

Process for Requesting Analyses with VQI-Medicare Matched Datasets

The VQI is pleased to partner with MDEpiNet to help VQI investigators execute RAC-approved projects that meet the criteria for analyses with VQI-Medicare Matched Datasets. As the use of the Medicare matched data is governed by a strict Data Use Agreement (DUA) between Weill Cornell Medicine (WCM) and the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS), this data must be kept on a secure server at WCM, with access restricted to authorized users who are named on the DUA. Therefore, the VISION analytic team at WCM will work with VQI investigators to perform analyses on the VQI-Medicare matched data and provide them with figures and tables which may be used for presentations and publications.

It is important to note that only aggregate, de-identified data that meets CMS suppression requirements will be shared with investigators. All data with cell size less than 11 will be suppressed, and no individual level data will be shared. For more information on the VISION project and contents of the VQI-Medicare matched data, please refer to the VQI website - <https://www.vqi.org/data-analysis/blinded-datasets/>

Criteria for Use of VISION Data:

- Projects must be approved by the VQI Research Advisory Committee
- Projects must fit within the scope of the CMS DUA with a focus on evaluation of device outcomes, including the following:
 - safety and efficacy of devices, which involves assessing predictor and comparative effectiveness studies using broad categories of devices, specific device designs, and components of devices;
 - the impact of provider characteristics on device outcomes;
 - health disparity related to device use and outcomes; and
 - the impact of medical practice guidelines and healthcare policies.

As the volume of requests for VQI-Medicare analyses is substantial and some projects requesting Medicare-match are not possible due to limitations in the Medicare-match datasets, or may not benefit from Medicare-match data, the VISION Data Core will review projects and assign priority based on the following additional criteria:

- Clear need for Medicare-derived outcomes in order to meet project goals.
- Feasibility and clarity of analytic plan

Process for obtaining analyses

- The VISION Steering Committee will review the proposal and assign priority.
- Researchers will be notified when their project is “on deck” and will be asked to submit a Research Memorandum to the VISION Analytic Team
- The VISION Analytic Team will work with the researcher to refine the analytic plan, clarify any questions and confirm expectations, deliverables and timeline for project completion.
- The VISION analyst and the researcher will work together to complete the project.
- After project completion, final data products – tables, figures, and summary estimates (not individual, line-item data) will be taken off the server by the VISION Data Analyst and shared with the researcher for publication.