MEDICARE BENEFICIARY SURVEY
Public Use Files
CODEBOOK

5/13/15

Codebook for the files that follow:

Patients_nat_public.sav (SPSS)
Patients_nat_public.dta (STATA)
Patients_nat_public.sas7dat (SAS)
Patients_nat_public.sas (contains SAS value labels)

CODE   LEGEND

INAP	Inapplicable	Based on response to filter question, respondent not asked the question
NA	Not Ascertained	Respondent chose not to answer the question
DK	Don't Know	Respondent answered Don't Know to the question

VARIABLE NAME	QUESTION TEXT	CODES
IDNUM	CSR ID NUMBER	
lang	Language of interview	1 ENGLISH 2 SPANISH
A1	When you answer the questions that follow, please do not include care you got when you stayed overnight in a hospital. Do not include the times you went for dental care visits. In the last 12 months, how many times did you go to an emergency room to get care for yourself?	0 NONE 1 1 TIME 2 2 TIMES 3 3 TIMES 4 4 TIMES 5 5 TO 9 TIMES 6 10 OR MORE TIMES 9 NA
A2	In the last 12 months, how many times did you go to a doctor's office or clinic to get care for yourself?	0 NONE 1 1 TIME 2 2 TIMES 3 3 TIMES 4 4 TIMES 5 5 TO 9 TIMES 6 10 OR MORE TIMES 9 NA
A3	In the last 12 months, how many different doctors did you see?	0 –> SKIP TO A5 1-50 51 MORE THAN 50 99 NA
A4	In the past 12 months, how often did doctors spend enough time with you? [NB: In phone interview, A5 is asked before A4.]	0 INAP 1 NEVER 2 SOMETIMES 3 USUALLY 4 ALWAYS 9 NA

VARIABLE NAME	QUESTION TEXT	CODES
A5	In the last 12 months, was there any medical care, tests, or treatment you wanted, but didn't get? [NB: In phone interview, A5 is asked before A4.]	1 YES 2 NO 9 NA
A6	Your personal doctor is the one you would see if you need a check-up, want advice about a health problem, or get sick or hurt. Do you have a personal doctor?	1 YES 2 NO –> SKIP TO A9 9 NA
A7	Is your personal doctor a general doctor who treats many different types of problems, or a specialist doctor who focuses on one major area or problem?	0 INAP 1 GENERAL DR 2 SPECIALIST DR 3 BOTH CHECKED 9 NA
A8	In the last 12 months, did you see your personal doctor? [NB: Item asked in mail questionnaire only.]	0 INAP 1 YES 2 NO –> SKIP TO A9 9 NA
A8a	About how long ago did you last see your personal doctor?	0 < 1 MONTH AGO 1-12 MONTHS AGO 13 > 1 YEAR AGO 98 INAP 99 NA
A9	Prescription medicine includes anything a doctor writes a prescription for. How many different prescription medicines are you currently using? [NB: Phone interview version: How many different prescription medicines are you currently using? (PROBE: Anything a doctor writes a prescription for counts as a medicine.)]	0 NONE –> SKIP TO A13 1-9 MEDICINES 10 10 OR MORE 99 NA

VARIABLE NAME	QUESTION TEXT	CODES
A9a	In the last 12 months, did you get any prescriptions for medicines that you had not taken before?	0 INAP 1 YES 2 NO –> SKIP TO A11 9 NA
A10	In the last 12 months, how often did doctors explain the purposes of these new medicines in a way that was easy to understand?	0 INAP 1 NEVER 2 SOMETIMES 3 USUALLY 4 ALWAYS 8 DIDN'T SEE MD 9 NA
A11	Do you think any of your prescription medicines are causing you any side effects?	0 INAP 1 YES 2 NO –> SKIP TO A13 9 NA
A12	Do any of your doctors know about these side effects?	0 INAP 1 YES 2 NO 9 NA
A13	In the last 12 months, was there ever a time when you wanted to see a specialist and didn't?	1 YES 2 NO 9 NA
A14	We want to know your rating of all your health care in the last 12 months from all doctors and other health providers. Using any number from 0 to 10 where 0 is the worst health care possible and 10 is the best health care possible, what number would you use to rate all your health care?	0-10 RATING 99 NA

