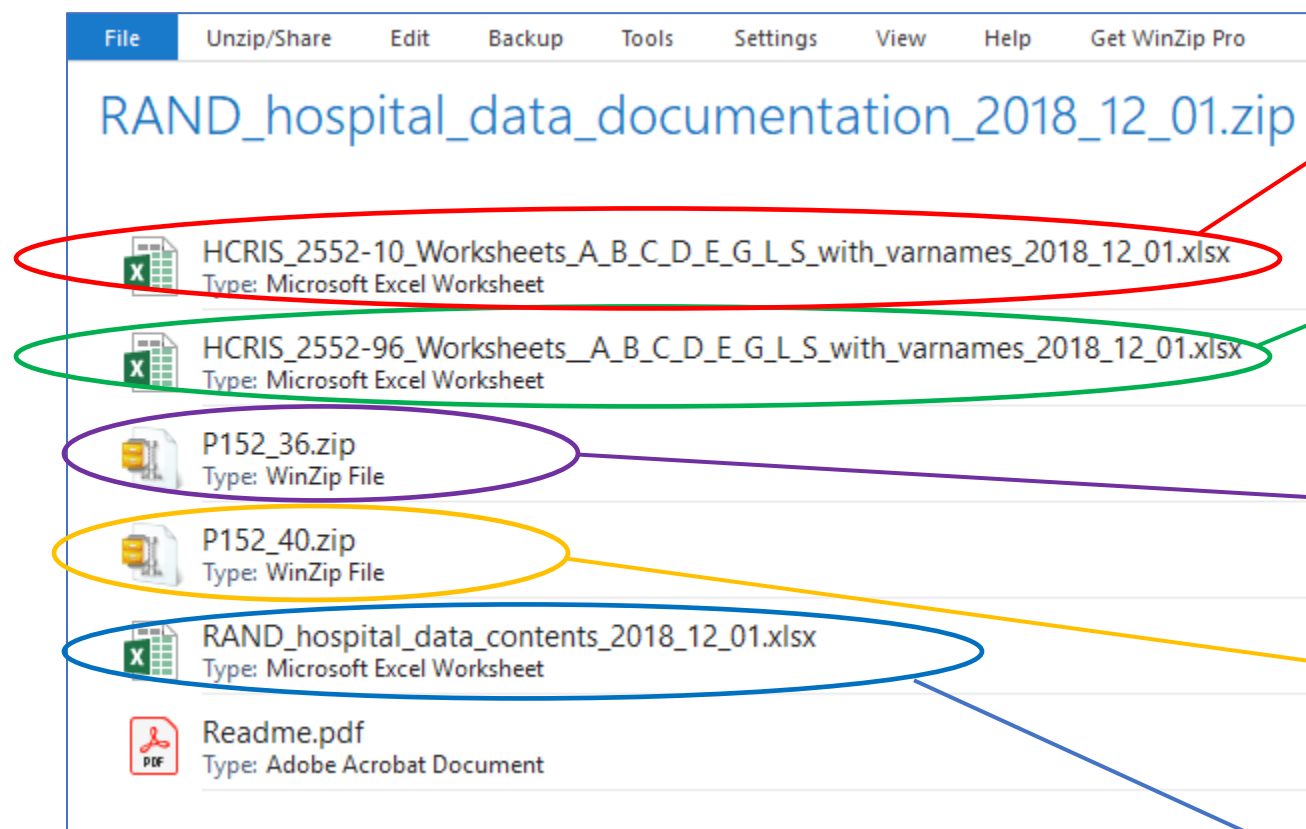


RAND Hospital Data, Vintage 2018_12_01

This documentation .zip file contains three Excel workbooks, two .zip files, and this Readme.pdf:



The "new" (2552-10) format CMS HCRIS worksheets, with yellow/green highlights for fields included in processed datasets.

The "old" (2552-96) format CMS HCRIS worksheets, with yellow/green highlights for fields included in processed datasets.

