

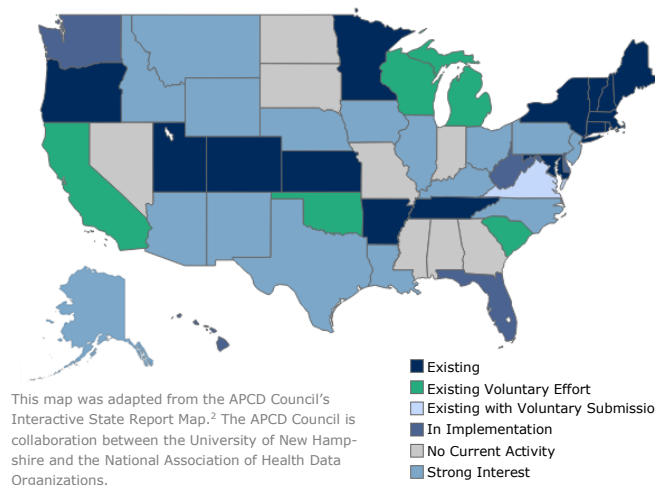
Arkansas All-Payer Claims Database (APCD)

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The era of healthcare consumerism has arrived. As consumers share in a greater percentage of healthcare costs and payers shift to value-based purchasing designs, there is a growing demand among consumers and providers for access to more detailed price and quality information. In Arkansas, however, there is currently limited transparency regarding this type of information. A 2017 report gave Arkansas an "F" grade as part of an evaluation of each state's quality and price transparency laws.¹ Many surrounding states received equally poor grades. Consequently, Arkansas has an opportunity to be a leader in another area of healthcare transformation. Several states have taken aggressive approaches to improve healthcare transparency. Regardless of how progressive states are with respect to the availability of price and quality information, many have recognized the need for developing a data infrastructure to support even a basic level of transparency. A number of states have established an all-payer claims database (APCD) to address this need. Arkansas has joined those states and is in the process of developing and releasing price and quality information for consumers.

WHAT IS AN APCD?

An APCD is a large-scale database that systematically collects health care data from a variety of payer sources. APCD functionality varies from state to state due to state-specific considerations (e.g., technical capacity, funding, and authority to collect, use, and release data), but all share similar goals. APCDs are tools that may be used to increase health care transparency, better understand and address health care cost, quality, and utilization, and support state health system transformation efforts. Twenty-one states currently have an APCD, and several more are working to implement one.² Fifteen of these states mandate data submission.



The Arkansas Healthcare Transparency Initiative Act of 2015 supports the efforts of the APCD developed by the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement, in partnership with the Arkansas Insurance Department, by mandating that certain entities to submit claims and other healthcare data.



APCD BENEFITS

Help consumers make informed decisions about their health care

Support research and quality improvement activities

Allow for peer-to-peer provider comparison

Help target and assess population health initiatives

Provide more robust data for healthcare transformation efforts and evaluation

RESOURCES

¹Altarum's Center for Payment Innovation and Catalyst for Payment Reform. (2017). 2017 Price Transparency & Physician Quality Report Card. Retrieved from <https://www.catalyze.org/product/2017-price-transparency-physician-quality-report-card/>.

²APCD Council. Interactive State Reports Map. Retrieved from <http://www.apcdCouncil.org/state/map>.

