Symmetry Procedure Quality Measures (PQM)  
Identify overuse of low-value health care services

Given the tremendous increase in procedures combined with quality concerns and the rising cost of health care, the need to measure outcomes and appropriateness of care associated with a variety of procedures is growing. A quality measurement tool focused on overuse and outcomes related to surgical procedures and diagnostic tests offers a chance to understand and address this problem.

The Symmetry® Procedure Quality Measures® (PQM®) product measures quality of care related to procedures. PQM uses administrative claims data to analyze outcomes and the appropriateness of care for a variety of surgical procedures and diagnostic tests. PQM performs measurement and generates reports, supported by national measures and scientific literature, which health service organizations, provider groups, and others can use to address the following objectives:

- Identify specific areas where patient treatment may vary from accepted standards of care
- Identify outcomes (e.g., complications, functional improvement) related to specific procedures
- Allow care managers to efficiently identify patients that might benefit from follow up support after a procedure
- Assess provider compliance for performance measurement programs or value based compensation programs
- Identify surgical procedures or diagnostic tests that are unnecessary or potentially harmful

More accurately predict the expected future costs for members with incomplete data, often 20%–50% of total membership.
How it works

Claims data

- Diagnosis codes
- Drug codes
- Procedure codes
- Lab results

Procedure quality measures

Claims data, grouped by procedure

The Symmetry team strives to provide its users with highly credible products. Most measures in PQM are sourced from national standards organizations, including American Medical Association Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement (PCPI), the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), and the National Quality Forum (NQF). Other measures are based on consensus findings from an expert panel of board-certified physicians, pharmacologists, coding specialists and medical analysts.

PQM includes a suite of detailed user documentation with each release. Providing transparency, these documents are designed to help users understand the detailed logic and the rationale of each measure. Measure algorithms outline the measure logic and the clinical context for each set of measures. Code set workbooks list codes used by the measures, including procedure, diagnosis, revenue codes and other coding taxonomies. For measures that are not completely sourced from national standards, synopsis documents outlining evidence behind the measure are provided.

Key benefits of PQM

- Product flexibility allows you to choose measures that suit your specific business requirements
- Wide range of easily consumed and versatile output files can be used in a multitude of use cases, including measuring and reporting gaps in care, identifying provider attribution, and/or understanding how a patient’s data contributed to the measure results.
- Compatibility with the Symmetry EBM Connect® product, which allows for easy consolidation of outputs to provide a comprehensive picture of the quality of care given to a patient.
- 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 and code sets for confidence in citing results to physicians.

To learn more about how Symmetry PQM can help you identify overuse of low-value health care services:

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