

INGENIX[®]

PHCS[®] Benchmarking Databases

Executive Summary

The Prevailing Healthcare Charges System (PHCS[®]) is a powerful benchmarking database that helps you develop your reimbursement schedule for both in- and out-of-network claim payments so you can review claims with efficiency and confidence. PHCS can help you:

- Access claims-based data for local charge levels
- Negotiate fees effectively with a recognized benchmarking product
- Manage reimbursement risk while controlling administrative costs

Overview

This highly respected system contains more than 1 billion current, unique, and continuously updated provider charges now in use by many of the largest private health care companies. PHCS employs actual charge data, conversion factors, and relative value scales to calculate data benchmarking amounts.

Extensive Data Collection

PHCS was created by the Health Insurance Association of America (HIAA) in 1974 with submissions from a broad base of health insurance companies. Though no longer affiliated with HIAA, Ingenix PHCS collects provider charge data from major contributors around the country. Our PHCS facility products rely upon charges billed to Medicare.

Continual Updates

The PHCS reputation, built over more than three decades, attracts hundreds of subscribers annually, including many of the nation's major health insurance companies, third-party administrators, self-insured groups, health maintenance organizations, and preferred provider organizations. PHCS modules are updated regularly to capture geographic billing or pricing trends in health care. Each release uses data from a 12-month moving window prior to the release date. For facility modules, data is on different moving windows.

PHCS is offered as a series of modules configured to meet the various needs of payers and claim types paid.

Medical/Surgical, Geozip * 301 | Percentiles displayed in whole dollars.

Code	Description	50th	60th	70th	75th	80th	85th	90th	95th
45378	DIAGNOSTIC COLONOSCOPY	764	783	859	887	907	939	1,008	1,105
71020	CHEST X-RAY	102	103	106	107	107	107	113	122
85025	COMPLETE CBC W/AUTO DIFF WBC	32	33	35	37	38	42	44	47

* Geozip = geographic zip code group. Data for illustrative purposes only.

Industry Recognition

For the past three decades, Ingenix data products have been among the most requested and recognized data products for benchmarking information. Our vast repository of current claims is one of the largest anywhere, and is divided into approximately 475 geographic areas.

Key Features

Ingenix is an expert at packaging data and information for improved pricing accuracy. PHCS modules combine experience, objectivity, and expertise to give you a more complete picture of the current marketplace and help you make the right decisions.

- **Actual data**—Ingenix creates relative and actual charge data from its validated data source. Percentiles are based on “actual” data where the frequency (i.e., occurrences of a procedure code in a geographic area) is at least nine. Where frequency is less than nine, often for new or infrequently reported procedures, we derive by employing conversion factors and relative values.
- **Data validation**—Ingenix developed and employs a unique data validation technology to review service, geographic, allowed amount, and billed charge records before including them in the PHCS database.
- **Relative value scale**—This numeric ranking compares procedures’ difficulty, time, risk, and resources used.
- **Conversion factors**—A conversion factor places billing patterns on a common scale for comparison by assigning a price per unit of relative value.
- **Geozips**—Geozips are groupings of one or more three-digit zip codes that describe geographic areas defined primarily by charge data similarity and geographic proximity. Approximately 475 geozips are evaluated annually.
- **Industry recognition**—The PHCS Payment System has been one of the most requested and recognized benchmark data products because of our database’s volume, geographic breakdowns, and timeliness.
- **National and regional data**—While most subscribers find their needs best served by our nationwide data, PHCS data is available in regional format to eligible organizations.
- **IPS PC** is a Windows®-based lookup program that gives instant access to all database products.
- **IPS Online** is a web-based lookup program that gives instant access to all database products.

PHCS Support Services

A wide variety of output formats is available for most systems, including CD-ROM, web fulfillment, as well as bound volumes. We stand behind our database products with comprehensive support services.

- **Ingenix benchmarking services**—Our customized analytical services division will help you meet your business objectives with consulting services that are either complementary to our standard PHCS products or independent of them.
- **Product support**—We provide a toll-free number for assistance with basic coding questions, product-specific questions, and various other data-related inquiries.
- **Technical support**—Our expert IT team stands ready to address your format, installation, and general technical questions via telephone or email.
- **Dispute resolution**—Your license to this module includes access to materials and support that can assist you in resolving disputes.
- **Customer website**—Access documentation and valuable support materials including users’ guides, record layouts, installation instructions, news, information, and relevant clinical topics.
- **Web fulfillment**—Keep your data modules current with fast and convenient downloads. We’ll send you email notification of new version releases.

Available PHCS Modules

- **Allowed Medical/Surgical**
- **Anesthesia**
- **Dental**
- **Medical/Surgical**
- **HCPCS**
- **Inpatient Facility**
- **Outpatient Facility**
- **RBRVS**

Ingenix | Intelligence for Health Care | www.ingenix.com

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