Federal Health Users of Vital Statistics--Medicare Program Experience

National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics

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Medicare Beneficiary Vital Record Data

1. **Enrollment Data Base/Common Medicare Environment**
   - EDB/CME is the authoritative source for Medicare demographic data
   - Data is collected from SSA, RRB, States, Health Plans, etc.
   - Data is distributed to those same entities as well as downstream systems such as those used for claims processing

2. **Examples of data collected/distributed**
   - Date of Death from SSA and from incoming claims
   - Lawful Presence data from SSA
   - Incarceration data from SSA
   - State Buy-In data from States
   - Address data from SSA
   - Coordination of Benefits data from insurers/employers
Why Medicare Needs Vital Record Data

1. Proper Claims Payment/Payments to Health Plans
   -- No payments after date of death (some exceptions)
   -- No payments if incarcerated
   -- No payments if not lawfully present
   -- No primary payments if other insurance exists

2. Address
   -- SSA is system of record for address
   -- CMS Mailings: *Medicare & You* Handbook, Medicare Initial Enrollment Packages, Medicare Cards (New & Replacements), Medicare Premium Bills for directly billed beneficiaries, Qualifying Health Coverage notices, etc.
   -- Important for mailing new Medicare Cards
   -- Important for fraud prevention

3. State interaction
   -- States pay Medicare premiums for dual eligible
   -- Close connection between Medicare and Medicaid for drug coverage

4. Premium Adjustment
   -- CMS and SSA work together to adjust Medicare premiums for high income beneficiaries
Medicare Statistics

- 59 Million Medicare Beneficiaries
- 10 Million Low Income Beneficiaries
- 6 Million High Income Beneficiaries
- 45 Million Beneficiaries enrolled in over 700 Part C and D Health Plans
- States pay premiums for about 10 Million Beneficiaries
- Over 1 Billion claims paid per year