

Physician Compare Downloadable Database Dictionary

The Physician Compare downloadable file is organized at the individual professional level; each line is unique at the professional/enrollment/Group Practice/address level. Professionals with multiple enrollments and/or single enrollments linking to multiple practice location addresses are listed on multiple lines.

Category	Variable Code	Variable	Description	Length	Values
Provider Identification	NPI	NPI	Unique professional ID assigned by NPPES	10	digits
	Ind_PAC_ID	PAC ID	Unique individual professional ID assigned by PECOS	10	string
	Ind_enrl_ID	Professional Enrollment ID	Unique ID for the individual professional enrollment that is the source for the data in the observation	15	string
	lst_nm	Last Name	Individual professional last name	35	string
	frst_nm	First Name	Individual professional first name	25	string
	mid_nm	Middle Name	Individual professional middle name	25	string
	suff	Suffix	Individual professional suffix	3	string
	gndr	Gender	Individual professional gender	1	M/F

Category	Variable Code	Variable	Description	Length	Values
Medical Credentials	Cred	Credential	Medical credential such as MD, DO, DPM, etc.	3	string
	Med_sch	Medical school name	Individual professional's medical school	100	string
	Grd_yr	Graduation year	Individual professional's medical school graduation year	4	digits
	Pri_spec	Primary specialty	Primary medical specialty reported by the individual professional in the selected enrollment	50	string
	Sec_spec_1	Secondary specialty 1	First secondary medical specialty reported by the individual professional in the selected enrollment	50	string
	Sec_spec_2	Secondary specialty 2	Second secondary medical specialty reported by the individual professional in the selected enrollment	50	string
	Sec_spec_3	Secondary specialty 3	Third secondary medical specialty reported by the individual professional in the selected enrollment	50	string
	Sec_spec_4	Secondary specialty 4	Fourth secondary medical specialty reported by the individual professional in the selected enrollment	50	string
	Sec_spec_all	All secondary specialties	All four secondary specialties reported by the individual professional in the selected enrollment, separated by commas	200	string

Category	Variable Code	Variable	Description	Length	Values
Medical Practice	Org_lgl_nm	Organization legal name	Legal name of the Group Practice that the individual professional works with- will be blank if the address is not linked to a Group Practice	70	string
	Org_PAC_ID	Group Practice PAC ID	Unique Group Practice ID assigned by PECOS to the Group Practice that the individual professional works with- will be blank if the address is not linked to a Group Practice	10	string
	num_org_mem	Number of Group Practice members	Total number of individual professionals affiliated with the Group Practice based on Group Practice PAC ID	4	digits
	adr_ln_1	Line 1 Street Address	Group Practice or individual's line 1 address	55	string
	adr_ln_2	Line 2 Street Address	Group Practice or individual's line 2 address	55	string
	ln_2_sprs	Marker of address line 2 suppression	Marker that address as reported may be incomplete	1	Y/blank
	cty	City	Group Practice or individual's city	30	string
	st	State	Group Practice or individual's state	2	string
	zip	Zip Code	Group Practice or individual's zip code (9 digits when available)	9	digits

Category	Variable Code	Variable	Description	Length	Values
Medical Practice	hosp_afl_1	Claims based hospital affiliation CCN 1	Medicare CCN of hospital where individual professional provides service	6	digits
	hosp_afl_lbn_1	Claims based hospital affiliation LBN 1	Legal business name of hospital where individual professional provides service	70	string
	hosp_afl_2	Claims based hospital affiliation CCN 2	Medicare CCN of hospital where individual professional provides service	6	digits
	hosp_afl_lbn_2	Claims based hospital affiliation LBN 2	Legal business name of hospital where individual professional provides service	70	string
	hosp_afl_3	Claims based hospital affiliation CCN 3	Medicare CCN of hospital where individual professional provides service	6	digits
	hosp_afl_lbn_3	Claims based hospital affiliation LBN 3	Legal business name of hospital where individual provider renders service	70	string
	hosp_afl_4	Claims based hospital affiliation CCN 4	Medicare CCN of hospital where individual provider renders service	6	digits
	hosp_afl_lbn_4	Claims based hospital affiliation LBN 4	Legal business name of hospital where individual professional provides service	70	string
	hosp_afl_5	Claims based hospital affiliation CCN 5	Medicare CCN of hospital where individual professional provides service	6	digits
	hosp_afl_lbn_5	Claims based hospital affiliation LBN 5	Legal business name of hospital where individual professional provides service	70	string

Category	Variable Code	Variable	Description	Length	Values
Medicare Assignment/ Participation	assgn	Professional accepts Medicare Assignment	Y = Professional accepts Medicare approved amount as payment in full. M = Professional may accept Medicare Assignment.	1	Y/M
	eRx	Participating in eRx	Participates in the Medicare Electronic Prescribing (eRx) Incentive Program - a pay-for-reporting program that encourages physicians and other healthcare professionals to use electronic prescribing to improve communication, increase accuracy, and reduce errors.	1	Y/blank
	PQRS	Participating in PQRS	Participates in the Medicare Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) Incentive Program - a pay-for-reporting program that gives eligible professionals incentives and payment adjustments if they report quality measures satisfactorily.	1	Y/blank
	EHR	Participating in EHR	Participates in the Medicare Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program - provides incentives and payment adjustments to eligible professionals who use certified EHR technology in ways that may improve healthcare.	1	Y/blank

Additional Information

Information in this downloadable file does not match the information as displayed on the Physician Compare website exactly, because:

- Website professional profiles represent all professional-level details while the downloadable file observations are at the professional-enrollment-address level. If a professional has more than one enrollment, more than one address per enrollment, or both, the individual professional will have multiple entries in the downloadable file.
 - This means that a single professional may have different specialties and different credentials from each enrollment.
- The downloadable database is focused on professionals and their practice locations. There is no group practice level reporting in the downloadable file as there is on the website.
 - You can manipulate this file to group professionals with affiliations to the same group to evaluate the data at the group practice level.
- Professional IDs (including the NPI, PECOS PAC ID and PECOS enrollment ID) and group practice or hospital IDs (including PECOS PAC ID and Medicare CCN) are included in the downloadable file to help distinguish professionals and group practices or hospitals with similar names. These IDs also help identify individual professionals who are affiliated with a group practice or hospital.
- The marker of line 2 suppression means that there were multiple possible addresses for that professional in the same building. This is a flag to help researchers who might want to send out surveys, marketers who want to send fliers, etc. know there is additional information like a suite number that they may want to search for.
- Only Medicare data (PECOS and claims) are used in the downloadable file. All licensed data are excluded from this dataset
 - There is no Board Certification information
 - No residency data
 - No foreign language data
 - Hospital affiliation data are based only on Medicare claims-based linkages, so the affiliated hospitals for a particular professional listed on the website and on the downloadable file may not be the same.