

# US Department of Health and Human Services

## Third Party Websites and Applications Privacy Impact Assessment

**Date Signed:**

September 07, 2018

**OPDIV:**

CMS

**Name:**

Google Analytics

**TPWA Unique Identifier:**

T-5991099-891893

**Is this a new TPWA?**

Yes

**Will the use of a third-party Website or application create a new or modify an existing HHS/OPDIV System of Records Notice (SORN) under the Privacy Act?**

No

**If SORN is not yet published, identify plans to put one in place.**

Not Applicable.

**Will the use of a third-party Website or application create an information collection subject to OMB clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA)?**

No

**Indicate the OMB approval number expiration date (or describe the plans to obtain OMB clearance).**

Expiration Date: 1/1/01 12:00 AM

**Describe the plans to obtain OMB clearance.**

Explanation: Not Applicable.

**Does the third-party Website or application contain Federal Records?**

No

**Describe the specific purpose for the OPDIV use of the third-party Website or application:**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) uses reports and analysis from Google Analytics to measure the number of visitors to CMS' websites, including CMS.gov, Medicare.gov, MyMedicare.gov, HealthCare.gov, CuidadoDeSalud.gov, Medicaid.gov, InsureKidsNow.gov, and various subdomains of the above top-level domains (TLDs). These TLDs are hereafter referred to as "CMS' websites." The analyses and reports help to make CMS' websites more useful to visitors/consumers.

The CMS staff analyze and report using the collected data from Google Analytics. The reports are available only to CMS managers, teams who implement CMS programs represented on CMS' websites, members of the CMS communications and web teams, and other designated federal staff and contractors who need this information to perform their duties.

**Have the third-party privacy policies been reviewed to evaluate any risks and to determine whether the Website or application is appropriate for OPDIV use?**

Yes

**Describe alternative means by which the public can obtain comparable information or services if they choose not to use the third-party Website or application:**

If consumers do not want Google Analytics to collect information related to their visits to CMS' websites, consumers can use other means of interaction, including but not limited to paper applications, call centers, or in-person assisters. In addition to these options, a consumer can use the Tealium IQ Privacy Manager on CMS' websites privacy page(s) and "opt out" of having data collected about them by Google Analytics. Alternatively, a consumer can disable their cookies if they do not want their information to be collected or can use the Google Analytics opt out tool referenced in the CMS website privacy policy.

**Does the third-party Website or application have appropriate branding to distinguish the OPDIV activities from those of nongovernmental actors?**

No

**How does the public navigate to the third party Website or application from the OPDIV?**

Not applicable. The public does not navigate to Google Analytics. Google Analytics works in the background.

**Please describe how the public navigate to the thirdparty website or application:**

Not applicable. The public does not navigate to Google Analytics. Google Analytics works in the background.

**If the public navigate to the third-party website or application via an external hyperlink, is there an alert to notify the public that they are being directed to anongovernmental Website?**

No

**Has the OPDIV Privacy Policy been updated to describe the use of a third-party Website or application?**

Yes

**Provide a hyperlink to the OPDIV Privacy Policy:**

<https://www.cms.gov/privacy-policy/>

**Is an OPDIV Privacy Notice posted on the third-part website or application?**

No

**Is PII collected by the OPDIV from the third-party Website or application?**

No

**Will the third-party Website or application make PII available to the OPDIV?**

No

**Describe the PII that will be collected by the OPDIV from the third-party Website or application and/or the PII which the public could make available to the OPDIV through the use of the third-party Website or application and the intended or expected use of the PII:**

Not Applicable. CMS does not collect any PII through the use of Google Analytics.

**Describe the type of PII from the third-party Website or application that will be shared, with whom the PII will be shared, and the purpose of the information sharing:**

Not Applicable. PII is not stored or shared.

**If PII is shared, how are the risks of sharing PII mitigated?**

Not Applicable. No PII is shared with CMS.

**Will the PII from the third-party website or application be maintained by the OPDIV?**

No

**Describe how PII that is used or maintained will be secured:**

Not applicable.

**What other privacy risks exist and how will they be mitigated?**

CMS will use Google Analytics in a manner that protects the privacy of consumers who visit CMS' websites and respects the intent of CMS website users. CMS will conduct periodic reviews of Google Analytics' privacy practices to ensure its policies continue to align with agency objectives and privacy policies and do not present unreasonable or unmitigated risks to consumer privacy. Google Analytics is employed solely for the purposes of improving CMS' services and activities online related to operating CMS' websites. Information collected by Google Analytics is created and maintained by Google.

Potential Risk:

Persistent cookies are used with Google Analytics' tools on CMS' websites that are stored on a user's local browser. Google Analytics cookies are stored for two years.

Mitigation:

Google Analytics' privacy policies, notices from CMS' websites, information published by Google Analytics about its privacy policies, and the ability for consumers to opt out of providing their information to Google Analytics through the Tealium iQ Privacy Manager on CMS' websites maximizes consumers ability to protect their information and mitigate risks to their privacy. Periodic reviews of how Google maintains Google Analytics on behalf of CMS are conducted to ensure these best practices are being followed. CMS will not deploy the Google Analytics tool if the website is not using Tealium iQ.

Potential Risk:

Google Analytics collects hundreds of data elements, including standard data elements and custom data elements. The list of standard data elements are all listed and can be found here: <https://developers.google.com/analytics/devguides/reporting/core/dimsmets>.

For individual users, geographic data is collected, based on the IP address (device location is an approximation), the user's device, device type, screen resolutions, flash version, browser, browser version, operating system and operating system version are all collected.

In addition to the standard data elements collected, custom data is collected via 'events' and 'custom dimensions' and 'custom metrics'. For example, collecting information how many people download a PDF file by clicking a link.

Mitigation:

Google Analytics does not share actual IP address information with CMS as an additional step to safeguard CMS website users' privacy. Gender and Interest Group tracking features provided by Google Analytics have been disabled in the CMS implementation. Google Analytics Premium has "zero tolerance" for any type of PII data and collection of such is against the Google Analytics Premium Terms of Service.