Data dictionary for the SEER portion of SEER-Medicare can be found [here](https://healthcaredelivery.cancer.gov/seermedicare/aboutdata/SEER-Medicare.Cancer.File.pdf) [PDF]. The Medicare claims data dictionaries can be found [here](https://healthcaredelivery.cancer.gov/seermedicare/medicare/claims.html) [external link].

**Type of Data**

Administrative billing database linked with [Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results (SEER)](https://seer.cancer.gov/) [external link].

**Years Available**

1999-2019\*\*  
Note: The available timeframe depends on cancer site. Please see SEER-Medicare data availability [here](https://healthcaredelivery.cancer.gov/seermedicare/medicare/table.html) [external link].

**Short Description**

SEER-Medicare links two large databases to provide detailed clinical information for a subset of Medicare beneficiaries. In other words, the data available in SEER-Medicare goes well beyond that of the CMS SAFs, offering data on clinical staging, tumor characteristics, and treatment.

**Strengths**

* Many years of data available means that 'trend' studies are possible
* Clinical data adds much needed dimensionality to Medicare claims data. Similarly, the claims data offer a far more complete picture of the "healthcare footprint" for an individual patient
* Geographic information includes beneficiary state and county which can be linked with external data sources

**Limitations**

* Not all states participate in SEER so study sample is not fully representative of the United States
* Complexity of the data tied with challenges in deciphering site-specific values of variables can make analyzing this data cumbersome

**SDC Members with Expertise**

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* [Djhenne Dalmacy](mailto:djhenne.dalmacy@osumc.edu) [email] ([5 publications](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=djhenne+dalmacy+seer-medicare&sort=fauth&size=200)) [external link].