

# INGENIX®

## Symmetry Episode Treatment Groups® (ETGs®)

The ETG software intelligently tracks and adjusts for changes in a patient's condition during the course of treatment.

### Executive Summary

Symmetry Episode Treatment Groups® (ETGs®) comprise a condition classification and episode building methodology found at the heart of leading health care decision support systems.

- Identify discretely occurring, clinically homogenous episodes of care
- Organize claims/encounter data into rational, intuitive units for analysis
- Identify effective medical interventions

### Overview

Using routinely collected claims or encounter data as input, the ETG software captures the relevant services (including pharmaceutical prescriptions) provided during the course of a patient's treatment, and organizes the claims/encounter data into meaningful episodes of care. The result is the accurate identification of clinically homogenous, risk-adjusted episodes of care, regardless of treatment location or duration.

#### Financial and Clinical Metrics for Analyzing Evidence-based Medicine

This methodology results in the accurate identification of clinically homogenous, risk-adjusted episodes of care, regardless of treatment location or duration. And because ETGs are intuitive and adjust for clinical severity, they can be utilized in diverse applications integral to the success of clinicians, health care researchers, and administrators.

#### Designed For Ease of Use and Integration with Existing Systems

The ETG software—which is available separately, or as part of a complete managed health care reporting system from third-party vendors and consulting groups—offers users the opportunity to write custom “grouper engine” programs around ETG/ERG® (Episode Risk Groups®) grouper libraries. Such programs allow managed care organizations, systems integrators, consultants, and payers to easily incorporate ETGs into their systems.

#### Spanning Both Inpatient and Outpatient Settings

The ETG methodology is similar to that of Diagnosis Related Groups (DRGs) but with several important differences. Perhaps the most obvious is that ETGs identify and classify an entire episode of care regardless of whether the patient has received medical treatment as an outpatient, inpatient, or both.

## Key Features

A foundation for superior health care management reporting, ETGs' methodology includes:

- **Episode building**—ETGs combine ambulatory, inpatient, and pharmacy claims to build a complete treatment episode from the onset of symptoms until treatment is complete.
- **Clinical homogeneity**—ETGs were created to be clinically homogenous, which means each patient's illness and severity are medically consistent with others belonging to the same ETG.
- **Case mix adjustment**—ETGs can account for differences in patient severity, including variations in patient age, complicating conditions, comorbidities, and major surgeries.
- **Concurrent and recurrent episodes**—The ETG grouper software tracks concurrently occurring episodes as well as recurrent episodes of the same illness.
- **'Shifting' episodes**—The ETG software intelligently tracks and adjusts for changes in a patient's condition during the course of treatment.
- **Manageable number of groups**— The ETG illness classification and episode building system is comprised of nearly 600 clinically homogeneous and statistically stable groups ( $r^2=.56$ ).
- **Pharmaceutical claims**—Using a patented methodology, the ETG software evaluates and assigns each drug claim to the appropriate ETG episode.
- **Accountability and assignability**—As part of the ETG grouping process, ancillary services are assigned to a physician or other direct care provider.
- **Availability of detail**—The output of the ETG software is the original claims data, plus ETG-related data elements which simplify episode-based analysis. Drill-down analysis is robust, right down to the detailed expense line.

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## Versatile Functionality

Designed to provide a consistent and reliable measurement tool for gauging the provision and financing of health care services, ETGs can serve:

- as an analytical unit for measuring and comparing the utilization and financial performance of health care providers (provider profiling)
- as a clinically useful unit for measuring health care demand
- as a basis for establishing disease management strategies, especially with the inclusion of pharmaceutical claims
- as a basis for evaluating whether physicians are adhering to treatment guidelines and protocols

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