

Pharmacy Utilization Meeting

March 13, 2026

Attendees:

- David Angelaszek (IMS)
 - Jennifer Stevens (IMS)
 - Linda Coyle (IMS)
 - Gretchen Flynn (IMS)
 - Steve Scoppa (IMS)
 - Kaitlin Akif (NCI)
 - Jennifer Hafterson (Seattle)
 - Tiffany Janes (Seattle)
 - Serban Negoita (NCI)
 - Randi Rycroft (Idaho)
 - Marina Matatova (NCI)
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- The meeting began by reviewing the SEER*Stat pharmacy database data dictionary that Jennifer, Steve and David put together.
 - Serban requested feedback from the registries.
 - The dictionary includes information on two types of fields:
 - **Pharmacy Linkage fields** are the actual pharmacy data items constructed from pharmacy data and registry treatment data.
 - **Specialized database fields** are not normally released in SEER*Stat databases and therefore are not included in standard SEER*Stat documentation. They are essential for computing the augmented pharmacy fields and were therefore included in this database.
 - Serban suggested adding data-item numbers for the pharmacy fields. Although these are typically NAACCR item numbers, the pharmacy fields are not NAACCR standard, so they only have a number assigned in the SEER submission requirements specification. Jennifer noted that we could include this number in the dictionary but was uncertain about the appropriate terminology.
 - Randi emphasized the need to clearly distinguish SEER numbers from NAACCR numbers.
 - Gretchen suggested using a “standard vs. non-standard” distinction. She proposed adding a column for item numbers and a flag indicating whether a field is a NAACCR standard item or SEER-specific item.

- Steve asked whether the pharmacy fields should include their own item numbers as well as those of the fields they augment. Jennifer replied that this is unnecessary, as the pharmacy fields already list the standard data item numbers in the description.
- Serban observed that the use of “in-house” in a variable name is clear to IMS and NCI but may not be obvious to registry users.
- Jennifer explained that “in-house” is part of the official SEER*Stat variable name listed in the variable-name column.
- Marina and Kaitlin agreed that the dictionary looked good.
- **Action** – David, Jennifer, and Steve will update the dictionary with data-item numbers.
- We then moved on to Serban’s presentation review. He requested confirmation of the formal names of the four linkage sources (CVS, Walgreens, Kaiser, Optum). David and Jennifer confirmed that the names were appropriate.
- Jennifer Hafterson suggested adding a note that Kaiser is not a SEER-wide linkage but specific to a single registry.
- Serban’s next slide listed which registries had each linkage and the dispense date years covered. The table clearly indicated that Seattle was the only registry receiving Kaiser data, and Jennifer agreed it was acceptable to show that Kaiser is specific to Seattle.
- David confirmed that the table was correct.
- The following slide summarized when pharmacy data was first loaded into SEER*DMS and when it was first submitted to SEER.
- David confirmed that the data were first loaded into SEER*DMS enclaves in 2020.
- Jennifer confirmed that the first submission occurred in 2021.
- Marina suggested emphasizing on the slide that the workgroup’s experience with analyzing pharmacy linkage data will shorten the time between first submission to NCI and release to registries for future linkages.
- Serban agreed that this point would be valuable to include.
- Serban then provided a brief overview of the workgroup’s efforts. Linda confirmed that it was accurate to state that the workgroup explored automating the data augmentation in SEER*DMS.
- Serban presented slides summarizing the data-dictionary information. David confirmed that the description of how the first course of treatment (FCOT) is determined was accurate.
- Serban showed examples of using the database in SEER*Stat.
- Steve confirmed that the ID used for the November 2024 database would remain accurate at the time of the presentation.

- Steve suggested including a SEER*Stat screenshot that displays the Specialized database fields, and Serban agreed.
- The last slide that was reviewed was the Database Distribution Plan. Steve confirmed that it looked good.
- Serban will present the material at the Research Call on March 23.
- The next workgroup meeting will focus on feedback from that call.