



**DALHOUSIE  
UNIVERSITY**

Health Data Nova Scotia

# Data Access Feasibility and Cost Estimate Request Form

Health Data Nova Scotia  
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[HDNS.medicine.dal.ca](http://HDNS.medicine.dal.ca)



# DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

## Health Data Nova Scotia

### **Data Access Feasibility and Cost Estimate Request**

Thank you for your interest in applying for data through Health Data Nova Scotia (HDNS). We would be pleased to provide a feasibility and cost estimate letter. Please note that the feasibility and cost estimate letter is not a quote; a finalized quote will be provided to the Principal Investigator following HDNS Data Access Committee approval of the Data Access Request.

In order for us to put together a feasibility and cost estimate letter for your project, please complete this form and submit along with your research protocol to [HDNS@dal.ca](mailto:HDNS@dal.ca).

### **Data Holdings and Services**

HDNS has nine primary datasets that are utilized by researchers; five are healthcare utilization related and four are population-based. An overview of the types of information and variables that are included in those datasets is provided below, and further information is available at the HDNS website: [hdns.medicine.dal.ca](http://hdns.medicine.dal.ca). HDNS also provides data linkage services between HDNS datasets and data from researchers or from other healthcare datasets such as the Reproductive Care Program of Nova Scotia, Cardiovascular Health Nova Scotia, Diabetes Care Program of Nova Scotia, Maritime Heart Centre Database, Cancer Care Nova Scotia, the provincial Brain Trauma database and other sources.

Please direct questions to [hdns@dal.ca](mailto:hdns@dal.ca).

## HDNS Provincial Healthcare Utilization Databases

Medical Services Insurance (MSI) Physician Billings	CIHI Discharge Abstract Database	Seniors' Pharmacare	CIHI National Ambulatory Care Reporting System	Drug Information System
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contains administrative records for each health service rendered by a physician and paid for by the provincial government</li> <li>• Utilizes ICD-9 diagnostic and procedure coding</li> <li>• Includes approximately 35 variables</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contains information on each hospital admission recorded in a Nova Scotia hospital</li> <li>• Includes inpatient services</li> <li>• Includes diagnoses and procedures performed, types of services, and service transfers</li> <li>• Utilizes ICD-9 coding prior to March 31, 2001 and utilizes ICD-10 coding from April 1, 2001 onward, for diagnoses and procedures</li> <li>• Includes approximately 600 variables</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contains information on prescriptions paid through provincial prescription drug programming (Seniors' Pharmacare)</li> <li>• Utilizes the WHO, Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC) classification system and the Drug Identification Number to categorize drugs</li> <li>• Quantity of drug dispensed (dosage)</li> <li>• Includes approximately 30 variables</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contains information on all types of ambulatory care including day surgery, outpatient and community-based clinics and emergency departments</li> <li>• Includes diagnoses and procedures performed, types of services, service transfers and specialty of service provider</li> <li>• Includes approximately 410 variables</li> <li>• Note: Level of reporting varies based on the facility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contains information on all prescriptions filled in a community pharmacy in Nova Scotia</li> <li>• Contains prescription dates, drug codes, drug strength, drug type, quantity, length of prescription, etc.</li> <li>• Utilizes the Drug Identification Number to identify specific drugs</li> <li>• Note: Drug information is not available from hospital pharmacies or other institutions not serviced by community pharmacies</li> </ul>

## HDNS Provincial Population-Based Databases

Insured Patient Registry	Licensed Provider Registry	Vital Statistics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contains longitudinal information about every individual registered as a beneficiary of MSI in Nova Scotia</li> <li>• Includes approximately 20 variables</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contains demographic information on prescribers who are registered and licensed to practice in Nova Scotia</li> <li>• Includes approximately 20 variables</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contains information on date and cause of death of Nova Scotia residents</li> <li>• Utilizes ICD-9 to identify causes of death up to Dec. 31, 1999 and utilizes ICD-10 coding from Jan. 1, 2000 onward</li> <li>• Includes approximately 40 variables</li> </ul>

# Data Access Feasibility and Cost Estimate Request Form

(\*Please note there is a separate application form for the HDNS Data Access Committee approval process)

