



Symmetry EBM Connect

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



Noncompliance with evidence-based standards of care results in avoidable health care costs for consumers and insurers. The costs of medication non-compliance alone are in excess of \$500 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, lower costs and improve treatment outcomes.

Optum® Symmetry® EBM Connect® uses administrative data, laboratory results and non-claims electronic data to measure health care quality. By identifying gaps between clinical evidence and health care practice, it supports efforts to improve quality and 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, including low-value care tests and treatments
- Reporting gap-in-care opportunities for care managers to target interventions, including patient adherence to prescribed treatment regimens
- Providing the basis for quality reporting, designation and performance-based programs
- Highlighting services that provide no clinical benefit and result in unnecessary costs



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

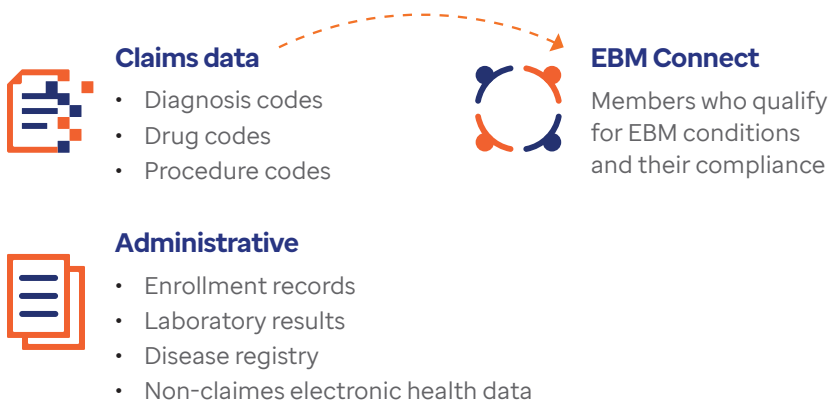
- NCQA Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS)
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
- Pharmacy Quality Alliance (PQA)

*Network for Excellence in Health Innovation. Taking Stock: *Patient Medication Adherence and Chronic Disease Management*. June 10, 2020. Accessed January 2022.

Enhance the credibility of care and quality management programs

EBM Connect offers a broad complement of quality measures, including measures written by national organizations. It also incorporates Optum-authored measures developed with guidance from 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. We also fully document enhancements to provide the most up-to-date information on which to base measures and to share with members and physician groups. All HEDIS measures are certified through the NCQA Allowable Adjustment certification program.

How it works



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, for Optum-authored measures, a synopsis of evidence with citations.

Generate tailored compliance reporting

Output files from EBM Connect support reporting at the plan, provider and 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 and support strategies to reduce low-value care
- Quality reporting: Identify which conditions have the 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 configurations 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.
- Complete transparency of measure specifications for confidence in sharing results with providers.
- Shared input format across Symmetry products for ease of use

Learn more about how Symmetry EBM Connect can help you evaluate quality of care compared to national standards and evidence-based practice at optum.com/symmetry.