VARIABLE NAME	QUESTION TEXT	CODES	
B1	Do you have any physical or medical conditions that often cause you pain or discomfort?	1 2 9	YES NO –> SKIP TO B3 NA
B2	Do any of your doctors know about this?	1 2 9	YES NO NA
B3	Do you think the quality of the health care you received in the last 12 months was better, worse, or about the same quality as most people your age get?	1 2 3 9	BETTER WORSE ABOUT THE SAME NA
B4	In the past 12 months, how would you describe your use of specialists? Would you say you have seen more specialists than you needed to, fewer than you needed to, or have you seen about the right number of specialists?	1 2 3 8 9	MORE THAN YOU NEEDED TO FEWER THAN YOU NEEDED TO RIGHT NUMBER OF SPECIALISTS HAVEN'T SEEN ANY SPECIALISTS NA
B5	When you are ill, would you rate your role in managing the illness as more important than the doctor's, equally as important as the doctor's, or less important than the doctor's?	1 2 3 9	MORE IMPORTANT EQUALLY AS IMPORTANT LESS IMPORTANT NA

VARIABLE NAME	QUESTION TEXT	CODES
B6	How confident are you that you can manage your health conditions?	1 VERY CONFIDENT 2 SOMEWHAT CONFIDENT 3 NOT VERY CONFIDENT 4 HAVE NO CONDITIONS 9 NA
B7	Are you someone who worries about health more than other people your age?	1 YES 2 NO 9 NA
B8	Are you someone who tries to avoid going to the doctor?	1 YES 2 NO 9 NA
B9	How important are financial issues for you when you decide whether or not to get any medical care?	1 VERY IMPORTANT 2 IMPORTANT 3 SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT 4 NOT IMPORTANT 9 NA
B10	In the last 12 months, did you ask a doctor for any medical care, tests or treatments because you heard that other people were getting them?	1 YES 2 NO 9 NA
B11	In general, do you think it is better for a patient to have one general doctor who manages most of their medical problems, or to have each problem cared for by a specialist?	1 ONE GENERAL DOCTOR 2 SPECIALISTS 7 DK 9 NA

VARIABLE NAME	QUESTION TEXT	CODES
B12	When people have illnesses, how important do you think it is for them to play a large part in planning their own treatment? Would you say very important, somewhat important, or not important?	1 VERY IMPORTANT 2 SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT 3 NOT IMPORTANT 7 DK 9 NA
B13	Compared to the rest of the United States, do you think **people in your community** get more medical care, less medical care or about the same amount?	1 MORE 2 LESS 3 ABOUT THE SAME 7 DK 9 NA
B14	Compared to the rest of the United States, do you think **people in your community** get better quality medical care, worse quality medical care or about the same quality?	1 BETTER 2 WORSE 3 ABOUT THE SAME 7 DK 9 NA
C1	If there was a kind of cancer for which nothing could be done, would you want to be tested to see if you have it?	1 YES 2 NO 9 NA
C2	Have you ever heard about cancers that grow so slowly that they are unlikely to cause you problems in your lifetime?	1 YES 2 NO 9 NA
C3	Would you want to be tested to see if you had a slowly growing cancer like that?	1 YES 2 NO 9 NA
C4	Colonoscopies and sigmoidoscopies are tests where a doctor inserts a tube into the rectum to look for signs of colon cancer. Have you ever had one of these tests?	1 YES 2 NO –> SKIP TO C5a 7 DK –> SKIP TO C5a 9 NA

