*Opportunities for Healthcare Research Using Administrative Data: An Introduction to the IQVIATM Health Plans Claims Data*

Susan dosReis, PhD and Eberechukwu Onukwugha, PhD

Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, School of Pharmacy

August 13, 2019

ICTR Enrichment Series Question and Answer Session

1. Can the data be used for internally-funded research such as the ICTR ATIP?

Yes, the data may be used for internally-funded projects. This would include the UMB campus funded SEED projects as well as the ICTR funded ATIP projects.

1. Can the data be written into proposals for externally funded research?

No. The data are a 10% random enrollee sample that is only available for pilot projects or hypothesis generating studies. Individuals who wish to use the data for an externally funded project would work directly with IQVIATM to obtain a cohort specific for the proposed research. The data would be enriched for the purpose of the study.

1. Is it possible to compare healthcare utilization in Maryland relative to the rest of the United States?

Yes, the state indicator variable would permit an analysis comparing Maryland to other US states in the database.

1. Does the data have county-level or zipcode-level information?

No. We have been in conversations with IQVIATM to obtain a de-identified file that would link utilization to county and zipcode-level information.

1. Do the data have information about vaccination receipt?

Yes. The vaccine product national drug code (NDC) and the procedure code for immunization are available in the data. Both can be used to identify individuals who have received the vaccine of interest.

1. Is it possible for investigators who are experienced working with claims data to have direct access to the data?

Yes, but this would be beyond the Tier 1 or Tier 2 ICTR support. Investigators who are interested in working with the data should contact Susan dosReis ([sdosreis@rx.umaryland.edu](mailto:sdosreis@rx.umaryland.edu)).

1. Is it possible to identify the different types of insulin?

Yes. The NDC code on the pharmacy claims can be used to identify the specific insulin product.

1. How can I learn more about the variables that are available in the dataset? Is there a data dictionary?

Yes. We have several user support documents available by request including a data dictionary, training slide deck, and a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document. The data dictionary will be helpful if you are planning a study and want to determine feasibility of conducting your study using the IQVIATM data. The training slide deck provides a general overview of the data and provides answers to some technical questions related to the dataset. The FAQ document includes user questions and responses from IQVIATM staff. Please contact Susan dosReis to request any of these documents.