Date : \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Full Project Title:</b>		
<b>Contact Information:</b>		
<u>Principal Investigator Name(s)</u>	Position (please state if student)	Name of organization
<u>Co-investigator(s)</u>	Position (please state if student)	Name of organization
<b>Mailing Address</b>		
Telephone Number:		
Contact e-mail:		

## Funding Information

1. Has funding been obtained for this project?	
<p><b>YES</b>   <b>NO</b></p>	<p>If yes, what organization is funding the project? If no, what organization are you applying to for funding?</p>
	Empty space for response
2. Please state where the funds will be held (e.g., Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia Health Authority).	
Empty space for response	
3. Is the project Principal Investigator a Maritime SPOR SUPPORT Unit Associate Scientist?	<p><b>YES</b>   <b>NO</b></p>

# Research Requirements

1. Please provide an overall 'purpose statement' for this project. In other words, in as brief and concise terms as possible, why is this study being undertaken?

2. What is your study design (e.g., cohort, case-control, or nested case-control)?

3. What is your study population (e.g., patients undergoing a specified procedure, with a specific diagnosis or residing in a specific geographic area)?

Please indicate if there is a single or multiple study population(s) of interest:

Single	<input type="checkbox"/>
Multiple	<input type="checkbox"/>

How many?

4. Please provide a brief description of your study population(s). Number each population description if there are multiple. Identify any case definitions and/or inclusion or exclusion criteria used to create the population(s) (e.g., age, previous diagnoses, days or months following hospitalization, etc.)

5. Will there be any need to create a control group(s) for your study population(s)?

**YES**   **NO**  
  

If yes, please state how the control group(s) will be created (e.g., matching criteria, random sample, size, etc.)

6. Does the project involve linkage of any HDNS datasets with external datasets (e.g., survey, research or clinical dataset, data from other provincial healthcare programs or government services, and/or other sources)?

**YES**   **NO**  
  

If yes, please state where the external datasets come from and explain how they could be linked to any of the HDNS datasets (e.g., through encrypted MSI patient numbers.)

7. Please indicate if the research will draw data from the following datasets and identify the time span(s) of interest:

HDNS Datasets	'X'	Start Day/Month/Year Example: 01/01/2005	End Day/Month/Year Example: 31/12/2015
MSI Physician Billings			
CIHI DAD			
CIHI NACRS			
Seniors' Pharmacare			
Insured Patient Registry			
Licensed Provider Registry			
Vital Statistics (Death)			
Drug Information System			
Other (please state):			

8. Will the research examine specific diseases, illnesses or injuries?

<p><b>YES</b>      <b>NO</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/>      <input type="radio"/></p>	<p>If yes, please identify what condition(s) or injury(ies) (e.g., breast cancer, motor vehicle collisions etc.) will be required to:</p>	
	<p>create the study population(s)</p>	
	<p>examine co-morbidities of the study population</p>	
	<p>conduct other analyses</p>	



9. Will the research be examining specific procedures performed by physicians in hospital or in another environment?

YES  NO

If yes, please list these procedures (e.g., low cervical caesarean section, amputation of finger or thumb, etc.)

10. Please indicate if the proposed research would incorporate any of the following types of research:

Research Type	'X'
Longitudinal research- (e.g., research that will study a population group over a set period of time, normally to track the effect of some variable)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cross sectional research- (e.g., a provincial prevalence study on a disease with descriptive statistics at a single point in time)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Other</b> (please describe):	

11. Will the research project require data to create a 'denominator'? In other words, does the research require additional data to calculate descriptive statistics (e.g., provincial rate of breast cancer) or to do comparative analysis between your study population(s)?

YES  NO

If yes, please describe.

12. Please indicate which of the following deliverables you require from HDNS:

HDNS Services	'X'
Person-level de-identified data to be analyzed by researcher on secure HDNS server	
Aggregate data tables extracted by HDNS to be analyzed by the researcher	
Calculation of statistics by HDNS to be incorporated into the overall research project	Descriptive
	Inferential
Graphs and/or tables designed by HDNS to be incorporated into the overall research project	

13. Please describe any statistical analyses that HDNS would be expected to conduct.

14. Please list the deliverables/services/outcomes required from HDNS to successfully complete this project (point form is preferable).

15. Please describe any other issues that HDNS staff should be aware of pertaining to this study.