



September 9, 2021

Maryland Health Care Commission  
Attn: Mahlet Nigatu,  
Chief, APCD Public Reporting and Data Release  
4160 Patterson Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

**Re: MCDB Data Request Application: Request for Fee Waiver for Research Project entitled, “AHRQ Innovations in Physician, Physician Practice, and Social Determinants of Health Data”**

This is a request that the Commission grant a waiver of the non-profit/academic fee of \$4,000 per MCDB data file per year for the four data files that we are requesting for the above-referenced research project. We are requesting the Medical Eligibility file, the Professional Services Claims file, the Institutional Services Claims file, and the Pharmacy Claims file, for a two-year period from 2018 for Commercial and Medicaid population. The research project is planned to last two years. We are requesting a waiver of these fee because Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is a federal agency operating under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services with the mission to produce evidence to make health care safer, higher quality, more accessible, equitable, and affordable, and to work within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and with other partners to make sure that the evidence is understood and used.

Sincerely,

Zeynal Karaca, PhD  
Sr. Economist  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality  
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