

## Center for Health Information and Analysis

### Revisions to Data Release Procedures

CHIA is pleased to announce, effective February 1, 2017, certain revisions to its Data Release Procedures that will expedite applications and the approval process for non-Government applicants.

**FUTURE YEARS OF DATA.** Applicants will now be able to request the receipt of future years or release versions of the data for the same project. If recommended by the Data Privacy Committee and the Data Release Committee, and approved by the Executive Director, additional years or release versions of data will be released upon availability and the Recipient's completion of a Certificate of Continued Need. No additional process will be required.

**SUBSEQUENT PROJECTS.** Applicants will now be able to request authorization to use the data they have received for one project for subsequent projects. The applicant will complete a new application for the subsequent project, which will be reviewed by the Data Privacy Committee and Data Release Committee. If approved by the Executive Director, the applicant will not need to await a new extract but will be able to begin to use the data upon execution of an amendment to the applicant's Data Use Agreement.

**DATA USE AGREEMENT.** CHIA has revised its Data Use Agreement, considering feedback from users. The Data Use Agreement will supersede all prior agreements. CHIA will not accept comments or revisions to the Data Use Agreement.

**APPLICATIONS.** CHIA has revised its applications, and will now include a specific application for those wishing to use data in their possession for a subsequent project.

**FEES WAIVERS.** CHIA issued two Administrative Bulletins on December 22, 2016, effective February 1, 2017 revising its criteria for fee waivers. Fee waivers and definitions for Case Mix and APCD are now identical.

- Definitions have been simplified.
- All fees for Case Mix Data are for one extract and each extract will consist of one year of data.
- Researchers are required to demonstrate that the funding source for their research does not cover the cost of the data to be eligible for a full or partial fee waiver.
- Resellers have been clearly defined and may only qualify for a partial fee waiver if they are non-profits and can demonstrate their project, report or product is in beta stage and not generating any income.

**MEDICAID CLAIMS DATA.** CHIA recommends that applicants carefully consider the need for Medicaid claims data in their research. CHIA cannot release Medicaid Claims data without the approval of MassHealth, which can introduce significant delays in the process. To assist applicants in their research CHIA will now release commercial claims upon CHIA approval and will release Medicaid claims data when MassHealth approval is received. Also keep in mind that the Medicaid episode of care billing data is included as part of the Case Mix data product release and does not require additional MassHealth approval.

All changes are effective February 1, 2017 and all documents referenced above are available at:  
<http://chiamass.gov/chia-data>.