



Symmetry Episode Treatment Groups (ETG) Oncology

Accurately measure cost of oncology care among health care groups and providers.

Direct medical costs for cancer care topped \$209 billion nationally in 2020, accounting for a significant proportion of all health care expenditures in the U.S. Indirect costs are also significant, encompassing loss of productivity, wages, leisure time and decreased quality of life.¹

As the cost of cancer care continues to rise, accurate oncology analytics are a critical component to understanding cost drivers. But many claims-based tools lack the cancer-specific clinical information, such as cancer stage or biomarker status, needed to accurately compare and predict medically necessary costs.

Assess the cost of oncology-related care

Symmetry® Episode Treatment Groups® (ETG®) Oncology is a cost-measurement tool specific to cancer care. ETG Oncology incorporates clinical data, claims-based markers (including social determinants of health information), and utilization-based markers to categorize oncology episodes based on medically necessary total episode cost. This allows for a fair and more accurate comparison of costs between health groups and providers. ETG Oncology can be utilized to:

- Understand the risk associated with value-based programs or contracts
- Accurately measure provider performance and provide consumer transparency
- Compare the performance of oncology group practices when creating specialty networks or tiering
- Identify members who may benefit from population health management programs



Symmetry Episode Treatment Groups (ETG) Oncology currently includes severity models for the top five oncology ETGs, accounting for **48%** of oncology expenditure:

- Breast cancer
- Colon cancer
- Rectal cancer
- Prostate cancer
- Lung cancer

1. American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts & Figures 2021. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2021.

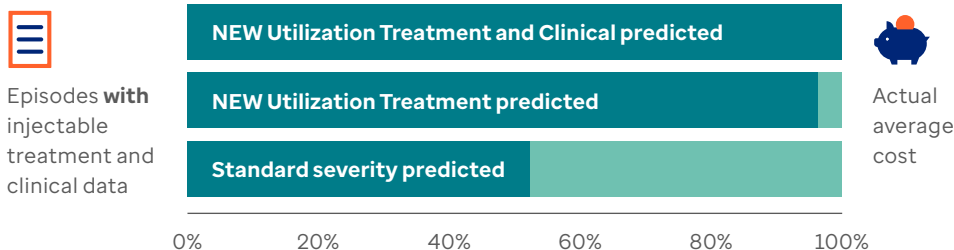
Enhancing the accuracy of severity adjustment

Symmetry ETG Oncology uses the new patent-pending Symmetry Data Engine (SDE) to curate and normalize clinical data for severity modeling. This new utility is embedded in ETG Oncology and pre-processes the clinical data, automatically removing and resolving inconsistencies to ensure that only validated data is integrated within the ETG grouped claims.

With their expanded view of clinical factors and guideline-based treatment, ETG Oncology severity models account for a much larger fraction of the variation in cost between episodes.

ETG 635600 malignant neoplasm of breast (commercial only)

Average predicted cost, 2018/2019 data



The advantages of Symmetry ETG Oncology

- Next-generation severity models incorporate utilization and clinical data elements in five oncology ETGs, resulting in superior cost prediction to facilitate accurate provider comparison and multiple other use cases.
- Symmetry Data Engine simplifies the processing of clinical data from EHRs, prior authorization systems and clinical registries.
- Easy-to-use output files, now including SDOH output at the member and episode level, readily integrate with existing care management systems and many other analytical and reporting applications.
- Symmetry ETG Oncology is available as an add-on module to the existing Symmetry ETG product. All the functionality of our market-leading episode of care grouper is included and leveraged in this product offering. In the second half of 2022, an expanded number of oncology ETGs with the next-generation severity models, as well new treatment markers (including radiation), will be available.



Symmetry ETG Oncology includes two new severity models:

The Utilization Treatment Severity Model is based on medical and pharmacy claims data input. This model allows treatment decisions to be considered as an independent variable and assumes that all clinical practice and treatment choices are uniformly constrained.

The Utilization Treatment and Clinical Severity Model builds on the Utilization Treatment Severity Model by incorporating more granular clinical information, such as cancer stage and biomarker status.



Learn more about how Optum Symmetry EBM Connect Oncology can help you measure standards of care in oncology.

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