

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Transparency Analytics

In accordance with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS') Transparency in Coverage rule, health plans have begun publishing machine-readable files (MRFs) containing in-network negotiated rates and out-of-network allowed amounts. While MRF data is available on public websites, it is often difficult to access and process due to variations in file size, format, and approach. As a result, gathering this information can be extremely challenging for health plans with limited time and resources.

Transparency Analytics from Blue Health Intelligence® (BHI®) helps health plans transform MRFs into valuable pricing intelligence.

What are MRFs and why are their file sizes so big?

MRFs are digital representations of data that can be imported or read by a computer for further processing. These files are in the CMS-defined format (JSON or XML) and contain highly detailed pricing information, such as negotiated rates, in-network pricing, and historical net prices for services, physical goods, and drugs. Given the volumes of data you are required to share on a regular basis, files for an individual health plan can add up to hundreds of terabytes. Our Transparency Analytics solution is designed to transform curated MRF data into immediate insights that allow you to maintain a competitive edge.

What is Transparency Analytics?

BHI's Transparency Analytics delivers timely data insights uniquely structured to accelerate your plan's analyses and internal pricing and contracting strategies. To complement your current processes and workflows, Transparency Analytics can be accessed via:

- **A cloud-based data mart** that enables analytics teams to pair MRF data with internal data sets and use cases
- **Dynamic and insightful data visualization reporting** designed for analytics and business users alike

With Transparency Analytics, you can:

- Access reliable competitor data that can be seen alongside your plan data
- Dig into provider rates and services relative to your competitors and market peers
- Get a clearer picture with the combined power of BHI's national data, your plan's data, and publicly available MRFs

How does Transparency Analytics work?

BHI's Transparency Analytics is highly flexible and provides access to both a cloud-based analytics mart and insightful reports according to your preferences. For example, Transparency Analytics reporting provides an easy-to-understand, color-coded overview of how your pricing compares to other health plans in a given geographical area.

In addition, Transparency Analytics can help your plan save time and resources through several BHI-led activities:

- **Data ingestion** compiles thousands of data files posted by plans and providers across the Internet
- **File evaluation** ensures data quality and accuracy
- **Data aggregation** compiles MRF data from plans across the country
- **Enrichment processes** attach provider information, plan data, service groupings, and volume for weighting
- **Analytics processes** adjust for data shortcomings, missing data, and estimates for market size
- **Personalized analytics** accelerate your analytics efforts by allowing you to quickly understand competitive positioning and performance

How does Transparency Analytics address missing information from MRFs?

BHI enriches MRF data with national data and provider remuneration system data to identify regional and applicable national providers that may not be included in MRFs.

How can my plan benefit from Transparency Analytics?

BHI's Transparency Analytics exclusively combines MRF data with claims data for 200+ million claimants to enable weighting factors specific to provider and service and generate more accurate pricing efficiency measures. The combined power of BHI's national data, your plan's data, and MRFs allows for greater ease and visibility into the competition, allowing you to:

- Optimize pricing strategies (by provider or service) to be competitive across markets
- Refine networks to benefit clients and members
- Inform client acquisition and retention strategies

How do I get started with Transparency Analytics?

Schedule a free consultation to determine how BHI's Transparency Analytics would improve your competitive positioning. [Contact us today.](#)

Source: CMS, "Transparency in Coverage Final Rule Fact Sheet," October 29, 2020.

