

Overview for Use of VQI-Medicare Matched Datasets

This Overview is intended provide guidance to PIs who are considering RAC-projects using the Medicare-derived variables contained in the VQI-Medicare linked datasets. The rules for use of Medicare-matched data have changed.

Please review this overview before you start a National RAC project submission to ensure that the data will be suitable for Medicare-matching.

As the Medicare individual level data are subject to Data Use Agreements (DUAs) with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), no individual level data can be shared, but TDI will share CMS data that meets aggregated data release guidelines outlined in our DUA. While prior user agreements suggested that blinded datasets could be disseminated, the new DUA requires that no patient-level data be shared.

BEFORE YOU START

Please review the registry profiles at this web link, [VQI Medicare Matched Blinded Datasets](#). PIs will find a list of **Late Events Variables Derived from Medicare claims data**. These Medicare-derived outcomes variables were created for the matched cases to facilitate evaluation of long term outcomes of each procedure. They are the key outcomes, so please review to ensure your proposal does not include any long-term outcome outside the scope listed in the registry profiles. A proposal is at risk of modification/rejection by the RAC if your proposal requests a Medicare-derived outcome not listed on the registry profiles.

AFTER RAC APPROVAL

Once your project is approved by the National RAC, the research team at TDI will help you through the process outlined below and will execute analyses on the Medicare-derived variables on your behalf. Only aggregate data that meets CMS suppression requirements will be shared.

After approval, PIs will need to:

1. Review Late Events Data Dictionary supplied by TDI
 - a. Contact the TDI Research Team and set up a meeting to discuss project goals, timeline, and process for completing the analyses.
 - b. VQI Medicare-Matching PI: Philip Goodney at philip.p.goodney@dartmouth.edu
 - c. TDI Research Project Director: Kayla Moore at kayla.o.moore@dartmouth.edu
2. Clarify Analytic Deliverables specifically exposure and outcomes variables. The TDI team will use the Mock Tables and Figures in the Investigator's VQI-RAC Approved Research Plan as a guide for their analyses
3. Investigator completes analysis of VQI variables
4. TDI Analyst completes analysis of Late Events variables
5. Publication of Research Results

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