

# Pharmacy Utilization Meeting

December 6, 2024

## Attendees

David Angelaszek (IMS)  
Linda Coyle (IMS)  
Emily Carver (IMS)  
Serban Negoita (NCI)  
Marina Matatova (NCI)  
Jennifer Hafterson (SE)  
Tiffany Janes (SE)  
Randi Rycroft (ID)  
Kaitlin Akif (NCI)  
Gretchen Flynn (IMS)

- David reviewed the bullet points for the workgroup's next steps identified during the 10/25/2024 call
  - Include Optum pharmacy in the current augmented field computations. Not a high amount of effort to do this. It will be done for the February 2025 submission using the latest Optum claims.
    - David noted that IMS has received the latest Optum linkage data. The data has already been linked but not has not been loaded into SEER\*DMS yet. IMS is still waiting on a small subset of claims missed in Optum's initial data delivery.
    - David confirmed that the code changes to include Optum in the Augmented Field computation in SEER\*DMS are straightforward and would not require significant effort.
    - The group briefly reviewed the augmented fields currently calculated and included in SEER submissions.
    - David also confirmed that CVS data has been received through October 2024 and Walgreens data has been received through September 2024. Optum dates have not been verified yet.
  - Investigate the expansion to augmenting data for more cancer sites by determining which NDCs are first course treatments and for what treatment modality.
    - **Action** - It was agreed that IMS would start the process of investigating the next sites to expand to and what drugs to review. IMS will follow the same steps outlined in the Pharmacy Utilization document.
    - Serban will try to find NCI pharmacist to help with reviewing NDC codes.
  - Start the effort to determine first course treatments by cancer type for procedure codes. HCPCS likely easier to do this with than ICD.
    - Serban mentioned there is interest in doing this for HCPCS at the program level but there is concern about the resources available for this.
    - David confirmed HCPCS are available on Optum Medical and Unlimited Claims. He needs to review whether both sources include inpatient, outpatient, or both.

- Randi expressed concerns that this might not produce a lot of benefit.
  - Serban thought a good place to start was for Emily to share her work on HCPCS codes indicating recurrence for breast cancer with Randi for her to review.
  - **Action:** Emily to send results to Randi.
  - Jennifer Hafterson mentioned that Seattle had HCPCS data from 2017-2019 from Kaiser. She thought this might be interesting to review but would need assistance from IMS. It's possible this data feed could be restarted if it is useful.
  - Serban thought that would worth investigating if IMS could support.
  - Jennifer will review what she needs to do to make the data available and will contact IMS when ready.
- Marina wanted to add that it might be worth reviewing if there are any new API resources for NDC codes made available since the last time this was investigated. Serban mentioned they could discuss with Lois.