

Health Services Cost Review Commission

Staff Recommendation on the University of Maryland  
School of Medicine-Baltimore's National Study Center  
for Trauma and EMS Request to access the HSCRC  
Confidential Patient Level Data

September 2, 2009

This recommendation was approved by the Commission on  
September 2, 2009.

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**Recommendation on the University of Maryland School of Medicine- Baltimore's National Study Center for Trauma and EMS Request to access the HSCRC Confidential Patient Level Data.**

**1. Summary Statement**

This is a request from the University Of Maryland School of Medicine ("UM") - Baltimore's National Study Center for Trauma and EMS ("NSC") to access the HSCRC inpatient and outpatient Confidential Data. The purpose of the UM –NSC request is for the data to be used as part of the Crash Outcome Data Evaluation Systems (CODES). The CODES project is funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for the purpose of making data related to traffic safety and injury available for analysis. **These data will not be used to identify individual hospitals or patients.**

**2. Requests for Access to the Confidential Patient Level Data.**

All requests for Confidential Data are reviewed by the Health Services Cost Review Commission Confidential Data Review Committee. The Review Committee reviews applications and makes recommendations to the Commission at its monthly public meeting. Applicants requesting access to the confidential data must demonstrate:

1. that the proposed study/ research is in the public interest;
2. that the study/ research design is sound from a technical perspective;
3. that the organization is credible;
4. that the organization is in full compliance with HIPAA, the Privacy Act, Freedom of Information Act, and all other state and federal laws and regulations, including Medicare regulations;
5. that there are adequate data security procedures to ensure protection of patient confidentiality.

The independent Confidential Data Review Committee, comprised of representatives from HSCRC staff and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, reviews the application to ensure it meets the above minimum requirements as outlined in the application form. The Applicant is also required to sign a data use agreement for the statewide inpatient and outpatient confidential level data sets format.

In this case, the Confidential Review Committee reviewed the request via conference call and unanimously agreed to recommend access to the confidential data. As a final step in the evaluation process, the Applicant will be required to file annual progress reports to the Commission, detailing any changes in goals or design of project, any changes in data handling procedures, work progress, and unanticipated events related to the confidentiality of the data.

**3. Recommendation:**

For the application listed, staff recommends that the request for access to the HSCRC confidential data files be approved.