VARIABLE NAME	QUESTION TEXT	CODES
C5	Doctors order these tests either as a routine check for colon cancer, or because there is some kind of problem like bleeding or pain. Did you ever have a colonoscopy or sigmoidoscopy as a routine check for colon cancer?	0 INAP 1 YES –> SKIP TO C6 2 NO 9 NA
C5A	Would you be interested in having either a colonoscopy or sigmoidoscopy to look for signs of colon cancer?	0 INAP 1 YES 2 NO 9 NA
C6	How much do you think screening for colon cancer reduces the risk of dying from colon cancer?	1 A LOT 2 SOME 3 A LITTLE 4 NOT AT ALL 7 DK 9 NA
C7	A CAT scan of the lungs is different from a chest xray. It is a test where a patient lies on a table and a large machine takes a series of pictures of the lungs to check for cancer. Have you ever had a test for lung cancer like this?	1 YES 2 NO –> SKIP TO C9 9 NA
C8	Was this a routine check for lung cancer, or were you having some kind of problem?	0 INAP 1 ROUTINE–>SKIP TO C10 2 SOME PROBLEM –> SKIP TO C10 9 NA
C9	Would you be interested in having a test like this to look for signs of lung cancer?	0 INAP 1 YES 2 NO 9 NA

VARIABLE NAME	QUESTION TEXT	CODES
C10	How much do you think screening for lung cancer reduces the risk of dying from lung cancer?	1 A LOT 2 SOME 3 A LITTLE 4 NOT AT ALL 7 DK 9 NA
D1	Has a doctor ever told you that you have heart disease?	1 YES 2 NO 9 NA
D2	During the last 12 months, did you have any pain, discomfort, pressure or heaviness in your chest?	1 YES 2 NO 9 NA
D3	During the last 12 months, were you bothered by shortness of breath?	1 YES 2 NO 9 NA
D4	In the last 12 months, did you see a cardiologist or other heart specialist?	1 YES –> SKIP TO D6 2 NO 9 NA
D5	Paper: Do you think you should have seen a cardiologist or other heart specialist? Phone: Do you think you should have seen a cardiologist or other heart specialist?	0 INAP 1 YES –> SKIP TO D9 2 NO –> SKIP TO D9 9 NA
D6	Do you have regular appointments with a cardiologist or other heart specialist?	0 INAP 1 YES 2 NO –> SKIP TO D9 9 NA

VARIABLE NAME	QUESTION TEXT	CODES
D7	How often do you have an appointment with a cardiologist or other heart specialist?	0 INAP 1 EVERY MONTH 2 EVERY 3 MONTHS 3 EVERY 6 MONTHS 4 ONCE A YEAR 8 OTHER 9 NA
D7Atxt	Other specification at question D7	
D8	Who decided how often these appointments should be scheduled - mainly you, mainly the doctor, or both you and the doctor?	0 INAP 1 MAINLY R 2 MAINLY DR 3 BOTH 9 NA
D9	An EKG is a test where electrodes and wires are hooked up to a person's chest. In the last 12 months, have you had an EKG?	1 YES –> SKIP TO D11 2 NO 9 NA
D10	Do you think an EKG would have been a good idea for you?	0 INAP 1 YES 2 NO 7 DK 9 NA
D11	A stress test is a test to check a person's heart, while they are on a treadmill. In the last 12 months, have you had a stress test?	1 YES –> SKIP TO D13 2 NO 9 NA

VARIABLE NAME	QUESTION TEXT	CODES
D12	Do you think a stress test would have been a good idea for you?	0 INAP 1 YES 2 NO 7 DK 9 NA
D13	An angiogram is a test where a small tube is inserted through a person's leg artery to look directly at the heart. In the last 12 months, have you had an angiogram?	1 YES –> SKIP TO D15 2 NO 9 NA
D14	Do you think an angiogram would have been a good idea for you?	0 INAP 1 YES 2 NO 7 DK 9 NA
D15	In the last 12 months, do you think that you had too few, too many, or about the right number of tests for heart disease?	1 TOO FEW 2 TOO MANY 3 RIGHT NUMBER 9 NA
E1	Suppose you noticed a mild but definite chest pain when walking up stairs. Do you think you'd be more likely to try to see a doctor right away or wait to see if the pain would go away?	1 SEE DR –> SKIP TO E3 2 WAIT 9 NA
E2	Suppose you noticed this pain for a week. Would you be more likely to go to see a doctor or wait to see if the pain would go away?	0 INAP 1 SEE DR 2 WAIT 9 NA

