

Medicaid Analyses with Short Turnaround (MAST) Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Who is eligible to be a principal investigator (PI)?

A. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill permanent employees, including faculty and non-faculty investigators. Students are not eligible to be a PI but can be included in the project.

Q. What is the indirect rate / how will funds be administered?

A. The funds will be administered by the Sheps Center. Researchers do not need to budget for indirect costs (although any indirect costs by a subcontractor would need to be included in the \$68,000)

Q. Do the references cited in the proposal need to be included in the 4 page limit?

A. No

Q. Can we have two PIs (Co-PIs)?

A. Yes, but there needs to be one lead.

Q. Is there a format for the budget justification that you expect?

A. There is no required format for budget justification

Q. Can PIs submit more than 1 proposal?

A. Yes

Q. Can we have a co-investigator from another university?

A. Yes

Q. Is software development possible under MAST?

A. Medicaid is not interested in funding infrastructure or tools per se. That being said, if in the course of pursuing a question that is relevant to the goals of the program, you develop a tool that has value to other projects, which would be an additional benefit.

Q. What Medicaid data will projects have access to?

A. A list of currently available claims files is here:

<http://www.shepscenter.unc.edu/data/bcbsnc-claims-data-ccqi/data-dictionaries/>

DHB may be able to assist in securing other data files (Medicaid or DHHS).

NC Medicaid Claims Data

The NC Medicaid database contains claims data from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Medical Assistance.

The database includes the following:

- Claims information (including doctor visits, inpatient and outpatient care, prescription medications, dental treatments, charge amounts, dates of service, and diagnoses and procedures).
- Provider information (including specialty and location).
- Member information (including date of birth, gender, county/ZIP code of residence, race and ethnicity).

Dates available: January 2011 – March 2018

Q. Can I use BCBS data available through Carolina Cost and Quality Initiative?

A. This mechanism is designed to provide insight to the Medicaid program on its administration. BCBS data can be requested using the mechanism outlined on the CCQI page.

Q. How often are the data updated?

A. The data are updated quarterly, but researchers should understand that providers do not always submit their claim in a timely manner.

Q. What data fees will my project be responsible for?

A. *Data Storage*: A server access fee of \$3,050 per user per year will apply. All data, including analysis subsets and extracts, must be stored and analyzed on approved secure servers at the Sheps Center. This fee supports systems maintenance and security controls.

Q. Who is the programmer for this? Will they be shared? Will each project need to budget for a programmer?

A. Sheps programming staff will extract claims data in accordance with the project description. There is no fee for data extraction unless it is unusually time consuming. Each project should budget for its analytical programming. There is no requirement to use any specific programmer or programming staff, but analysis must comply with CCQI guidelines (e.g. where the data are kept).

Q. Can I hire programmer at Sheps? If so what is the pay rate?

A. Maybe, if someone is identified as available. The pay rate will be designated as a percentage of their salary. Estimate ~\$8,500 per 10% of their time + fringe benefits.

Q. Is support for the investigators permitted?

A. Yes

Other Questions: contact Kristie Thompson at 919-966-9484 or kristie_thompson@unc.edu