

## Project Objective:

The purpose of the MN APCD is for the State of Minnesota to conduct analyses that will help to expand access, reduce cost and improve the quality of health care in Minnesota. The purpose of the activities in this specific MN APCD project is to design reports or other analytic products from the MN APCD that employers and other health care purchasers in Minnesota find valuable. Such reports or summary analyses should be useful for employers' efforts to engage in value-based purchasing and seeking higher quality, more affordable health care that results in better health for their employees and dependents. We will do this by engaging employers in the front-end design of reports and analytics, backed by detailed data from the MN APCD. Based on guidance from employers, the project team will also develop materials and an outreach plan to raise awareness of the high value-reports and encourage self-insured employers in Minnesota to continue to submit de-identified data to the MN APCD.

## Why This Project Is Needed

This project is needed to ensure that the output from the Minnesota All Payer Claims Database (MN APCD) is as useful as possible for employers and other purchasers in Minnesota and, ideally, as many self-insured employers as possible will see the value in continuing to contribute data to the MN APCD.<sup>1</sup>

As in more than 20 states, Minnesota developed the MN APCD to bring together actual, de-identified health care claims data from many payers. Reports and analyses can be used to inform health care purchasing decisions, and to monitor health care markets and support health care policy-making. Public Use Files are datasets constructed by the State to allow researchers and others to explore how health care is used, and its cost and quality – based on data from the MN APCD, the most complete and comprehensive set of claims data available in Minnesota. Other datasets tend to cover a smaller subset of the health care market, use data from other states to approximate the Minnesota market, or may simply not provide the detailed information employers need to make health care decisions for Minnesota employees and their families.

**The State of Minnesota is committed to continuing to expand the value that can be realized from reports, analyses and Public Use Files available from the MN APCD.** Minnesota is engaging a range of stakeholders through workgroups, informal discussions and an upcoming Request for Information (RFI).

Working with the Minnesota Health Action Group and the Center for Health Care Strategies, and with input from national business associations, we will engage in several activities to be completed by September 2017, including:

- Interviews with employers;
- A Focus Group of employers that will meet in the first half of 2017 to provide guidance in identifying and shape current and possible new reports, analyses and Public Use Files;

<sup>1</sup> Gobeille v Liberty Mutual Supreme Court ruling prohibits States from *requiring* the submission of data by self-insured employers due to ERISA preemption clause; voluntary contributions of data, however, remains possible.

- Development of report formats and outreach materials;
- Usability testing with the potential reports and materials; and
- Creation of an outreach plan for use in raising awareness and engaging employers on their contribution of data to the MN APCD and what they can gain from it.

### What topics will be explored during the discussions with employers?

In addition to discussing desired reports or analyses, other data and evidence-related topics that are of interest to employers may be explored, such as:

*“What are the greatest areas of concern to employers in the trend of health care and what are the information gaps to manage these concerns effectively?”*

*“How would new MN APCD reports differ from what employers already get from health plans or from benefits consultants?”*

*“How have employers historically submitted their data to the MN APCD, and are there workable alternatives, if necessary?”*

The purpose of the discussions is to get a better understanding of the burden on self-insured employers who choose to participate in the MN APCD process relative to the added value that the employers could get from refined reports or analyses produced from the MN APCD. As the most comprehensive dataset available in Minnesota, the MN APCD holds much promise for analyzing what is happening in health care across the state in ways that are useful to employers and other purchasers and critical to sustainable spending trends.

This project is part of a \$45 million State Innovation Model (SIM) cooperative agreement, awarded to the Minnesota Departments of Health and Human Services in 2013 by The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) to help implement the Minnesota Accountable Health Model.

### Will employers who participate in this project be obligated to agree to submit data to the MN APCD?

No. Ideally, the new sets of reports and analyses will be of such value to self-insured employers that they will choose to continue to submit their de-identified data to the MN APCD, directly or via Third Party Administrators.

### Does this project aim to change how and by whom the MN APCD data may be used?

This project focuses on the MN APCD-related analyses and reports that employers would find most useful under current statutory authority. Of course, employers are free to suggest in Focus Group discussions desirable changes to the existing ‘guardrails’ that would make the data and analyses richer and more valuable for employers, but this is not the focus of the project.

### How can I get involved or learn more about the MN APCD and this project?

Updates and project information, as it becomes available, will be posted on the MN APCD website maintained by the Minnesota Department of Health. If you have questions or suggestions for the project team, please contact:

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## Contact Information

**For further information about the MN APCD:**

Online: [www.health.state.mn.us/healthreform/allpayer/index.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/healthreform/allpayer/index.html)

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