

Qlarant Provides Proven Analytics and Extensive Expertise for Fighting COVID-19 Fraud, Waste, and Abuse

Healthcare providers valiantly battle COVID-19 on the frontlines while researchers race toward treatments and ultimately a preventative vaccine. Simultaneously, **unscrupulous actors exploit** pandemic-related **chaos** to line their own pockets **via** various healthcare **fraud schemes**.

As noted in a recent *Health Affairs* blog, after the surge of COVID-19 infections pass, “state Medicaid programs **should conduct outlier analyses** to identify areas where fraud and waste probably occurred; targeted auditing and investigation will be warranted.”¹ Qlarant is **prepared to collaborate** with state program integrity officials **to identify** COVID-19-related fraud, **mitigate the impact** of existing fraud schemes, and **stay a step ahead** of ever-emerging schemes.

Qlarant is **a national leader** in healthcare quality improvement, program integrity, risk management, and innovative technology solutions. We have **over 45 years of success** in improving quality and efficiency and **rooting out fraud, waste, and abuse** (FWA) in large health systems—including Medicare and Medicaid. Qlarant combines subject matter expertise with data science and analytics **to identify and resolve fraud**.

Our team of **200 subject matter experts** analyze data, discover potential vulnerabilities, and recommend courses of action to mitigate COVID-19-related FWA. With **82 data and claims analysts**, **12 PhD data scientists**, and **more than 100 skilled fraud investigators**, we can combat all areas of healthcare fraud in your state. We currently perform COVID-19-related FWA analytics.

Auditing and Investigating—Fueled by Data Science and Powerful Algorithms

Qlarant maintains several program integrity contracts for the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)**. Our audit and investigation competencies directly relate to, and greatly enhance, our ability to collect real-time data, identify emerging concerns, quantify the risk, and identify the path and/or escalation of the threat. Working closely with state program integrity officials, Qlarant can bring the same **skills, discipline, and technology** to deploying tailored state or community-level fraud prevention programs.

¹ <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hblog20200504.459546/full/>

Our Relevant Contract Experience

We have direct **experience fighting FWA in 40 state** Medicaid programs and Medicare Parts A, B, C, and D.



Strong analytics underpin an effective approach to mitigating the risks emanating from the COVID-19 pandemic. Validating the analytic output to **confirm the risk and leverage early detection to avoid improper payments is essential to preserving resources**. Qlarant's COVID-19 experience involves building algorithms directly associated with existing services that are at risk for abuse due to the rapidly expanding COVID-19 patient base. Newly identified attributes and filters identified from audits and investigations help to **continuously refine and improve** algorithms and dashboards.

Specific examples of COVID-related algorithms already employed in Qlarant Medicare/Medicaid oversight work include:

- **Geospatial analysis of COVID-19 testing expenditures**
- **Geospatial analysis of COVID-19 confirmed cases using open source data updated daily in a central repository**
- **Identity theft/compromise and the billing of other unnecessary services (Ex: Genetic Testing, Orthotics/Prosthetics)**
- **Shelter in Place Analytics**
- **Enrollment waiver monitoring**
- **Inappropriate use of disaster-related designations**
- **Improper utilization of ancillary lab services (Respiratory Pathogen Panels (RPP))**
- **Telehealth expansion analytics**
- **Nursing Facility CDC comparative analytics**
- **Health fraud scheme link analysis**
- **DRG variations based on COVID-19 related diagnoses**
- **Repurposing respiratory technology (CPAP)**
- **Monitoring of elective services post COVID-19**

These, alongside other high-impact, **data-driven algorithms** created by Qlarant's team of data scientists, **identify risk** and assist state Medicaid program integrity leaders in prioritizing and coordinating a response.

