

# AMA Professional Physician Data (PPD File)

Department of Database Licensing  
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## Topics include:

- Physician Masterfile overview
- 2009 physician statistics
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- Data collection and processing
- AMA specialties
- Data quality and standards
- Physician Data Restriction Program (PDRP)
- AMA/DBL relationship

# 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**



# 2009 physician statistics

- Over **1,045,000** total records
- About **920,000** active physicians
- Over **800,000\*** physicians in direct patient care
- More than **600,000** physicians in office based practice
- Approximately **390,000** primary care physicians (DOs, MDs)

\*Includes residents

# Available data files

- Physicians
- Medical students
- Medical schools
- Residency institutions
- Hospital affiliations
- DEA
- Current licensure
- Group practices
- National Provider Identifier (NPI)



# Physician file

Over **1,045,000** total records

- Unique ME# - medical education number
- TOP - Type of practice
- PE - Present employment
- MPA - Major professional activity
- PPMA - Preferred professional mailing address
- POLO – Primary Office Location
- 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 **97 percent** deliverability (industry standard is 92 percent)
- Primary office location (POLO) addresses available for **89 percent** of direct patient care physicians\*

\*Excludes residents



# Physician file - addresses

## Maintained 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

*More than 40 million file updates are processed annually, averaging more than 100,000 updates every day*



# 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 **319,000** numbers
- Restricted use; users need AMA prior approval

# Medical student file

- Approximately **73,600** 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

- **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



# 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

## NPI file

- Name and National Provider Identifier (NPI) number

# 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 AMA 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 to collect resident specialties from graduate medical education (GME) programs.

[www.aamc.org/gmetrack](http://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 IMGs with the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) and adds them to the file



# AMA specialties

- **235** Self-Designated Practice Specialties (SDPS) on the Physician Masterfile
- 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

1. A member board of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) issues a certificate for the specialty
2. An accredited residency or subspecialty training program exists through the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)
3. One or more of the following conditions must apply:
  - Specialty shows a significant number of physicians because of demand for services
  - Has broad professional support because it presents new concepts in medical science
  - Is a well-defined new field of medicine that addresses problems of a specific patient group, organ system, disease, or medical procedure



# AMA specialties

## ABMS board certification

- A voluntary procedure to gain formal recognition of expertise in a specialty
- Physicians must meet requirements and pass the board examination
- Obtained from the ABMS® under special AMA/ABMS contract.

# Data quality and standards

The AMA Physician Masterfile contains verified data from 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 **97 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](http://www.ama-assn.org/go/prescribingdata)

# AMA/Database Licensee relationship

- AMA licenses the Physician Masterfile to **12** database licensees
- Licensees receive Physician Masterfile updates weekly.
- Licensees make data available to end users according to AMA guidelines
  - ✓ Lists
  - ✓ Databases



# AMA/Database Licensee relationship

## AMA obligations include:

- Timely and accurate Physician Masterfile and medical student data
- Contract administration support
- Client support
- Timely communication of file changes and enhancements



