Group Medical Claims Database Documentation

The claims database is in, ASCII, delimited format. Fields are separated by commas; text fields are delimited by double quotes; numeric fields are not delimited. The first line contains field names. There are 3 files – one for each claim year, 1997, 1998 and 1999. The 3 files are **claim97fr2.txt**, **claim98fr2.txt** and **claim99fr2.txt, respectively**. These three files occupy a total of approximately 700 MB.

Each year's data are presented separately to provide more manageable file sizes. Of course, the user can append files to work with the combined data. Each record contains a field for claim year to enable identification of year if files are combined. Control counts and totals for each file are presented at the end of this document.

Each record or row of the database presents a summary of claims data for an individual claimant. This summary is derived from the claims level data (i.e., a separate record for each claim) contained in the much larger source databases provided by each insurer. Each record (row) is comprised of 27 fields (columns), as described in the following table:

No.	Name	Description	Type
1	CLAIMYR	Year claims were incurred or paid	A4
2	CLAIMANT	Unique claimant identifier	N
3	RELATION	Relationship to Subscriber (E=Employee, S=Spouse, D=Dependent)	A1
4	PATSEX	Gender of Claimant (M=Male, F=Female)	A1
5	PATBRTYR	Birth Year of Claimant	A4
6	HOSCVCHG	Covered Hospital Charges	N
7	HOSLWCHG	Allowed Hospital Charges	N
8	HOSPDCHG	Paid Hospital Charges	N
9	PHYCVCHG	Covered Physician Charges	N
10	PHYLWCHG	Allowed Physician Charges	N
11	PHYPDCHG	Paid Physician Charges	N
12	OTHCVCHG	Covered Other Charges	N
13	OTHLWCHG	Allowed Other Charges	N
14	OTHPDCHG	Paid Other Charges	N
15	TOTCVCHG	Covered Total Charges	N
16	TOTLWCHG	Allowed Total Charges	N
17	TOTPDCHG	Paid Total Charges	N
18	DIAG1	Diagnosis with Highest Subtotal of Paid Charges	A3
19	DIAG1CHG	Subtotal of Paid Charges for Highest Cost Diagnosis	N
20	DIAG2	Diagnosis with Second Highest Subtotal of Paid Charges	A3
21	DIAG2CHG	Subtotal of Paid Charges for Second Highest Cost Diagnosis	N
22	DIAG3	Diagnosis with Third Highest Subtotal of Paid Charges	A3
23	DIAG3CHG	Subtotal of Paid Charges for Third Highest Cost Diagnosis	N
24	DGCAT	Diagnosis Category with Highest Subtotal of Paid Charges	A33

25	DGCATCHG	Subtotal of Paid Charges for Highest Cost Diagnosis Category	N
26	EXPOSMEM	Flag field: "Y" if included in member exposure, "N" otherwise	A1
27	PPO	Flag field: "Y" if covered by PPO, "N" otherwise	A1

Type "An" indicates an alphanumeric (i.e., text or character) field, the values of which have a maximum length or number of characters, "n". Type "N" indicates a numeric field.

For each claimant, paid charges are subtotaled by diagnosis code. These subtotals are then ranked by amount. The three highest subtotal charges and their diagnosis codes are included in the database. In the event of equal subtotal charge amounts, the codes are ranked by their alphanumeric sort order.

In addition, based on diagnosis code, the diagnosis category is appended to each record at the claim level, and charges are subtotaled by the resulting diagnosis category. Each claimant's highest subtotal charge and its associated diagnosis category are included in the database. ICD9 ranges used to determine the diagnosis category, consistent with the prior large medical claims study, are presented in the following table:

ICD9MIN	ICD9MAX	DIAGCAT
001	139	Infectious & Parasitic Disease
140	239	Malignant Neoplasms
240	279	Endocrine & Metabolic Disorders
280	289	Blood Related Disorders
290	319	Mental Disorders, Drug, Alcohol
320	359	Nervous System
360	389	Sense Organs
390	459	Circulatory System
460	519	Respiratory System
520	579	Digestive System
580	629	Genitourinary System
630	679	Pregnancy & Childbirth
680	709	Skin Disorders
710	739	Skeleton & Muscle System
740	779	Congenital & Perinatal
780	799	Symptoms & Ill-Defined Conditions
800	999	Injury & Poisoning
V00	V84	Health Status or Service

Control counts and totals:

	Claimants	Total Paid Charges
claim97fr2	1,241,438	2,003,162,217.76
claim98fr2	1,460,854	2,466,093,740.87
claim99fr2	1,591,738	2,599,356,657.86