

Pharmacy Utilization Meeting

February 28, 2025

Attendees

David Angelaszek (IMS)

Emily Steplowski (IMS)

Kathy Cronin (NCI)

Serban Negoita (NCI)

Jennifer Hafterson (Seattle)

Marina Matatova (NCI)

Kaitlin Akif (NCI)

Randi Rycroft (Idaho)

Jennifer Stevens (IMS)

Kevin Ward (Georgia)

Peggy Adamo (NCI)

Linda Coyle (IMS)

- Serban prepared a PowerPoint of his analysis of the augmented fields submitted to SEER in November 2024. We started with reviewing his presentation.
- Serban commented that he had discussed the workgroup with Kathy Cronin and it was agreed there would be a renewed focus on this workgroup's efforts for 2025.
- Serban began with reviewing the data items that are available inhouse.
- The first field discussed was the pharmacy linkage flag. Jennifer explained that it indicates if a patient has any claims from CVS, Walgreens, Kaiser (Seattle only) or Optum.
- Jennifer confirmed that Optum was not used to set the augmented fields in the November 2024 data.
- Serban stated that he thinks the pharmacy linkage flag should reflect all sources. Kathy agreed. Jennifer confirmed that the flag does not indicate if a claim is for a cancer drug or if it is related to first course treatment.
- Kevin agreed with the flag reflecting all sources. He asked if there is overlap between the various pharmacy sources. Kathy confirmed there was a previous analysis related to this and that there is overlap. This should be kept in mind to avoid double counting.
- It was confirmed the pharmacy linkage flag is on the submission only and it is not shown to users. It is at the patient level.
- Jennifer confirmed that the augmented fields will start including Optum data in the February 2025 submission.
- The next field discussed was the First Course of Treatment (FCOT) Months field. It has values 0 through 11. Serban thinks it should be 1-12.
- It was mentioned that the SEER*Stat database would need to use February 2025 data to use the augmented fields with Optum. Serban isn't sure how much effort that is. Jennifer confirmed that is not too much effort.

- Serban commented that he wasn't aware the FCOT First and Last Dispense Dates and augmented dates (year and month) were available in SEER*Stat. Jennifer stated they should have been available since last year.
- Serban showed a graph of proportion of cases with at least one pharmacy claim. David helped to explain the graph's noticeable increase in proportion in 2000 and decrease in proportion in 2019. Optum claims started in 2000 and ended in 2019.
- Marina thought it would be helpful to see these graphs broken out by Optum, Walgreens and CVS.
- Kathy asked if we could determine the source in submission. Jennifer confirmed that it's available, but the values are masked.
- Jennifer will investigate creating the graphs by broken out by source that Marina asked about.
- Serban showed a graph of HR+/HER+ Breast cancer cases with pharmacy claims by year of diagnosis. There is a higher proportion of claims in 2010-2022.
- The next graph looked at was percent of breast cases receiving endocrine therapy. It was noted the graph is misleading since the pharmacy flag included Optum but the augmentation computations did not. However, later years do indicate data was augmented by pharmacy data.
- The next graph shown was the percent of Breast Cancer Cases with FCOT Hormone. It was noted that, starting in 2012, the proportions of blanks and the proportion of no agent categorized as FCOT Hormone administered after diagnosis were decreasing over time relative to the proportion of cases with at least one agent categorized as FCOT Hormone administered after diagnosis. David explained the CVS and Walgreens dispense dates go back to January 2013 so CTCs starting in 2012 would be the first to start having augmented data. Serban commented that he did pick a site that would be likely to see the benefit of pharmacy claims and other sites would have different graphs.
- Next, we reviewed the graph Percent of Breast cases that received Treatment Abstract-based versus Augmented. This graph is misleading due to the Optum issue mentioned above.
- We reviewed the frequency of hormone therapy months based on pharmacy claims for breast cases. The number of patients with blanks for this field is decreasing steadily over time.
- Serban thinks there are several sites that would benefit from these claims. We should re-run analysis with February 2025 submission
- This concluded Serban's presentation, and the registries did not have questions.
- Marina commented that she wanted to consider trying to link claims to specific cancers based on agents. Serban said that this would be hard as not many agents are very site specific.
- Emily presented her spreadsheets (hormone as an example). They gave lists of drugs of a particular modality given to patients with a single CTC (sequence number 00/60) for the sites specified in the December 2024 meeting. The CTCs were submitted to SEER in November 2024. There was also an indication if the drug was new or had been previously flagged as FCOT.

- Serban has a promise from Betsy that a pharmacist will help with this project for reviewing the drugs.
- Emily confirmed drugs are not time restricted. All drugs given for the modality were included.
- Marina asked when the pharmacist (Austin Fitts) can start. Serban indicated within the next month using the current drug lists from Emily.
- Marina will discuss the spreadsheets with Betsy and Austin.