Chapter 36 of the CMS Provider Reimbursement Manual, which gives hospitals instructions on filling out the 2552-96 worksheets.

Chapter 40 of the CMS Provider Reimbursement Manual, which gives hospitals instructions on filling out the 2552-10 worksheets.

A workbook containing a list of fields included in the processed datasets available for download from Hospitaldatasets.org.

Here are some tips on how to use these documentation files to answer the following questions:

1. *I know the worksheet, line and column of the field in HCRIS I want to work with, is that variable included in RAND Hospital Data?*
 - Open the "HCRIS_2552-10..." workbook (or the "HCRIS_2552-96..." workbook if you're interested in the older HCRIS fields)
 - Find the tab corresponding to the worksheet you're interested in, and find the column and row for the variable you're interested in.
 - If that cell is highlighted in yellow or green and contains a variable name in bold, then that variable is included in RAND Hospital Data. (Yellow indicates the variable is only available to subscribers, green indicates the variable is available for free to registered users.)
2. *I'm looking for a specific variable (e.g., operating margin), is that variable included in RAND Hospital Data?*
 - Open the "RAND_hospital_data_contents..." workbook, find the appropriate category for the variable you are looking for (e.g., operating margins fall under "04. Financial performance"), and look for your variable there. If you're not sure which category your variable falls under, you can search for text strings (e.g. "margin").
3. *I'd like to use a variable (e.g. operating margin), how can I find out exactly how that variable is calculated?*
 - Find the variable in "RAND_hospital_data_contents...", and look in the "Formula" column.
 - If the "Formula" column is blank, then the variable either comes directly from HCRIS or directly from the CMS [Provider of Services](#) (POS) file. Numeric variables taken directly from HCRIS have the outlier correction algorithm applied, but are otherwise unprocessed.
 - If the "Formula" column has an entry, that entry describes precisely how the variable is calculated. The formulas only reference other variables within RAND Hospital Data, and so it is possible to trace back each variable used in each formula.
 - The entries in the "Formula" column use SAS syntax, which should be readable even to users who are not familiar with SAS.

4. *Which variables are free, and which ones can I only get if I subscribe?*
 - In "RAND_hospital_data_contents...", look in the column titled "Included in free datasets for registered users? (If no, then only available to subscribers)".
5. *I'm working with a variable directly from HCRIS, and, to understand it better, I want to see the worksheet it comes from. How can I find it in the HCRIS worksheets?*
 - Open either the "HCRIS_2552-96..." or the "HCRIS_2552-10..." workbook or both, and ...
 - a. Press Ctrl+F (or, Home, Find & Select, Find)
 - b. In the "Find what:" window, enter the name of the variable you're looking for (i.e. the value in the "Variable" column in "RAND_hospital_data_contents...")
 - c. Press the "Options >>" button to show options
 - d. In the "Within" dropdown, select "Workbook" (the search will now include all tabs)
 - e. Press "Find Next"
6. *I need more details on the instructions that hospitals are following when they fill out a specific field in their HCRIS worksheets, how can I find those details?*
 - Go to the CMS Provider Reimbursement Manual zip files, and select either Part 2, Chapter 36 ("[Hospital and Healthcare Complex, Form CMS-2552-96](#)"), or Part 2, Chapter 40 ("[Hospital and Hospital Health Care Complex Cost Report, Form CMS-2552-10](#)"). These .zip files are produced and distributed by CMS [here](#), and are included in this documentation for the convenience of RAND Hospital Data users.
 - The Chapter 36 .zip file contains a set of Word documents, the first of which ("pr2_36_toc.doc") is a table of contents, and the rest of which contain detailed instructions. To use these Word documents, users should go to the table of contents, find the section they are interested in, and then open the Word document that contains that section.
 - In Chapter 40 .zip file, one of the .pdf's is the set of instructions that hospitals follow, the other is a .pdf version of the worksheets hospitals fill out. In the .pdf with the set of instructions, find the section number for the the worksheet you're interested in, then use "Find" the find the text for that section.