



For Immediate Release

Date: May 1, 2014

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## **Statement on the Rhode Island All Payer Claims Data Program**

The Rhode Island All Payer Claims Data program (APCD) is a health reform initiative jointly managed by the Executive Office of the Health and Human Services, the Department of Health, the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner, and HealthSource RI. The APCD collects and stores enrollment, medical claims, pharmacy claims, and provider data on a monthly basis.

The APCD will be used to ensure transparency of information about the quality, cost, efficiency, and access of Rhode Island's healthcare delivery system. It will also provide state agencies and policy makers with the information they need to improve the value of healthcare for Rhode Island residents.

It's important to note that the APCD is governed by a very different set of rules than the information that is sold by private-sector data brokers to private-sector marketers. The APCD is a state program with very strict laws and regulations that are in place to thoroughly protect Rhode Islanders' personal information.

The APCD is a tool for state government and academic researchers to provide information to identify areas for improvement across the health care system and to provide actionable comparison data for consumers, payers, providers and policy makers. It will provide us with data capable of improving our understanding of disease prevalence and trends in utilization, cost and quality of the care provided to Rhode Islanders.

There are currently 12 states with an APCD, and many others like Rhode Island whose database is not up and running yet. Rhode Island's project is widely seen as having the most comprehensive personal information protections in the country.

Rhode Island's APCD was designed with the goal of ensuring that the information it contains about health claims is not ever connected to any individual. So long as an individual chooses not to opt out of participation, their health insurance claims information will go to the All-Payer Claims Database. This information will NOT be connected to the individual's name, address, SSN, date of birth, or any other information that could link someone to their claims. Rather, an anonymous unique identifying number

will be assigned to track this claims information across payers and across time. This helps to ensure the quality and accuracy of the data that will be collected in the APCD while also taking the appropriate steps to ensure that information that could identify anyone individually will not be shared.

APCD data is subject to strict data security laws, regulations and protocols to guard against any unauthorized or accidental access. Compliance with these security requirements is monitored and enforced through periodic audits and agency oversight.

Many Rhode Islanders are receiving notices right now to allow them to opt-out of the APCD. Again, this consumer protection is unique to Rhode Island's APCD – and a step that Rhode Island viewed as essential to enhancing personal choice and privacy. To opt-out of the database, a Rhode Islander simply needs to let our service provider, Arcadia Health, know that they want to opt-out and their health insurance claims information will never be sent to the database. The easiest way to opt-out is through a website: [www.riapcd-optout.com](http://www.riapcd-optout.com). By providing a few basic pieces of information, a person can ensure that their information is excluded from the APCD forever. If a person does not have access to the internet they can call the RI Health Insurance Consumer Support Line at 1-855-747-3224.

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#### **About the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner**

The Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner (OHIC) was established by legislation in 2004 to broaden the accountability of health insurers operating in the state of Rhode Island. Under this legislation, the Office is dedicated to:

1. Protecting consumers
2. Encouraging fair treatment of medical service providers
3. Ensuring solvency of health insurers
4. Improving the health care system's quality, accessibility and affordability

The Office sets and enforces standards for health insurers in each of these four areas.

[www.ohic.ri.gov](http://www.ohic.ri.gov)