

RAND 5.0 Hospital Transparency Study

Round 5 of the Hospital Price Transparency Study is underway! If you are unfamiliar with this study, please read the attached FAQ document. Last year we worked hard on renewing the requisite Data Use Agreements (DUAs), and we're still working on completing those as soon as possible. Now it's time for each employer to officially notify RAND and their health insurance company(ies)/TPA(s)/data warehouse whether they intend to participate in this study.

Short and Simple Instructions to Join the Study: Email Brian Briscoe bbriscoe@rand.org while cc'ing your health insurance representative stating that you wish to contribute your 1/1/2020 through 12/31/2022 claims data to the Hospital Price Transparency Study. Then Brian will quickly reply-all to your email explaining more about the study, explaining whether RAND already has a DUA with that organization (or how to get a DUA in place), and next steps. In short, if you just email your interest in joining the study, Brian will shepherd you through the process.

Long and Detailed Instructions on how to Join the Study: If you are with UHC or UMR, Anthem, or Aetna, the requisite DUAs are already done! Joining the study will only require you to email Brian Briscoe bbriscoe@rand.org while cc'ing your health insurance representative stating that you wish to contribute your 1/1/2020 through 12/31/2022 claims data to the Hospital Price Transparency Study. Additionally, each health insurance company has specific instructions and additional POCs that they want you to include in your "opt-in email":

Suggested text for opt-in emails: "My organization authorizes [fill in name here—UHC? Elevance? Aetna?, etc.] to release our members' medical claims to Rand Corporation for the one-time period to include 1/1/2020 to 12/31/2022, for purposes of participating in the Rand 5.0 Hospital Study."

- For UHC, also include Aitken, Jamie R (Data Resources) jamieaitken@uhc.com and Bisek, Katherine F katherine.bisek@uhc.com on your email.
- For UMR, also include Drake, Shree shree.drake@umr.com and Bisek, Katherine F katherine.bisek@uhc.com on your email.
- For Anthem (Elevance) "Local Account" (ie- Indiana/Missouri area), also include Jessica Lopez-Liggett, Jessica.Liggett@bcbsmo.com to opt-in.
- For Anthem (Elevance) "National markets account", also include Steve Peebles, Steve.Peebles@anthem.com in your opt-In email.
- For Aetna, also include Peggy Carson CarsonMA@aetna.com

For Cigna, PHP, BCBSNM, BCBSAL, and possibly some other Blues, we are hopeful that a similar DUAs will very soon be in place. No need to wait... you can go ahead and email bbriscoe@rand.org and your health insurance rep that you wish to join the Study even if the DUA isn't in place yet. Just keep in mind that we do not yet have the agreements, detailed instructions, and procedures finalized. After receiving your email, RAND can note that you wish to join the study and circle back to you with updates, it's always good to get the ball rolling as early as possible in 2023.

Most other organizations including data warehouses, TPAs, and health insurance companies will also let you join the RAND Study, but you might have to help RAND to negotiate a DUA with them. RAND has a DUA template that we can provide to them, and we're experts at shepherding you through the process of negotiating a DUA and securely contributing claims data.

Study Timeline: The bottom line is that your claims data needs to be securely transferred to RAND by 31 August 2023 in order to be part of the Round 5 Study Report slated for publication in May 2024. This means that all potential data contributors should now move as quickly as possible to opt-in or begin negotiating or finalizing requisite DUAs. As noted above, if you are with UHC, UMR, Anthem/Elevance, or Aetna... you might opt-in as late as September 2023 and still make this deadline—that's because the requisite DUAs and processes are already in place for you. However, if your data is somewhere else, you will need a longer lead time ranging from a couple months to even up to 6 months (in the worst case) to negotiate and implement your DUA and data transfer. Situations vary, and it all begins with your email to bbrisco@rand.org to express your interest in contributing to hospital price transparency.

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