SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

Data Sources

Medicare Beneficiary Annual Summary Files (BASF) 2009-2010

The Summary File is used to identify fee-for-service beneficiaries. Fee-for-service beneficiaries are defined here as those enrolled in Part A and Part B Medicare for at least 10 months in which Medicare was the primary payer and excludes any beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare Advantage, due to the lack of complete reimbursement data. The total reimbursement for inpatient stays for each beneficiary was captured from the BASF variables MEDREIMB_IP. Mortality was calculated from BASF variable BENE_DOD (date of death), and the number of unique hospitalizations was derived from BASF variable IPSTY.

Medicare Master Beneficiary Summary File (MBSF): Base Segment, Chronic Conditions Segment and the Cost and Utilization Segment 2011-2013

Medicare DMERC File 2009-2013 (DME) was used to determine if a beneficiary ordered SMBG supplies. DME uses the Health Care Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) to A4253 to code for diabetes testing strips. If a beneficiary purchased diabetes testing strips, he/she would have a HCPCS_CD A4253 in their DME record. The record would also contain the service date and the amount of SMBG testing supplies acquired. Each record for the purchase of diabetes testing strips also contained a modifier in which a "KL" code designated the diabetes testing strips were acquired through mail order. The absence of the modifier noted a retail purchase.

We used the PROD_SRVC_ID (a reformatted version of the insulin's national drug code) variable in Medicare Part D Event File 2009-2013 to determine if a beneficiary was on insulin therapy.

We used the PROD_SRVC_ID (a reformatted version of the insulin's national drug code) variable in Medicare Part D Event File 2009-2012 to determine if a beneficiary was on insulin therapy. We used the following PROD-SRVC_ID codes for insulin to identify the type of insulin obtained: 00088250033, 00088250052, 68115074610, 00002879959, 00002872559, 00002872501, 00002751559, 00002751001, 00002751659, 00002879859, 00002879359, 00002751201, 00002879759, 00002879459, 00002751101, 00002966001, 00002951501, 00002877059, 00002877001, 00002871501, 54868274600, 49999099310, 54569346700, 00002871759, 00002841501, 00002873001, 00002831501, 00002873059, 54569231800, 68115072905, 54569231900, 68115072810, 00002850101, 00002821501, 54569560500, 49999099410, 68115083910, 00088222052, 00088222033, 00088222060, 00169643910, 00169368712, 00169347718, 00169183711, 54868347400, 32849070801, 59060183702, 59060231704, 00169231721, 00169183717, 00169347418, 00169183411, 32849070601, 59060183402, 00169231421, 00169347318, 00169231321, 00169183311, 32849070701, 68115070905, 59060183302, 32849050081, 00169750111, 00169633910, 00169330312, 00169369619, 00169368512, 00169368213.