



## *How to Find Ambulance Services in the Medicare Claims Data*

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Ambulance services can be considered either a supplier or a provider claim depending on who owns the ambulance. If the ambulance service is independently owned, it is considered a supplier and if it is owned by a hospital, it is considered a provider. Suppliers submit claims to a Carrier and these claims would be found in the Carrier Standard Analytic File (SAF). Providers submit claims to a Fiscal Intermediary and these claims would be found in the Outpatient SAF.

According to information supplied on the CMS website in 2003, CMS reported that in 1998 approximately 9 million ambulance claims were filed through a Carrier and 1 million through a Fiscal Intermediary. While the majority of ambulance claims would be found in the Carrier SAF, claims would also be found in the Outpatient SAF. So, in order for a researcher to have a complete picture of ambulance claims, the researcher should request both files.

Services provided in an ambulance are billed using Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes. For information related to how ambulance suppliers and providers are to complete the claim form, please see the Internet Only Manual, 100-04 Claims Processing, [Chapter 15 Ambulance](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/downloads/clm104c15.pdf) (<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/downloads/clm104c15.pdf>) Section 30.1 for Supplier claims and Section 30.2 for Provider claims.

For additional information regarding the billing of ambulance services see:

- [CMS Ambulance Service Center](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/center/ambulance.asp) (<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/center/ambulance.asp>)

If you have any questions or comments, ResDAC staff can be contacted at 1-888-ResDAC or [resdac@umn.edu](mailto:resdac@umn.edu)

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