

AMA Professional Physician Data (PPD File)



Department of Database Licensing
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Topics include:

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Physician Masterfile overview

- A comprehensive source of data on all U.S. physicians – AMA members **and** non-members
- Includes MDs and DOs
- Includes the U.S., territories, Puerto Rico and Guam
- Established in 1906



Physician Masterfile overview

The Physician Masterfile supports many AMA activities:

- Membership
- Publications
- Credentialing
- Books and products
- **Database Licensing**



2008 physician statistics

- Over **1,012,000** total records
- About **897,000** active physicians
- Over **793,000*** physicians in direct patient care
- More than **606,000** physicians in office based practice
- Approximately **394,000** primary care physicians (DOs, MDs)

* Includes residents



Available data files

- Physicians
- Medical students
- Medical schools
- Residency institutions
- Hospital affiliations
- DEA
- Current licensure
- Group practice



Physician file

Over 1,012,000 total records

- Unique ME# - medical education number
- TOP - Type of practice
- PE - Present employment
- MPA - Major professional activity
- PPMA - Preferred professional mailing address
- POLO - Office address
- SDPS - Self-designated practice specialty; primary and secondary
- Telephone and fax

Physician file – TOP/PE/MPA

- **TOP - Type of practice** designates nature of physician's practice (resident, direct patient care, etc.)
- **PE - Present employment** designates structure of physician's practice (self-employed, group, etc.)
- **MPA - Major professional activity** designates combination of TOP and PE (office based, full-time hospital, etc.)



Physician file - addresses



- PPMA at 96 percent deliverability
- Primary office location addresses available for 89 percent of direct patient care physicians*

*(Excludes residents)

Physician file - addresses

Obtained through:

- Weekly updates from USPS address change service (ACS)
- First class mail returns from users
- National change of address (NCOA)
- Change of address through the AMA's *e-Physician Profile* web site

Physician file – census data

Breaks down the country by population size based on PPMA:

- Division: broad geographic location (New England, Mountain, etc.)
- Group: County population
- PMSA/MSA (primary metropolitan statistical area, metropolitan statistical area, population of at least 50,000 to 100,000)



Physician file – phone and fax

➤ Telephone numbers

- Office phone only
- Nearly **567,000** numbers

➤ Fax numbers

- Nearly **336,000** numbers
- Restricted use; users need AMA prior approval

Medical student file




- Approximately **68,000** records
- Data from **127** medical schools through the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC)
- About **16,000** annual graduates
- Name, address, gender, census data, school, year of graduation, telephone, birth date and birth place





Group practice file

About **104,000** groups, **371,000** physician affiliations, and **11,500** nurse practitioner affiliations

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- **2-physician groups**
 - **3-or-more-physician groups**
 - **Ancillary providers** (e.g. nurse practitioners)
 - **Additional variables**
 - ✓ Parent/satellite for ALL groups
 - ✓ Valid phone number for ALL groups
 - ✓ Business manager for EACH group
 - ✓ Verification of x-ray and lab services at group site
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Other data files

Residency institution

- Name and address of completed residency programs

Hospital file

- Name and address of hospital where physician practices

DEA file

- AMA name, office address if available
- DEA number

Medical school

- Name and address of physician's medical school

Current Licensure

- Name, address, license type, expiration date, state of license, license status and more



Data collection and processing

- Begins when student enters medical school
- ME# is assigned upon entry and remains invariant throughout physician's career.
- AAMC - American Association of Medical Colleges provides initial student data
- Census of Graduate Medical Education provides residency training status



Data collection and processing

The Census of Physicians*:

- AMA surveys about **250,000** physicians annually
- Allows physicians to verify their data elements as contained on the Physician Masterfile
- Collects data on: specialty, TOP, PE, hospital privileges, office addresses, office phone numbers, fax numbers

*available on the DBL Web site



Data collection and processing

- **In May**, about **16,000** students graduate from medical school.
- **In mid-summer**, the AAMC and the AMA launch the GME Census through GMETrack*, an online application maintained by the AAMC.

* www.aamc.org/gmetrack



Data collection and processing

- **In August-December**, responses to GME survey are processed. Physicians completing residency move into appropriate TOP.
- **In December-January**, follow-up of survey non-responders occurs. AMA confirms about 8,000 international medical graduates with the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) and adds them to the file

AMA specialties



- **221** Self-designated practice specialties on the Physician Masterfile, including combined specialties
- Primary and secondary specialty as reported by the physician
- Resident specialties as reported by the GME program director



AMA specialties



Criteria to add SDPS codes to the Physician Masterfile:

- 
- A member board of the **ABMS®** issues a general or subspecialty certification
 - An accredited residency or subspecialty training program exists through the ACGME
 - Specialty shows a significant number of physicians and demand for services
- 

AMA specialties

Criteria to add SDPS codes to the Physician Masterfile:

- Specialty has broad professional support with new concepts in medical science
- Specialty is a well-defined new field of medicine that addresses specific patient groups, organ systems, diseases, or medical procedures.







AMA specialties



ABMS® board certification

- 
- Is a voluntary procedure to gain formal recognition of expertise in a specialty
 - Must meet requirements and pass the board examination
 - Obtained from the ABMS® under special AMA/ABMS contract.
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Data quality and standards

The AMA Physician Masterfile contains verified data sources numbering in the thousands.



Data quality and standards

Data Sources

- ✓ **ABMS®**
- ✓ **ACGME** residency programs
- ✓ **ECFMG**
- ✓ **AAMC**
- ✓ **CMS** - Centers for Medicare/Medicaid
- ✓ Other state and government agencies
- ✓ State licensing boards
- ✓ Medical and specialty societies
- ✓ **DEA**
- ✓ Medical schools
- ✓ AMA membership and subsidiaries
- ✓ Hospitals



Data quality and standards

Address standardization through Postal Soft:

- Weekly Coding Accuracy Support System (**CASS**) reports for physicians/students
- Weekly National Delivery Index (**NDI**) reports for physicians/students
- Approximately **96 percent** of PPMA addresses contain 11 digit zip codes

National Change of Address (NCOA) reports provided quarterly

Data quality and standards

- 100 mile radius program to ensure address accuracy
- Fax and phone numbers correlated with zip code
- Quarterly adjustment of unclassified physicians
- Exception reports produced weekly to monitor quality



Data quality and standards

Ongoing telephone and internet surveys to update:

- ✓ office address
- ✓ mailing address
- ✓ specialty
- ✓ TOP – type of practice
- ✓ PE – physician education

Physician Data Restriction Program (PDRP)

- Physicians may choose to prohibit the release of their prescribing data to pharmaceutical sales representatives (“opt-out” via PDRP)
- Pharmaceutical companies may continue access to prescribing data for business applications



Physician data restriction program (PDRP)

- In place since July 1, 2006
- Physicians may opt-back-in at any time
- Refer-a-colleague feature added in 2007
- Physicians opt-out via AMA website:
www.ama-assn.org/go/prescribingdata



