from OPM to obtain additional data from Medicare.</li> </ul>	
9.	<b>General Discussion</b>	<b>Dr. Patricia Checko</b> <span style="float: right;">2:30 PM</span>
	<p>Dr. Checko reminded members that several seats remain vacant on the DRC and requested recommendations.</p>	

10.	<b>Action: Meeting Adjournment</b>	<b>Dr. Patricia Checko</b>	<b>2:33 PM</b>
Dr. Checko requested a motion to adjourn. The motion was made (Turney) and seconded (Chen). The meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.			

**All meeting information, materials, and audio/visual recordings are published on the OHS website:**

<https://portal.ct.gov/OHS/HIT-Work-Groups/APCD-Data-Release-Committee>

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