New Brunswick Drug Plans
DH15

Compiled by: NB-IRDT Staff

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- call us at 506-447-3363 Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm

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About this Codebook

This codebook contains information about drug claims from the New Brunswick (NB) provincial drug program. This data product is provided 'as is,' and NB-IRDT makes no warranty, either express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose. In no event will NB-IRDT be liable for any direct, special, indirect, consequential or other damages, however caused.

Due to the operational nature of administrative data sets, there is potential for discrepancies between the names of variables and their corresponding definitions. In the case of such a discrepancy, the variable definition should be considered the most accurate representation.

Overview

The New Brunswick (NB) Drug Plans provide prescription drug benefits to eligible residents of NB. Eligible beneficiary groups can be viewed online here. Drugs included in the Prescription Drug Program formulary can be found here.

The NB Prescription Drug Program dataset [DH 15] contains the claims data for all drugs covered by the program. Data includes patient and physician information, details regarding drug programs, and prescription costs.

Data Range

2008-04-01 to 2018-12-03

Data Source

New Brunswick Department of Health

How to Cite this Codebook

New Brunswick Institute for Research, Data and Training. (2020). New Brunswick Drug Plans [DH 15] Codebook Fredericton, NB: New Brunswick Institute for Research, Data and Training.

Acknowledgements

The New Brunswick Prescription Drug Program database is used with the permission of the Government of New Brunswick, Department of Health.

About this Product

Purpose of the Product

The purpose of NB Drug Plans [DH15] codebook is to provide information on the linkable NB Drug Plans data held at NB-IRDT. This data is accessible to researchers for public health research.

Content

This dataset has 18 variables, including the scrambled individual ID.

General Methodology

NB Drug Plan claims data are received by the Department of Health and are transferred to NB-IRDT after pseudonymization. These data can be linked to other datasets housed at NB-IRDT and are accessible to researchers.

Limitations

As the NB Drug Plans dataset is derived from several beneficiay plans with specific eligibility criteria, its documentation of drug claims is not comprehensive of the entire New Brunswick population

Reference Date

2008-2017

Definitions and Concepts

Beneficiary – New Brunswick residents who meet the eligibility criteria for specific beneficiary groups, and can have drug purchages covered via NB Drug plans.

Drug claim – Cost and utilization information on prescribed drugs.

Formulary – a list of the drugs which are eligible benefits under the New Brunswick Drug Plans. The Formulary is updated monthly. Most drugs listed in the Formulary are "regular" benefits which are reimbursed with no criteria or prior approval requirements. Some drugs are special authorization benefits and have specific criteria that must be met before they are approved for reimbursement (see Formulary Appendix III). Certain drug products are not eligible benefits and are identified on the exclusion list in the Formulary.a

Comparison to Other Products/Versions

Records in the NB Drug Plans describe drug claims submitted to several New Brunswick drug benefit programs. As such, it is similar to other datasets which describe prescription drug access, particularly the Drug information system (DH07) suite of data

sets. The Drug information system describes all drug claims for prescription drugs in the province of New Brunswick. The NB Drug Plans program data and the Drug information System data differ in two ways.

First, the Drug information system describes all drug claims in the province of New Brunswick, while the Prescription Drug program only describes drug claims associated with the benefits programs offered by the government of New Brunswick.

Second, due the size of the Drug Information system database, only select extractions are readily available in the NB-IRDT secure research environment (e.g. a specific Drug information dataset describing cholesterol medication among all NB'ers could be accessed….but a dataset describing ALL medications for ALL NB'ers is not available). If a medication of interest has not already been extracted from the drug information system, a custom extraction may need to be performed.

Using with Other Products

DH07– Drug information system (DIS) –The DIS describes all prescription drug claims in New Brunswick. Linking Prescription Drug Program data and DIS data could allow researchers to investigate the effectiveness of the various benefits programs contained within the NB Drug Plans for specific health conditions and medications.

DH01c01to15 – CCDSS Data – The Canadian Chronic Disease Surveillance System contains longitudinal records about chronic health conditions, flagged using algorithms and administrative data. Linking Prescription Drug Program data and CCDSS data may provide insights about the history and progression of a specific disease in relation to drug use specific to that disease.

DH05 – Discharge Abstract Data – The Discharge Abstract Data (DAD) is a collection of records of hospitalizations in New Brunswick and contains details regarding patient characteristics, diagnoses, interventions, and healthcare providers. Linkages between the NB Drug Plans and DAD would allow the identification and comparison of NB Drug Plans participant records with those of non-participants.

