

Linked 2019 and 2020 National Hospital Care Survey (NHCS)-CMS Medicare Data

Match Status File Codebook

Date Created: 23FEB2026

Number of Variables: 5

Variable Name	Variable Label	VAR Type	Range of Values	Value Description	Notes
SURVEY	Survey Name	Char			The value for this variable is 'NHCS 2019' or 'NHCS 2020'.
PATIENT_ID	NHCS Patient ID	Char	ID		Unique patient identifier assigned by NCHS. Researchers merging to the NHCS analytic file should use PATIENT_ID as the linking key.
ELIGSTAT	NHCS Linkage Eligibility Status	Num	0	Not eligible for linkage	Survey participants are defined as ineligible for linkage if they had insufficient identifying data to create a NHCS submission record.
			1	Eligible for linkage	
MEDICARE_MATCH_STATUS	NHCS-CMS Medicare Match Status	Num	1	Linkage-eligible and linked to one or more years of CMS Medicare administrative data during the linkage interval	2019 NHCS was linked to 2019–2020 Medicare data. 2020 NHCS was linked to 2020–2021 Medicare data.
			2	Linkage-eligible and not linked to any years of CMS Medicare administrative data	
			9	Not eligible for linkage	
PROBVALID	Estimated Match Probability	Num	1		Model-derived estimate of the probability that a given pair is a match. For details, see Appendix II in the Linkage Methodology and Analytic Considerations report.