



PAMA Data Files Frequently Asked Questions

Why do some records in the detail data contain blank CPT codes, zero units, and/or no date of service?

These records represent tickets within the initial population of tickets selected for PAMA reporting that do not have 835 remittance data, LIRP data, or applicable CPT codes.

Why do some records in the detail data have zero units, but all other fields are populated?

These records reflect the data returned in payer 835 remittances. The payer did not return the number of units, so the record in the detail data displays zero units.

Why are tickets with zero allowed amounts included in the detail data?

Tickets that have zero allowed amounts are included in the detail data to show which tickets initially qualified for PAMA reporting, but they are not included in the summary data file.

Why do some records have 1/1/1900 dates of service?

If the record has a 1/1/1900 date of service, the data source for that record is a payer 835 remittance. In that remittance, the payer did not return a date of service, so the date of service for that record defaulted to 1/1/1900.

Will the prototype and final data files be provided as CSV files, which is the format required by CMS?

Yes. Quadax is providing both the prototype and final data files in CSV file format, so no manipulation is needed before submitting to CMS.

The data collection period is from January 1 through June 30, 2019, but some records in the detail data have a check date in 2018. Should these be included?

Yes. HARP LIRP and 835 remittance data posted in January 2019 could have December 2018 check dates, so all remittances that have a billing month within the data collection period and a check date between December 1, 2018, and June 30, 2019, are included.

Do the files represent the entire PAMA reporting period?

Yes. To ensure that all final payments made during the data collection period are included in reporting, Quadax examined data from January 1 through December 31, 2019. The period of January 1 through June 30, 2019, is examined because that is the data collection period defined by CMS, and qualifying receipts posted during the data collection period must be reported. Note that when a ticket has multiple payments during the data collection period, Quadax has made the reasonable assumption that final payment is the most recent allowed amount. The period of July 1 through December 31, 2019, is examined because a receipt posted on the ticket six months after the data collection period with the same receipt source as the receipt posted to the ticket during the data collection period indicates that the receipt posted during the data collection period is likely not a final payment.

Are we able to include a certain financial category but exclude a specific insurance plan?

Yes, you can exclude at both the insurance plan and financial category level. To make exclusions based on insurance plan or financial category, please contact your Quadax Account Executive, who will notify the RA Call Center of your request and ensure the exclusion is implemented in the data.

How are secondary and supplemental insurances determined? Are they included in the data?

In HARP, supplemental insurances are categorized as secondary insurances. Payments from supplemental and secondary insurances are not included in the data files. Quadax made the reasonable assumption that only payments from primary payers should be included in reporting, but clients are welcome to modify the summary data to include payments from secondary payers. Please note, however, that by reporting the allowed amount, secondary, tertiary, and patient payments are addressed.

Why are there negative payment rates in the summary data?

A negative payment rate indicates that the payment received from the payer could be a refund or reversal, but the payer did not identify it as a refund or reversal in the 835 remittance. Insurance refunds and reversals are excluded from reporting, but when the payer assigns the payment a negative value without identifying it as a refund or reversal in the remittance, the payment is not considered a refund or reversal, and it is included in the summary data.