DH08 – NB Physician Billing – The NB Physician Billing data set contains claims for services rendered by healthcare providers, that were paid for through New Brunswick Medicare. Linkages between the NB Drug Plans and Physician Billing would allow the identification and comparison of NB Drug Plans participant records with those of non-participants. Further, the physician identifiers available in the Precription Drug Program data would facilitate secondary linkage between the drug claim and the prescribing physician.

DH09 – Provider Registry – The Provider Registry contains information about healthcare providers in New Brunswick, such as their age, gender, specialties, and practice location. Since the NB Drug Plans data contain physician identifiers, prescription tendencies among providers could be investigated.

DH10 – Citizens Data – The Citizen Database is a longitudinal data set of individuals living in New Brunswick, based on their eligibility for provincial Medicare. Combining the Citizen Database with Precription Drug Program data may reveal insights about the characteristics, mobility, and treatment of Precription Drug Program beneficiaries.

Record Layouts and Data Descriptions

The following variables are included in the drug claims database.

TYPE	VARIABLE NAME	LABEL
C	IncDate	Dispense Date
C	Sex	Individual's sex
C	DOB	Individual's date of birth
C	PrescriberType	Prescribing practitioner type
C	DrugPlan	Plan ID
N	Din	Drug Identification Number
C	AtcDesc	ATC classification
N	DrugQty	Drug quantity accepted
N	DaysSupply	Number of days supply dispensed
N	IngredientAmt	Amount accepted for ingredient billed
N	DispFeeAmt	Professional fee accepted
N	AcceptedMarkupAmt	Drug cost accepted
N	PaidAmt	Plan paid amount
N	CopayAmt	Copay amount
C	PrimarySpec	Prescriber specialty
N	MarkupAmt	Markup amount accepted
C	pid	Scrambled Physician ID
C	Scram_ID	Scrambled Individual ID

IncDate
The date on which the prescription was dispensed by the provider

Sex
The sex of the patient for whom the prescription was filled

DOB
The date of birth of the patient

PrescriberType
The type of profession (e.g., physician, dentist, midwife) of the prescribing practitioner

DrugPlan

The unique identifier of the drug benefit plan contributing toward this claim, or the NB Drug Plans under which the beneficiary is eligible

Code	Description
A	Senior
B	Cystic Fibrosis
D	NB drug plan – people not covered under the other drug plans and are unemployed can opt in by paying a premium
E	Residential facilities
F	Welfare
G	Child Welfare
H	Patients with Multiple Sclerosis
R	Transplant
S	Special Authorization
T	Growth Hormone
U	AIDS
V	Nursing home residents
W	Extra-mural

Din

The Drug Identification Number (DIN) assigned by Health Canada, or the Pseudo-DIN (PIN) assigned by the plan, that identifies the benefit (i.e., the claim)

AtcDesc

The 5-character Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC) classification, assigned by the WHO, that relates to the benefit. It is used to classify drugs by their shared chemical ingredients and according to their therapeutic effects on major body systems. See this link for more information.

DrugQty

The quantity of drug that was approved for payment by the plan

DaysSupply

The number of days for which the drug was prescribed

IngredientAmt

The amount that was accepted for the ingredient that was billed

DispFeeAmt

The amount from the total prescription cost accepted that relates to the professional fee, including dispensing fee and/or compounding fee

AcceptedMarkupAmt (DrugCostAccepted)

The amount from the total prescription cost accepted that relates to the drug ingredient cost accepted by the plan. This field includes any applicable wholesale up-charge or shipping cost that constitute a cost to the pharmacy. Pharmacy drug cost mark-up is a separate field.

PaidAmt

The amount from the total prescription cost accepted that is paid by the plan (total amount minus copay)

CopayAmt

The copay amount collectible from the beneficiary. It is the amount of the total prescription cost accepted by the plan that is not paid by the plan.

PrimarySpec

The specialty (e.g., cardiologist, orthopedist) of profession of the prescribing practitioner

MarkupAmt

The amount from the total prescription cost accepted that relates to the pharmacy drug up-charge or pharmacy drug mark-up. This amount should always be 0 when dealing with Prescription Drug Program claims.

pid

The unique identifier of the prescribing physician

Document History

Version	Author	Nature of Change	Date
1.0	Chandy Somayaji	Codebook creation	02-01-2020
1.1	Jennifer Hagen	Updated formatting, data set number and removed date ranges	03-25-2022
1.2	Kyle Rogers	1. Minor edits 2. Added the following sections Limitations Definitions and Concepts Comparison to Other Products/Versions Using with Other Products	04-01-2022
1.3	Meg Pike	Final review of this version for posting	06-08-2022