VARIABLE NAME	QUESTION TEXT	CODES
E3	Suppose you went to your regular doctor for that chest pain and your doctor did not think you needed any special tests but said you could have some tests if you wanted. If the tests did not have any health risks, do you think you would probably have the tests or probably not have them? [NB: *Phone interview wording change*: Suppose you went to your regular doctor for that chest pain and (she/he) said (she/he) did not think you needed any special tests but said you could have some tests if you wanted.]	1 HAVE TESTS 2 NOT HAVE TESTS 9 NA
E4	Suppose your doctor told you he or she did not think you needed to see a heart specialist, but you could see one if you wanted. Do you think you would probably ask to see a specialist, or probably not see a specialist?	1 SEE SPECIALIST 2 NOT SEE SPECIALIST 9 NA
E5	Suppose you had had the flu and after the other symptoms were gone, you still had a severe cough. If the cough lasted 2 days after your flu seemed to be over, would you be more likely to go see a doctor or wait longer to see if the cough went away?	1 SEE DR –> SKIP TO E7 2 WAIT 9 NA
E6	If the cough lasted a week, do you think you'd be more likely to go see a doctor or wait longer to see if it went away?	0 INAP 1 SEE DR 2 WAIT 9 NA
E7	Suppose you went to your regular doctor for that cough. If he or she said you probably did not need a chest xray, but you could have one if you wanted, would you be more likely to have the xray or not have the x-ray?	1 HAVE XRAY 2 NOT HAVE XRAY 9 NA

VARIABLE NAME	QUESTION TEXT	CODES
E8	If your regular doctor said you probably did not need to see a lung specialist, but you could if you wanted to, would you be more likely to go see a specialist or not to see the specialist? [NB: *Phone interview version*: If (she/he) said you probably did not need to see a lung specialist, but you could if you wanted to, would you be more likely to go see a specialist or not to see the specialist?]	1 SEE SPECIALIST 2 NOT SEE SPECIALIST 9 NA
E9	The next set of questions are about care a patient may receive during the last months of life. Remember, you can skip any question you don't want to answer. Suppose that you had a very serious illness. Imagine that no one knew exactly how long you would live, but your doctors said you almost certainly would live less than 1 year. In that situation, would you be more concerned that you would receive too little medical treatment, or too much medical treatment?	1 TOO MUCH 2 TOO LITTLE 3 NOT CONCERNED 7 DK 9 NA
E10	If that illness got worse, where would you like to spend your last days -- in a hospital, in a nursing home, or at your own home?	1 HOSPITAL 2 NURSING HOME 3 HOME 7 DK 9 NA
E11	To deal with that illness, do you think you would want drugs that would make you feel worse all the time but might prolong your life?	1 YES - DRUGS 2 NO 7 DK 9 NA
E12	If you reached the point at which you were feeling bad all the time, would you want drugs that would make you feel better, even if they might shorten your life?	1 YES - DRUGS 2 NO 7 DK 9 NA

VARIABLE NAME	QUESTION TEXT	CODES
E13	If you needed a respirator to stay alive, and it would extend your life for a week, would you want to be put on a respirator?	1 YES –> SKIP TO E15 2 NO 7 DK 9 NA
E14	If it would extend your life for a month, would you want to be put on a respirator?	0 INAP 1 YES 2 NO 7 DK 9 NA
E15	From what you know, about how many people who need a respirator to keep them alive are able to get back to their normal activities? Would you say more than half, about half, less than half, almost none or none?	1 MORE THAN HALF 2 ABOUT HALF 3 LESS THAN HALF 4 ALMOST NONE OR NONE 7 DK 9 NA
F1	Is your home a nursing home, a private home, an assisted living facility, or other? [NB: *Question asked in mail questionnaire only*.]	0 INAP 1 NURSING HOME –> SKIP TO F4 2 PRIVATE HOME 3 ASSISTED LIVING 4 OTHER
F1txt	Other specification at question F1	
F2	How many people live in your home, including you?	1 LIVE ALONE –> SKIP TO F4 2- 9 PEOPLE 99 NA

