Readme File

For "Pricing Regulation and Imperfect Competition on the Massachusetts Health Insurance Exchange" by Keith M. Marzilli Ericson and Amanda Starc

Data

- **enroll.dta:** (*Proprietary, Confidential Data)* Transaction-level data from the Massachusetts Connector Authority, for the Commonwealth Choice program, November and December 2009. This file may be applied for at https://www.mahealthconnector.org
- We have made available premium quotes downloaded from the Massachusetts Connector website, mahealthconnector.org
    - **premiumQuotesNovDec2009.dta**
    - **detailedQuotesNov.dta**
    - **detailedQuotesDec.dta**
- There are two additional files we constructed:
    - **Figure2CostsAndAlpha.dta,** which contains costs from the MEPS as described in Table3
    - **geoRegionZipcode.dta**, which links zipcodes into more aggregated geographic regions

Analysis Files

Stata analysis were run using Stata (MP) versions 12 and 13. Matlab analysis were run using R2012a and utilized KNITRO for Matlab.

Analysis Files should be run in the following order:

In Stata

1. PrepareFiles1.do
2. PrepareFiles2.do
3. Table1.do (Creates results for Table 1)
4. Table2.do (Creates results for Table 2)
5. Figure1.do (Creates Figure 1)
6. Figure2.do (Creates Figure 2)

Then, in Matlab:

7. Tables4and5.m (Creates results for Tables 4 and 5)

Table 3 can be constructed from the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) as follows:

- At http://meps.ahrq.gov/ , choose Summary Data Tables, Household Component Summary Tables
- Use Year 2008, Table 1 (Total Health Services-Median and Mean Expenses per Person With Expense and Distribution of Expenses by Source of Payment: United States, 2008)
- Customize table:

- Person Records Used: Age in years=27-64 AND Health insurance status='<65, Any private' AND Poverty status='Middle income' or 'High income'
- Population: Age in years=27-64, Health insurance status='<65, Any private', and Poverty status='Middle income' or 'High income'
- Age categories: 27-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, and 55-64

Data Dictionary

enroll.dta (as provided to us by Connector Authority)

- member_no — a member-specific unique id
- gender — of the member, M or F
- age — of the member, in years
- plan — contains tier of plan: "BRONZE", "YAP", etc. (we would have named this variable tier)
- carrier — the name of the insurance firm the plan is offered by. E.g. "BCBS".
- eff_date — effective date of transaction
- carrier_plan_name — the name of the insurance plan. E.g. "Advantage HMO Select 750"
- rx — Y or N, whether the plan had prescription drug coverage.
- annv_date — member's anniversary date for coverage (1st of the month)
- m_city — city of member
- m_zip — zipcode of member
- m_state — state of member
- dep_count — number of individuals covered on plan (1 to 10)
- add_type — = "N" for new business
- add_reason — why the member was added to the plan (e.g. "05-New Business" v. "02-Renewal" or "06-COBRA"
- mo_prem — member's monthly premium for this plan

premiumQuotesNovDec2009.dta

zipcode	zipcode for which the quote was for
age_self	age of the member
age_spouse	age of the member's spouse (if applicable)
familysize	=1, the number of people covered by the plan
insurername	Name of the insurer offering the plan
plantitle	Title of the plan offered
premium	Monthly premium charged for the plan
deductible	Deductible information for the plan
month	Month in which quoted coverage would begin. 11=Nov2009 12=Dec2009
year	Year in which quoted coverage would begin
samplemonth	=1 if Nov2009, =2 if Dec2009

detailedQuotesNov.dta and detailedQuotesDec.dta

zipcode	zipcode for which the quote was for
age_self	age of the member
age_spouse	age of the member's spouse (if applicable)
familysize	=1, the number of people covered by the plan
insurername	Name of the insurer offering the plan
plantitle	Title of the plan offered
premium	Monthly premium charged for the plan

deductible	Deductible information for the plan
doctor	Description of doctor visit cost sharing
rx	Description of prescription drug cost sharing
er	Description of ER visit cost sharing
hospital_stay	Description of hospital stay cost sharing

geoRegionZipcode.dta

zipcode	Zipcode
geoRegion	groups of zipcodes within which premiums and plans available did not vary

Figure2CostsAndAlpha

Agegroup	youngest age in an age range. Eg. 30 is for 30-34
Mepscosts	Average Insurer Cost, taken from Table 3 of the paper (derived from MEPS)
Alpha	price coefficient of age group from Panel B of Table 2