

PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN FORMULARY AND PHARMACY NETWORK PUBLIC USE FILE METHODOLOGY

This monthly Public Use File (PUF) is comprised of 8 separate files. Each file is flat (ASCII) with pipe (|) delimiters and a header record that contains the field name. Sample files are included for the larger files so that users can examine the fields before processing.

The PUF is built from data included in the first new posting for a given month on the Medicare Plan Finder (MPF) tool available at <https://www.medicare.gov/>. Pharmacy network and drug pricing data are updated on the MPF tool every two weeks, thus the data in this PUF may not match exactly what currently appears on the MPF tool. Each PUF has a naming convention of YYYY.YYYYMMDD.zip. The first four digits of the zip file's name corresponds to the contract year (CY) of the data included in the PUF. The final eight digits correspond to the date posted to the CMS website.

Three types of Part D plans appear in the PUF. "Local Medicare Advantage" plans are identified by a CONTRACT_ID that begins with the letter H. "Regional Medicare Advantage" plans are identified by a CONTRACT_ID that begins with the letter R. Stand-alone "Prescription Drug Plans" are identified by a CONTRACT_ID that begins with the letter S. Each plan is uniquely identified by the combination of CONTRACT_ID, PLAN_ID, and SEGMENT_ID (note that SEGMENT_ID is always zero for R and S contracts). The following Plans are not included in this Public Use File:

- Non-Part D Plans
- National PACE Plans
- Employer Sponsored Plans
- Demonstration Plans (MMPs are included)

Plans whose data has been suppressed in the PUF reporting period due to plan request, data inaccuracy, or other issues identified by CMS appear in the Plan Information file with the PLAN_SUPPRESSED_YN field set to "Y". They do not appear in any other files.

The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA) made changes to the Part D benefit. Starting in Coverage Year (CY) 2025, the benefit has three phases instead of four: the deductible phase, the initial coverage phase, and the catastrophic phase¹. Since the coverage gap benefit phase was eliminated, the Medicare Coverage Gap Discount Program (CGDP) sunset as of January 1, 2025, and was replaced with the Medicare Part D Manufacturer Discount Program (Discount Program), effective January 1, 2025². Under the Discount Program, participating manufacturers are required to provide discounts on their applicable drugs both in the initial and catastrophic coverage phases of the Part D benefit. These files do not reflect discounts applied to these drugs.

The PUF contains the following files:

1. Plan Information File - Includes information for each plan (name, contract ID, plan ID, service area, etc.).

¹ The following link will take you to final Part D redesign information: <https://www.cms.gov/inflation-reduction-act-and-medicare/part-d-improvements>.

² The following link will take you to Medicare Part D Manufacturer Discount Program information: <https://www.cms.gov/inflation-reduction-act-and-medicare/part-d-improvements>.

2. Geographic Locator File - Includes the Medicare Advantage (MA) and Prescription Drug Plan (PDP) Region codes and county codes.
3. Basic Drugs Formulary File - Includes formulary details for each plan including National Drug Codes (NDCs), tier level, and indicators for step therapy, quantity limits, and prior authorization.
4. Excluded Drugs Formulary File - Enhanced alternative plans may elect to provide a supplemental benefit and cover excluded drugs. File includes formulary details for excluded drugs that are covered by the plan (for enhanced alternative plans only).
5. Beneficiary Cost File - Plan level cost sharing details for preferred and standard retail and mail-order network pharmacies.
6. Pharmacy Network File - National Provider Identifier (NPI) numbers for each retail and mail-order network pharmacy including preferred, retail, and mail-order indicators.
7. Indication Based Coverage Formulary File - Includes drugs covered based on FDA-approved indication for each plan.
8. Insulin Beneficiary Cost File - Plan level cost sharing details for insulin at preferred and standard retail and mail-order network pharmacies.

Please refer to the Record Layout for file layouts and field values.