Optum

Symmetry Episode Treatment Groups (ETG) Oncology

Accurately measure cost of oncology care among health care groups and providers.

Direct medical costs for cancer care topped $209 billion nationally in 2020, accounting for a significant proportion of all health care expenditures in the U.S. Indirect costs are also significant, encompassing loss of productivity, wages, leisure time and decreased quality of life.[1]

As the cost of cancer care continues to rise, accurate oncology analytics are a critical component to understanding cost drivers. But many claims-based tools lack the cancer-specific clinical information, such as cancer stage or biomarker status, needed to accurately compare and predict medically necessary costs.

Assess the cost of oncology-related care

Symmetry® Episode Treatment Groups® (ETG®) Oncology is a cost-measurement tool specific to cancer care. ETG Oncology incorporates clinical data, claims-based markers (including social determinants of health information), and utilization-based markers (including oral and injectable treatments, chimeric antigen receptor T-cell [CAR-T] therapy and radiation therapy) to categorize oncology episodes based on medically necessary total episode cost. This allows for a fair and more accurate comparison of costs between health groups and providers. ETG Oncology can be used to:

• Understand the risk associated with value-based programs or contracts

• Accurately measure provider performance and provide consumer transparency

• Compare the performance of oncology group practices when creating specialty networks or tiering

• Identify members who may benefit from population health management programs

Symmetry ETG Oncology includes severity models for the top 20 oncology ETGs, accounting for **90%** of oncology expenditure:[2]

• Breast cancer*
• Lung cancer*
• Colon cancer*
• Rectal cancer*
• Prostate cancer*
• Thyroid cancer
• Pancreatic cancer*
• Leukemia
• Myelodysplastic syndromes
• Lymphoma
• Multiple myeloma
• CNS cancer
• ENT cancer*
• Gastroesophageal cancer*
• Hepatobiliary cancer
• Genitourinary cancer other than prostate*
• Cervical cancer
• Ovarian cancer
• Uterine cancer*
• Major skin cancer

* Utilization Treatment and Clinical Severity Model available

1. American Cancer Society. Cancer facts and figures. 2021.
2. National Cancer Institute. Cancer Trends Progress Report. April 2022.
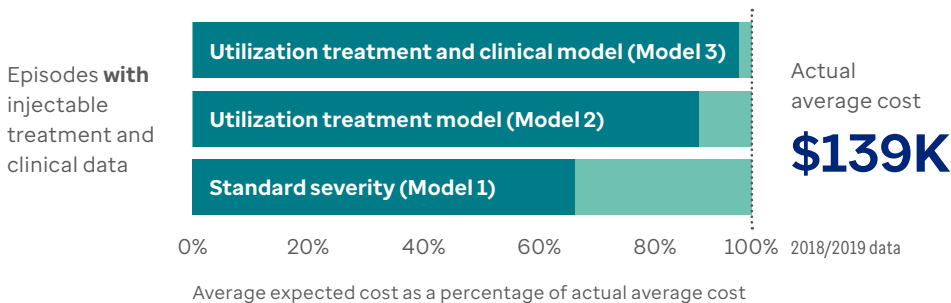
Enhancing the accuracy of severity adjustment

Symmetry ETG Oncology uses the patent-pending Symmetry Data Engine (SDE) to curate and normalize clinical data for severity modeling. This utility is embedded in ETG Oncology and pre-processes the clinical data, automatically removing and resolving inconsistencies to ensure that only validated data is integrated within the ETG grouped claims.

With their expanded view of clinical factors and guideline-based treatment, ETG Oncology severity models account for a much larger fraction of the variation in cost between episodes.

ETG 163100 malignant neoplasm of pancreatic gland
Expected cost by model (commercial only)

Episodes **with** injectable treatment and clinical data

Utilization treatment and clinical model (Model 3)	
Utilization treatment model (Model 2)	
Standard severity (Model 1)	

0%   20%   40%   60%   80%   100%   2018/2019 data

Actual average cost
$139K

Average expected cost as a percentage of actual average cost

The advantages of Symmetry ETG Oncology

- Next-generation severity models incorporate utilization elements in 20 oncology ETGs and clinical data elements in 10 of them. This results in superior cost prediction to facilitate accurate provider comparison and multiple other use cases.

- Symmetry Data Engine simplifies the processing of clinical data from EHRs, prior authorization systems and clinical registries.

- Easy-to-use output files, including SDOH output at the member and episode level, readily integrate with existing care management systems and many other analytical and reporting applications.

- Symmetry ETG Oncology is available as an add-on module to the existing Symmetry ETG product. All the functionality of our market-leading episode of care grouper is included and leveraged in this product offering.

Symmetry ETG Oncology includes two additional severity models::

The Utilization Treatment Severity Model is based on medical and pharmacy claims data input. This model assumes that all clinical practice and treatment choices are uniformly constrained and thus allows treatment decisions to be considered as independent variables.

The Utilization Treatment and Clinical Severity Model builds on the Utilization Treatment Severity Model by incorporating more granular clinical information, such as cancer stage and biomarker status.

Learn more about how Optum Symmetry ETG Oncology can help you measure costs of care among providers at optum.com/symmetry.

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