

401 South Clinton Avenue, Director's Office
Chicago, Illinois 60607

August 30, 2013

Dear Potential Accountable Care Entity (ACE),

The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) is pleased to share data with you that you can use to better understand your potential Medicaid ACE population and their healthcare utilization and costs. This understanding will help you to develop your ACE strategy and prepare your response to HFS Solicitation "[ACE Program – 2014-24-002](#)". Some portions of the solicitation explicitly require that you use our data for preparing your response.

In order to provide you data, we upgraded our Medical Programs Analytics and Reporting Knowledgebase (MPARK) data set and associated metadata (data descriptions). We therefore refer to the data that you will receive as "MPARK data". Specifically, you will receive MPARK data for ACE eligible Medicaid recipients.

The MPARK data is accompanied by extensive metadata. The metadata is your essential guide to using MPARK. In reviewing the metadata you should start with the "draft training slides" under the ACE Data Training Category of the [ACE Data webpage](#). The PowerPoint provides a high level overview of the data and metadata.

We believe that you will find MPARK to be very informative. We use the same data internally to quickly, consistently, and accurately answer wide-ranging questions. One of the major metadata enhancements is that we are providing sample SQL code. The code produces results that are illustrative of the plethora of insights that you can obtain from the data. Have your data analyst review the code and its annotations.

Although we have kept the structure of this data as simple as possible, you will need a data analyst and a database environment. While portions of the data may be easily extracted to Excel, Excel-alone will not be sufficient. Unless you specifically request data on a small population, the data is bigger than what Excel can conveniently manage and, furthermore, it is often necessary to join tables. Excel is not a good tool for joining tables.

We are continuing to improve the MPARK data and metadata. We therefore welcome your feedback, negative or positive. We are also prepared to answer your technical questions. When we do, we will generally add the question and answer to the metadata for everyone to access. Because this is a solicitation and we cannot give advantage to any potential respondent, we cannot answer data questions specific to the development of your ACE strategy or proposal.

Have fun with the data!

Sincerely,

Tia

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