VARIABLE NAME	QUESTION TEXT	CODES
F3a	How are (they/is that person) related to you? Person #1	0=INAP 1=SPOUSE/PARTNER 2=PARENT 3=SIBLING 4=FRIEND 5=CHILD 6=GRANDPARENT 7=GRANDCHILD 8=AUNT / UNCLE 9=NIECE / NEPHEW 10=COUSIN 11=ROOMMATE 12=MOTHER/FATHER IN-LAW 13=SISTER/BROTHER IN-LAW 14=SON/DAUGHTER IN-LAW 22=PARTNER'S PARENT 23=PARTNER'S SIBLING 24=PARTNER'S FRIEND 25=PARTNER'S CHILD 26=PARTNER'S GRANDPARENT 27=PARTNER'S GRANDCHILD 28=PARTNER'S AUNT / UNCLE 29=PARTNER'S NIECE / NEPHEW 30=PARTNER'S COUSIN 95=OTHER RELATIVE 97=DK 96=OTHER NON-RELATIVE 98=OTHER 99=NA
F3b	How are (they/is that person) related to you? Person #2	SEE F3a

VARIABLE NAME	QUESTION TEXT	CODES
F3c	How are (they/is that person) related to you? Person #3	SEE F3a
F3d	How are (they/is that person) related to you? Person #4	SEE F3a
F3e	How are (they/is that person) related to you? Person #5	SEE F3a
F3f	How are (they/is that person) related to you? Person #6	SEE F3a
F3g	How are (they/is that person) related to you? Person #7 *[NB: Phone interview only]*	SEE F3a
F3h	How are (they/is that person) related to you? Person #8 *[NB: Phone interview only]*	SEE F3a
F4	Personal contact can be face to face, on the phone, by letters or by email. In the last 12 months, about how often did you have personal contact with family members (who do not live with you)?	1 DAILY 2 WEEKLY 3 MONTHLY 4 LESS OFTEN 5 NEVER 8 HAVE NO LIVING FAMILY MEMBERS 9 NA
F5	In the last 12 months, about how often did you have personal contact with friends (who do not live with you)?	1 DAILY 2 WEEKLY 3 MONTHLY 4 LESS OFTEN 5 NEVER 8 HAVE NO FRIENDS 9 NA
F6	When you are with other people, about how often does someone talk about their health or a health care issue?	1 DAILY 2 WEEKLY 3 MONTHLY 4 LESS OFTEN 5 NEVER 9 NA

VARIABLE NAME	QUESTION TEXT	CODES
F7	About how often do you attend church, synagogue or mosque?	1 DAILY 2 WEEKLY 3 MONTHLY 4 LESS OFTEN 5 NEVER 9 NA
F8	About how often do you attend social or community groups or activities?	1 DAILY 2 WEEKLY 3 MONTHLY 4 LESS OFTEN 5 NEVER 9 NA
F9	If you were very sick and could not take care of yourself at all, is there someone who could fix meals and take care of things around your house for a week?	1 YES 2 NO 9 NA
G1	In general, how would you rate your overall health?	1 POOR 2 FAIR 3 GOOD 4 VERY GOOD 5 EXCELLENT 9 NA
G2	In general, how would you rate your overall mental or emotional health?	1 POOR 2 FAIR 3 GOOD 4 VERY GOOD 5 EXCELLENT 9 NA
G3	How old were you on your last birthday?	999 NA

