Health care organizations face a growing need to measure the value of health care provided by specialty surgeons and accommodate their unique procedural focus in that assessment. Whether that measurement informs network design, value-based payment or other initiatives, consistency and reliability are critical ingredients.

Optum® Symmetry® Procedure Episode Groups® (PEG®) provide a valuable unit of analysis to help health care organizations better understand the cost and quality of surgical procedures. With a consistent methodology, PEG offer a number of opportunities to measure and compare the services related to procedural care:

- Understanding the prevalence and costs of key procedures
- Analyzing the mix of services provided in the context of a procedure, including pre- and post-operative care
- Assessing the use of outpatient care in delivering a procedure and the overall effect on costs of performing surgery in an inpatient versus outpatient setting
- Using procedure episodes to support bundled payment design
- Comparing the cost and quality of procedures performed by provider networks and different specialists
- Using measurement results to identify and reward high performers

**Identify complete procedure episodes**

PEG methodology uses carefully designed algorithms, based on clinical guidelines and a complete understanding of the complexity of medical claims data, to facilitate accurate identification and thorough development of complete procedure episodes. PEG methodology also assigns a measure of severity to a subset of procedure episodes. This severity measure is based on multiple factors, including a patient’s age, gender, health condition status and comorbidities. A higher severity score for an episode means a higher expected cost relative to other episodes of the same type.
Evaluate clinical specialists
One of the most important aspects of comparing procedures is the ability to accurately assign procedure episodes to the clinical specialists who performed them. PEG assigns every procedure episode to one responsible provider, who will be identified on a claim that occurs on the same date of services as the anchor procedure or the procedure that defines the procedure episode.

Leverage longstanding expertise
PEG complement the existing products within Symmetry, offering better value-based measurement support to providers and presenting a more complete solution in health care management. This unique product for health care measurement and analysis’ grouping technology is built upon Symmetry® Episode Treatment Groups® (ETG®) and employs a methodology consistent with the other Symmetry products.

How it works
Claims data
• Diagnosis codes
• Drug codes
• Procedure codes

Episode treatment group
Claims data, grouped by episode

Claims data
• Diagnosis codes
• Drug codes
• Procedure codes

Procedure treatment group
Claims data, grouped by procedure

Key benefits of PEG
PEG take a unique approach to understanding surgical procedures by providing a consistent methodology for measuring value.
• Product flexibility allows you to choose measures that suit your specific business requirements.
• A wide range of easily consumed output files can be used in a multitude of use cases, including measuring value in surgical episodes, comparing resource utilization of providers, networks and health plans, assessing clinical specialists and gauging indicators of failed procedures.
• A content update service keeps pharmacy and medical code libraries up to date.
• Integration is seamless 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 and code sets ensure confidence in citing results to physicians.

To learn more about how Symmetry PEG can help you understand the cost and quality of surgical procedures:

Call 1-800-765-6807
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