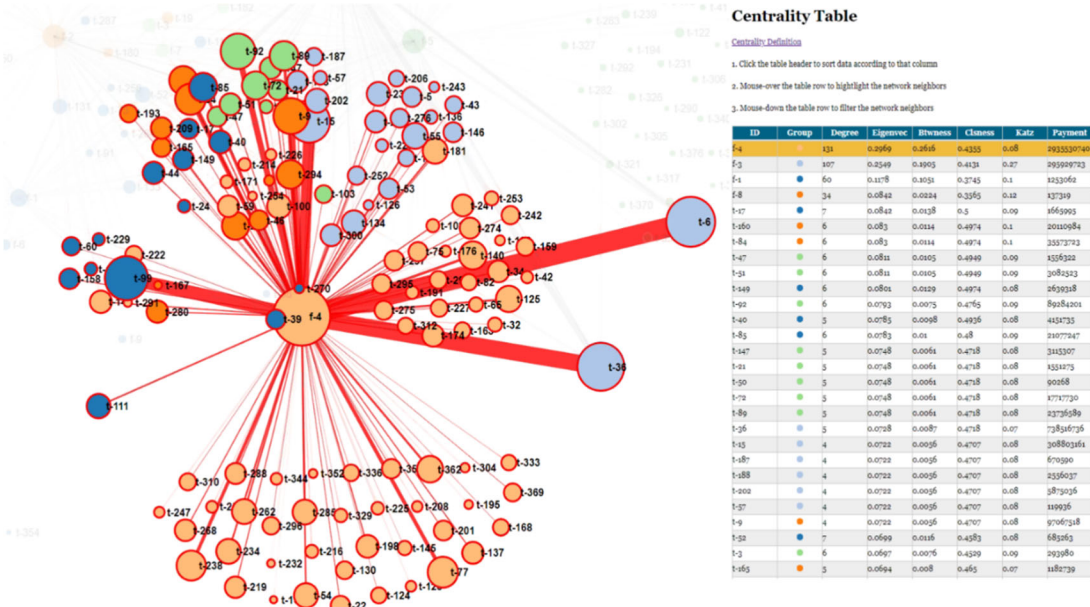
Qlarant's **predictive modeling expertise can provide valuable proactive information** about emerging fraud schemes to assist administrators with resource assignment and allocation. By using data already collected on the location and the date of fraudulent activity in your state, along with machine learning (ML) algorithms, we can create geo-spatially based predictive models **to indicate the likelihood of potential fraud** in specific areas.

Data-Driven Dashboards Tell the Story At-a-Glance

In addition to expertise in identifying fraud, Qlarant can summarize data inputs into **clear and comprehensible, customized visualizations**, or "dashboards," to allow leaders to see where problems arise so that actions may be taken **before problems become unmanageable**. These dynamic dashboards can focus on any number of critical fraud-related data points, including:

- **high risk providers** (based on Qlarant's proprietary risk-scoring methodology), with respect to COVID-related algorithms;
- algorithms associated with the **greatest amount** of potential—and potentially recoverable—FWA;
- "heat-map"/geo-mapping visualizations showing areas with the **greatest concentration** of potentially fraudulent provider activity;

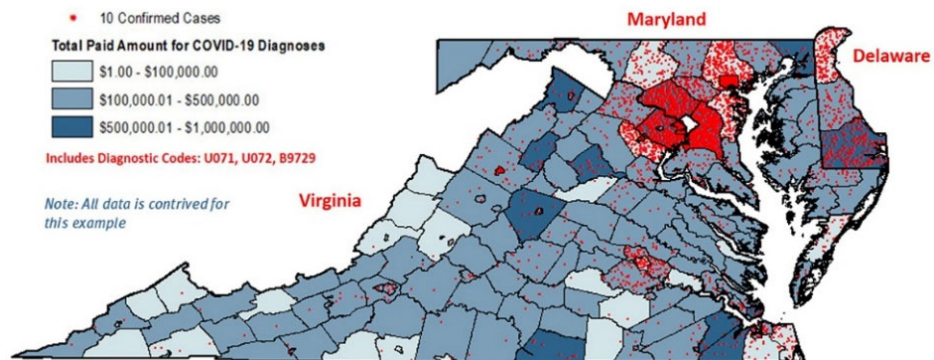
- “link analyses” to **assist in fraud-pattern detection** by linking subjects through shared demographics (e.g., addresses, names, phone numbers, tax IDs, emails) and identifying targets with common ownership, high volumes of shared beneficiaries, and relationships with known suspect targets.



Link Analysis Example: Depicts how the high risk providers are related—for example, by sharing the same recipients.

Geo-mapping Example:

Displays spatial distribution of confirmed COVID-19 cases and total paid amount for COVID-19 diagnosis.



There is **no limit to the number of data inputs** in a customized, actionable dashboard—and dashboard visualizations are “drillable,” immediately bringing the user from a high-level overview to a tactical investigation environment.

To learn more about how Qlarant can assist you with COVID-19 fraud mitigation, please contact:

Sandy Love
 President, Integrity Solutions
loves@qlarant.com
 410-822-0697



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 AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES
 QLARANT INTEGRITY SOLUTIONS
 QLARANT QUALITY SOLUTIONS
 Easton, Maryland
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