VARIABLE NAME	QUESTION TEXT	CODES
G4	Are you male or female?	1 MALE 2 FEMALE 9 NA
G5	What is the highest grade or level of school that you have completed?	1 8TH GRADE OR LESS 2 SOME HIGH SCHOOL, BUT DID NOT GRADUATE 3 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE OR GED 4 SOME COLLEGE OR 2-YEAR DEGREE 5 4-YEAR COLLEGE GRADUATE 6 MORE THAN 4-YEAR COLLEGE DEGREE 9 NA
G6	Are you of Hispanic or Latino origin or descent?	1 HISPANIC 2 NOT HISPANIC 9 NA
G7a	(In addition to being Hispanic or Latino) What is your race? Please choose one or more of the following... White?	1 YES 2 NO 9 NA
G7b	Black?	1 YES 2 NO 9 NA
G7c	Asian?	1 YES 2 NO 9 NA

VARIABLE NAME	QUESTION TEXT	CODES
G7d	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander?	1 YES 2 NO 9 NA
G7e	American Indian/Alaskan Indian/Alaska Native?	1 YES 2 NO 9 NA
G7f	Other (specify)?	1 YES 2 NO 9 NA
G7ftxt	Other specification at G7f	
G8	Did someone help you complete this survey? *[NB: Question asked in mail questionnaire only.]*	0 INAP 1 YES 2 NO –> SKIP TO END 9 NA
G9 G9a G9b G9c G9d G9e	How did that person help you? (Please mark one or more.) Read the questions to me Wrote down the answers I gave Answered the questions for me Translated the questions into my language Helped in some other way (please print.) *[NB: Question asked in mail questionnaire only.]*	0 INAP 1 READ QUESTIONS 2 WROTE ANSWERS 3 ANSWERED FOR ME 4 TRANSLATED 5 OTHER
G9etxt	Other specification at G9e	
COMPQ	INTERVIEWER: PLEASE RATE THE R'S ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS IN THIS INTERVIEW. *[NB: Question in phone interview only.]*	0 INAP 1 EXCELLENT 2 VERY GOOD 3 GOOD 4 FAIR 5 POOR 9 NA

VARIABLE NAME	QUESTION TEXT	CODES
mode	Mode of interview	1 PHONE 2 MAIL 3 MIXED
SAMPLE	SAMPLE SOURCE	1 NATIONAL
St1	Original state from CMS	
st2	Updated state – Respondents residence when interviewed	
add_change	Address Update– Flag to indicate change in address from the one originally from CMS	
quintile	Quintile of intensity	1 = Lowest 5 = Highest
intab	Quintile variable for eolei (intensity A and B)	

VARIABLE NAME	QUESTION TEXT	CODES
NwWeight	Non-response weight for the Nationwide data file	The design for the Nationwide sample for this study was a simple random self-weighting sample. Due to this, all analyses can be conducted without weighting. Still, a weight is included on the data file in the variable "nwweight". This weight adjusts for both probability of selection and survey non-response. No post-stratification weighting adjustment was performed. When applied in analyses, this weight serves to produce estimated population totals. Note that if producing estimated population totals using specific survey questions, this weight does not adjust for item non-response for any specific question. For more accurate population total estimates, item non-response adjustments should be performed. As an example, suppose the specific question of interest had 5% (.05) missing values due to survey non-response. Then nwweight can be adjusted for this item non-response by simply creating a new weight defined as (nwweight / 0.95).
rucac	RUCA category based on zip codes	1 Urbanized Core 2 Suburban 3 Large town 4 Small town/isolated
lowinc	Median family income zipcode level <24k	0 Greater than 24K 1 Less than 24K
highinc	Median family income zipcode level >55k	0 Less than 55K 1 Greater than 55K

VARIABLE NAME	QUESTION TEXT	CODES
irisk14	IEZ14 diabetes (NB: does not include anyone in an HMO in 2004 or anyone under 65)	0 Does not have IEZ14 1 Has IEZ14
sumrisks	Sum of Iezzoni chronic conditions based on 2004 claims (NB: does not include anyone in an HMO in 2004 or anyone under 65) IEZ1: cancer solid tumors IEZ2: lymphomas + leuk IEZ3: Chron pulmonary IEZ4: Coronary artery IEZ5: CHF IEZ6: Peripheral vasc IEZ7: severe chronic liver IEZ8: diabetes w/end organ IEZ9: chronic renal fail IEZ10: nutritional deficiency IEZ11: dementia	