



The Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services has published data on drug and device company payments to doctors. Here are tips for searching the site and downloading data.

Spoiler alert: This is an incomplete database. Failure to find payments associated with a physician or teaching hospital may simply be because it is missing or categorized in a way that may not be intuitive. If your doctors are not listed, it doesn't mean they didn't take a payment. [According to ProPublica](#), nearly 60% of the dollars handed over to doctors (40% of the payments) have been redacted and do not show up in this database right now. The full database for 2013 is should be posted later. Also, some of the payment information associated with a product may not be listed by a manufacturer you recognize, but by a subsidiary you have never heard of.

Still, we think it is worthwhile to dig around and here are some tips for doing so:

Go to <http://www.cms.gov/openpayments/index.html>

- Under “explore the data” tab go to Data Explorer and then scroll all the way down to “access data explorer tool”
- Click on the first link titled “Research Payment Data with identifying recipient information” tab
- Select filter tab – a box will open at the right – and fill in what you want to see: a single physician, a hospital name, state or city.
- Example selecting state: Displays a spreadsheet that has all information, including the physician’s name (9th & 10th column).
- You can download into numerous types of documents by selecting the “export tab” at the top. Choose the software in which you want to view and search the information. An XLS or XLSX will download into an Excel format.