

What do you need to know about your rights and privacy?

- Participation is voluntary. Your facility's relationship with programs administered by CMS will not be affected in any way by whether or not you choose to participate.
- Your cooperation with the MCBS will not violate the HIPAA privacy regulations. Under the privacy standards, your facility does not need an individual's authorization to disclose their protected health information to a health plan, such as the Medicare program, when the information is being disclosed for health care operations activities of the entity that receives the information. Authorization is also not needed if both your facility and the Medicare program has or had a relationship with the individual whose protected health information is being requested and the protected information pertains to such relationship. See 45 CFR § 164.506(c) (4).
- Participating in the MCBS will not impose additional disclosure record keeping burdens on your facility. Disclosures under 45 CFR § are explicitly exempt from the HIPAA disclosure accounting provisions. See 45 CFR § 164.528 (a) (1) (i)
- The information you provide will be kept private to the extent permitted by law, as prescribed by the Privacy Act of 1974. The information you give will only be used for research and statistical purposes.
- The data you provide could be carefully verified by the computer matching to administrative records under Public Law 100-503 [The Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act]. All information will be kept private.

Any other questions?

Please feel free to contact MCBS staff at NORC at the University of Chicago at anytime.

Call toll-free at: 1-844-777-2151

Email at: mcbs@norc.org

Visit us at: mcbs.norc.org

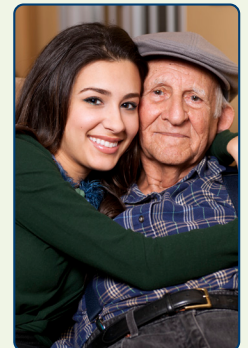
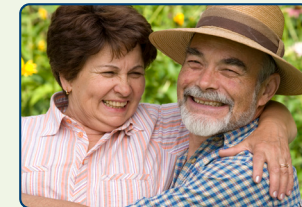


This survey is authorized by section 1875 (42 USC 139511) of the Social Security Act and is conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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MCBS

Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey



A resident in your facility has been selected to take part in an important study called the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS). Your resident is one of 16,000 people scientifically selected at random to represent the Medicare experiences of other Medicare beneficiaries all over the United States. Every year, approximately 1,000 facility administrators are interviewed on behalf of their residents, providing invaluable data about how Medicare affects beneficiaries who require long-term care..

What is the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey?

MCBS is a survey designed to help policymakers understand the needs of people who use Medicare. MCBS has been conducted since 1991 by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), which oversees Medicare. MCBS informs policymakers who make decisions about the Medicare program, providing them with important insight on Medicare beneficiaries' experiences with healthcare.

What does this mean for my facility?

Although most interviews for the MCBS occur in the community, we also collect data on individuals who reside in long-term care facilities. Over the course of the study, approximately 7% of the MCBS sample resides in facilities at any given time. By conducting both community and facility interviews, the MCBS can collect data from beneficiaries regardless of their location and thereby maintain a continuous record of their health care costs and usage.

The interview focuses on the utilization and costs of the health care being received by your resident, along with a small section describing the characteristics of your facility. Much of the information is abstracted directly from the resident's chart and will only require a limited amount of your staff's time.

We collect data three times per year, so if the selected beneficiary remains in your facility over an extended period of time, we may contact you for subsequent interviews. For interviews in facilities, a specific facility questionnaire is administered to caregivers and facility accounting staff who are the most knowledgeable about the individual. No residents of your facility will be

contacted directly. All of the information you provide will be kept private to the extent permitted by law, as prescribed by the Privacy Act of 1974. Your participation is voluntary, and your relationship with programs administered by CMS will not be affected in any way by whether or not you participate.

Why should my facility participate?

The information you provide on behalf of your facility and residents cannot be replaced by any other data source in the country. This study is the only source of in-depth health care cost and use, which are used to accomplish the following:

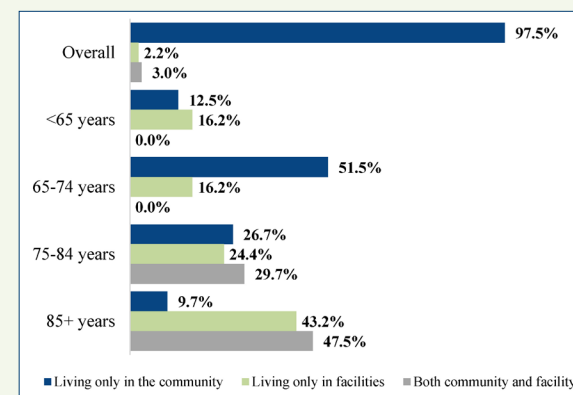
- To help us understand how Medicare affects people's daily life, and what problems they might be experiencing with it.
- To help increase Medicare coverage and efficiency for beneficiaries, both now and in the future.
- To provide legislators and policy makers with more information to create effective laws and regulations for people enrolled in Medicare. In fact, the Part D prescription drug benefit was created in part based on findings from the MCBS.
- To improve the quality of care Medicare beneficiaries receive.

The results of the MCBS are used to monitor and make decisions about the Medicare program. In order to form a complete picture of the Medicare population and guide effective policy decisions, it is critically important to collect data about all Medicare beneficiaries, including individuals in facilities. Long-term care facilities are especially important to the study because long-term care issues are at the forefront of the health policy agenda.

What do we know about Medicare because of the participation of facilities like yours?

Residence Status of Medicare Beneficiaries by Age, 2020

- Nearly half of Medicare beneficiaries residing in facilities are 85 or older.



Selected Reported Chronic Conditions Among Medicare Beneficiaries by Residence Status, 2020

- 66% of beneficiaries residing in a facility have hypertension, while less than half have heart disease or diabetes.

