```
/* SPSS User Files are being provided for the convenience of analysts who
                                                                        */
                                                                         */
   may wish to use SPSS to analyze the MEPS data. However, users are
/*
/* cautioned that SPSS does not currently have the capability to produce
                                                                         */
   appropriate standard errors for estimates from a survey with a complex
                                                                         */
/*
/* sample design like the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS). The
                                                                         */
   annual national probability sample of households selected for the MEPS
                                                                         */
/*
/* is a subsample of those participating in the National Health Interview
                                                                         */
/* Survey (NHIS) for the previous calendar year. The NHIS, an ongoing
                                                                         */
   general health survey of the civilian noninstitutionalized population,
/*
                                                                         */
/* is conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for
                                                                         */
/* Disease Control and Prevention. The NHIS sample design, and thus that
/* of the MEPS, uses complex sampling techniques including
                                                                         */
/* stratification, clustering, and differential sampling rates for the
   oversampling of selected subgroups of the population. Because of this
/*
                                                                         */
   sampling structure, software that accounts for this complex sample
/*
                                                                         */
   design must be used. Without the use of appropriate software that
                                                                         */
/*
   accounts for the complex sample design of the MEPS in conjunction with
                                                                         */
/*
/* the survey's sampling weights (reflecting the survey's sample
   selection probabilities and nonresponse and other adjustments), the
                                                                         */
/*
   estimated standard errors of survey point estimates will generally be
                                                                         */
/*
   underestimated, and, thus, the inferential conclusions in an analysis
/*
                                                                         */
   (descriptive or analytical) may be misleading. It is recommended that
/*
                                                                         */
   sample survey software be used to analyze the MEPS data. Software for
                                                                         */
/*
/* analysis of complex survey data include, for example, SUDAAN (Research
                                                                         */
/* Triangle Institute), STATA (Stata Corporation), VPLX (U.S. Bureau of
                                                                         */
   the Census), and WESVAR (Westat, Inc.). A more comprehensive summary
                                                                         */
/*
/* of software for the analysis of data from surveys with complex sample
                                                                         */
   designs can be accessed through the website for the American
                                                                         */
/*
/* Statistical Association's Survey Research Methods Section. Users may
                                                                         */
/* also reference the Agency for Healthcare Research and Ouality (AHRO)
                                                                         */
/* web document "Computing Standard Errors for Medical Expenditure Panel
                                                                         */
/* Survey (MEPS) Estimates."
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   CONDIDX 9-20 (A)
   EVNTIDX 21-32 (A)
   CLNKIDX 33-56 (A)
   EVENTYPE 57-57 .
VARIABLE LABEL
   DUPERSID 'PERSON ID: DUID+PID'
   CONDIDX 'CONDITION ID'
   EVNTIDX 'EVENT ID'
   CLNKIDX 'CLNK ID: CONDIDX+EVNTIDX'
   EVENTYPE 'TYPE OF EVENT CONDITION IS LINKED TO' .
VALUE LABELS
   EVENTYPE
        1 '1 MVIS'
        2 '2 OPAT
        3 '3 EROM
        4 '4 STAZ'
        5 '5 DVIS'
        7 '7 HVIS'
        8 '8 PMED' .
EXECUTE.
```