

Symmetry EBM Connect

Evaluate quality of care compared to national standards and evidence-based practice



Noncompliance with proven medical treatment standards costs consumers and insurers up to \$100 billion annually.* Adverse outcomes include unnecessary hospitalizations, overutilization, complications, disease progression, premature disability, and even death. Evidence-based medicine (EBM) — the use of best practice guidelines at both the physician and patient level — creates significant opportunities to enhance care quality and improve treatment outcomes.

Optum[®] Symmetry[®] EBM Connect[®] is a quality measurement tool that facilitates increased compliance with evidence-based care standards to enhance care quality and improve outcomes. This powerful tool enables comprehensive care-compliance reporting and analysis for insurers, care managers, employers and consumers by:

- Identifying specific areas where patient treatment may vary from accepted standards of care
- Reporting gap-in-care opportunities, including patient adherence to prescribed treatment regimens, for care managers to target interventions
- Providing the basis for quality reporting, designation and performance-based programs

Enhance the credibility of care and quality management programs

EBM Connect performs compliance analysis based on treatment, care, and patient adherence guidelines written by national standards organizations and an independent expert panel of board-certified physicians, pharmacologists, coding specialists and medical analysts. We complete periodic reviews of all measures from one release to another and fully document enhancements to provide the most up-to-date information on which to base measures and to share with members and physician groups.



EBM Connect measures are sourced from national standard specifications from organizations such as:

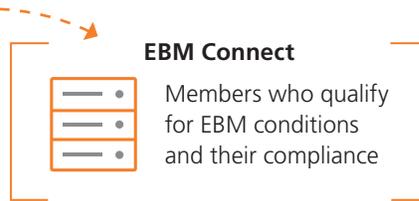
- NCQA Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS)
- CMS Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS)
- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
- Pharmacy Quality Alliance (PQA)

*Wertheimer Albert; Santella Thomas M. Medication Compliance Research: Still So Far To Go. *The Journal of Applied Research*, Vol. 3, Issue 3. Available at: <http://www.jarcet.com/articles/Vol3Iss3/Wertheimer.htm>. Accessed 2003.

How it works

Claims data

- Diagnosis codes
- Drug codes
- Procedure codes



Administrative

- Enrollment records
- Laboratory results
- Disease registry

Understand measurement criteria

The measurement specifications in EBM Connect are completely transparent, including diagnosis, procedure and laboratory result coding. Comprehensive documentation includes algorithms that outline the measure logic, the coding used within the measures, and an evidence synopsis with citations.

Generate tailored compliance reporting

Output files from EBM Connect support reporting at the plan, physician or member level:

- Disease management: identify preventive opportunities, gaps in care and patient noncompliance to target interventions
- Network management: create quality measurements that support pay-for-performance initiatives
- Quality reporting: identify which conditions have the greatest opportunity for care improvements
- Employer reporting: share quality measurement status data
- Physician data sharing: facilitate communication with providers
- Consumer information initiatives: share information about high-quality physicians in the network and opportunities to improve health

Key benefits of EBM Connect

- Flexibility to choose a set of measures and eligibility requirements to meet the unique needs of your population.
- Ability to use the engine in a prospective fashion to help you predict potential gaps in care.
- Easy-to-use output files readily integrated with existing disease management systems, care management systems, and many other analytical and reporting applications.
- Seamless integration with other Symmetry component engines such as Episode Treatment Groups®, Episode Risk Groups®, Procedure Episode Groups®, and Pharmacy Risk Groups® without requiring multiple setups.
- Complete transparency of measure specifications for confidence in citing results to physicians.

To learn more about how Symmetry EBM Connect can help you evaluate quality of care compared to national standards and evidence-based practice:

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