PATHWAYS TO CMS DATA @UCSF

	No-to-Low Cost			Some Cost		High Cost
	Free Public Use Files (1%)	**Limited Dataset Files (5%/100%)**	**VA Pathway**	**20% Part A & B**	***20% Part D (coming soon)***	**VRDC**
Dataset Details	• Non-Identifiable Data Files/Public Use Files • Contains aggregate-level information • No PII or PHI • HSAF data years 2010-2017, annual • PSPS data years 2010-2017, annual • "Early" PSPS most recent year • Monthly PHARM data years 12/2005-current • Quarterly PHARM data years 2009-current	• Limited Dataset Files • Contain beneficiary level protected health information similar to the RIF files • Includes beneficiary level data • 100% or 5% random sample file, data years vary by file	• 5% of all patients, Master Beneficiary data, longitudinal • VHA central data repository • Data years 2000-present • Medicare Chronic Conditions Warehouse	• Research Identifiable Files (RIFs) • Contains PHI and/or PII • Data years 2009-2017 • *2018 data coming soon*	• Research Identifiable Files (RIFs) • Contains PHI and/or PII • Part D, MBSF Chronic and Other Chronic Conditions, Cost and Utilizations • Data years 2010-2018	• Research Identifiable Files • Virtual Research Data Center • 100%
Usage Cost	• HSAF, PSPS: Free • PHARM: $250/mnth or $750/qtr	LDS Order Form (includes cost calculator)	Free	• $2k re-use fee to ResDAC • Owned by Dr. Julia Adler-Milstein, Director of CLIIR • Requires annual DUA renewal	• $2k re-use fee to ResDAC • Owned by Ulrike Muench, Social Behavioral Sciences of School of Nursing • Requires annual DUA renewal	• $25k VRDC Access Fee per user/per year (covers CMS onboarding, seat license, training, output review & admin fees) • Additional costs vary based on project needs
Time to Obtain	• Instant download for free files • 0-2 weeks for hard copy or pay files	0-2 months (varies by files requested)	6-12 months	3-6 months (possibly longer)	3-6 months (possibly longer)	3-6 months (possibly longer): Request Process Timeline
Required Approvals	No approvals required	No approvals required	• IRB approval • VA Research & Development approval • VIREC approval for CMS Data	• PI Support Letter • RIF Request Letter • IRB approval	• PI Support Letter • RIF Request Letter • IRB approval	• RIF Request Letter • IRB approval
Required Forms	PUF Request Worksheet	DUA	• Establish scope of practice on RDIS roster • VA WOC appointment • Remote access to VA network • VINCI workspace request • *PI status at SFVA (optional)*	• Executive Summary • DUA • DMP *(template available)* • Evidence of funding • Study protocol	• Executive Summary • DUA • DMP *(template available)* • Evidence of funding • Study protocol	• Executive Summary • DUA • DMP *(template available)* • Evidence of funding • Study protocol
Storage Security Requirements	Excel files, no known security requirements	• Shipping address must meet security requirements & be physically secure • No transfer of CMS data to any equipment other than the custodian's organization • All devices associated with CMS data are in a secure location • Work session/laptop locks out after 15 minutes of inactivity	VA VPN storage and access (VA issued laptop required)	• Cloud storage not yet allowed by CMS • RAE Platform is the only current UCSF environment meeting requirements for CMS data storage • *UCSF IT Wynton PHI storage expected in 2021*	• Cloud storage not yet allowed by CMS • RAE Platform is the only current UCSF environment meeting requirements for CMS data storage • *UCSF IT Wynton PHI storage expected in 2021*	Provided by VRDC
Storage Size & Cost	• HSAF: 36 MB • PSPS: 300 MB • PHARM: 10 MB	Varies by files requested	All files stored on VA VPN remote desktop environment	• Part A & B: 6 TB • RAE Storage: 1 TB for $500 + 0.14 per GB backup fees • *Expected Wynton costs:* ◦ *500 GB free $160 per 1TB + one-time setup fee*	• Part D: 3 TB • RAE Storage: 1 TB for $500 + 0.14 per GB backup fees • *Expected Wynton costs:* ◦ *500 GB free $160 per 1TB + one-time setup fee*	Provided by VRDC
Analysis Software	Any of user's choosing	Any of user's choosing	R, STATA, SAS within VA remote desktop (VA issued laptop required)	R, STATA, SAS via RAE platform	R, STATA, SAS via RAE platform	SAS only
How to Get Started	CMS PUF Information	CMS LDS Information	VA Data Core Consultation	*Need to figure out actual point of contact for re-use*	*Need to figure out actual point of contact for re-use*	ResDAC website
Likely Use Case	• Student • Fellow/Post-Doc • Pre-Award • Any project without substantial external funding	• Student • Fellow/Post-Doc • Pre-Award • Any project without substantial external funding	• Fellow/Post-Doc • K-Scholar Awarded • Faculty • Any project without substantial external funding	• K-Scholar Awarded • Faculty with grant funding	• K-Scholar Awarded • Faculty with grant funding	• K-Scholar Awarded • Faculty with grant funding

Useful Acronyms:

- **PUF**: Public Use File
- **HSAF**: Hospital Service Area File
- **PSPS**: Physician/Supplier Procedure Summary Master File
- **PHARM**: Prescription Drug Plan Formulary and Pharmacy Network Files
- **RDIS**: Research Data Information System
- **WOC**: Without Compensation
- **VINCI**: VA Informatics and Computing Structure
- **VIREC**: VA Information Resource Center
- **VPN**: Virtual Private Network
- **CLIIR**: Center for Clinical Informatics and Improvement Research
- **DUA**: Data Use Agreement
- **DMP**: Data Management Plan
- **PII/PHI**: Personally Identifiable Information/Protected Health Information, e.g. *SSN, Zip Code, Phone #, Birth dates, Gender, MRN*