

INGENIX[®]

Symmetry EBM Connect

Symmetry EBM Connect contains a robust set of evidenced-based care guidelines used in a wide range of care and quality measurement initiatives that support reporting by patient detail, physician results, and plan summary.

Executive Summary

Ingenix Symmetry EBM Connect[®] is a quality measurement tool that facilitates increased compliance with evidence-based care standards to enhance care quality and improve outcomes. EBM Connect measures more than 540 detailed noncompliance areas in 68 clinical conditions. These measures provide a quantifiable basis for actionable interventions by health plans, employers, disease managers, and others.

EBM Connect results provide the insight to:

- **Identify areas of treatment noncompliance**
- **Target opportunities for productive intervention**
- **Improve care quality and consistency**
- **Reduce health care costs**

Overview

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—the use of “best practice” guidelines at both the physician and patient levels—creates significant opportunities to enhance care quality and improve treatment outcomes.

Nationally Recognized Treatment Guidelines

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. Rigorous use of national standard measures and the input of an expert panel enhance credibility when you use Symmetry EBM Connect for disease management, physician quality, and employer reporting programs. 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.

Transparency

EBM Connect is not a “black box” application—we make the measurement specifications completely transparent, including diagnosis, procedure, and laboratory result coding. The EBM Connect Rules Manager makes each type of measure criterion applied to the data—including determination of eligibility for a condition, exclusions, intervention, or adherence logic—apparent and accessible. Comprehensive documentation includes algorithms that outline the measure logic, the coding used within the measures, and an evidence synopsis with citations.

Enhance Quality of Care

Improve Outcomes

Reduce Costs

Rules Manager

EBM Connect Rules Manager provides access to the extensive group of EBM Connect measures and includes facilities to make modifications to the measures that you might need to meet specific quality measurement requirements. You can also create new measures within Rules Manager for specific care or treatment indications within your population, or for enriching quality measures.

Built on a Robust Engine

EBM Connect features a robust engine that translates administrative claims data and lab results into actionable information. The engine compares medical claim, pharmacy claim, lab results, and enrollment data to an expanding set of rule-based measures, currently encompassing 68 clinical conditions and 543 components of care.

Multiple Reporting Levels

You can assess both provider and patient compliance in the areas of preventive care, disease management, medication adherence, patient safety, and care patterns from EBM Connect results. Output files from EBM Connect support reporting at the plan, physician, or patient level. Plan level reports identify your plan's best opportunities for quality and cost improvement by highlighting the areas of lowest guideline compliance. Physician level reports show compliance levels for individual practitioners, creating a basis for quality reporting, tiered networks, and performance-based compensation. Patient level reports help case managers identify individual intervention opportunities and provide invaluable insight for patient education.

Plan level report (not actual output)

Condition	# of Members	Total Reporting Items	Compliant Report Items	Percent Compliant	Noncompliant Report Items	Percent Noncompliant
AIDS/HIV	34	2,380	1,984	83.4%	396	16.6%
Asthma	535	2,321	975	42.0%	1,346	58.0%
Atrial Fibrillation	68	1,904	1,538	80.8%	366	19.2%
Congestive Heart Failure (CHF)	87	738	531	72.0%	207	28.1%
Coronary Artery Disease (CAD)	411	3,417	2,316	67.8%	1,101	32.2%
Depression	630	15,120	5,682	37.6%	9,438	62.4%
Diabetes Mellitus	480	10,560	8,542	80.9%	2,018	19.1%
Hypertension (HTN)	2,013	7,251	5,835	80.5%	1,416	19.5%
Low Back Pain	1,838	14,704	12,564	85.5%	2,140	14.5%
Rheumatoid Arthritis	918	38,556	25,941	67.3%	12,615	32.7%

Quickly find the conditions with the most significant opportunity to improve care and reduce costs. For example, in the sample plan above, the high levels of noncompliance on treatments related to Asthma and Depression could warrant additional focus.

Key Features

This powerful quality measurement tool enables comprehensive, evidence-based, care-compliance reporting and analysis for insurers, care managers, employers, and consumers by:

- **Facilitating communication with physicians 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 regimes, for care managers to target interventions**
 - **Providing the basis for quality reporting, designation, and performance-based programs**
- EBM Connect provides:
- **Flexibility to choose a set of measures and eligibility requirements to meet the unique needs of your population**
 - **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**
 - **Customization of measure content by allowing modification of EBM Connect measures and creation of new measures**

Versatility

One tool provides tailored compliance reporting for deployment within multiple departments:

- **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**

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