

INGENIX[®]

Symmetry Pharmacy Risk Groups (PRG)

PRG supports care management and financial applications.

Executive Summary

Symmetry™ Pharmacy Risk Groups™ (PRG™) is a pharmacy-based health risk assessment system that uses prescription data and proprietary classification systems to help organizations better understand and measure member health risk by:

- **Calculating relative health risk scores for individual members**
- **Developing markers that describe each member's pharmaceutical treatments**
- **Determining the key factors driving relative risk for each member**

PRG Overview

PRG provides a powerful risk assessment solution to organizations that do not have access to complete medical claims or want to perform a more timely assessment of a member's health risk. Using prescription data and proprietary classification systems to create markers of health risk that may indicate a patient's disease prevalence, severity, and comorbidities, PRG allows health care analysts and actuaries to more accurately predict future health care costs and pharmaceutical use.

A Proven Episodes-of-Care Approach

The foundation for PRG is Symmetry's patented Episode Treatment Groups[®] (ETG[®]) illness classification and episode building system, a software product that rigorously assigns health care claims data, including pharmaceuticals, into risk-adjusted episodes of care. PRG uses prescription claims data and Symmetry's proprietary classification system to create markers of health risk that can indicate a patient's disease prevalence, severity, and comorbidities. These markers of risk, along with markers describing a member's age and gender, are weighted appropriately to provide a measure of each patient's potential need for future health care services.

Medical and Care Management Applications

In addition to being able to provide risk measures for every member in a plan, PRG enables users to make timely predictions regarding those members highest in risk, supporting predictive modeling by identifying members who are at risk for catastrophic utilization; disease and care management by stratifying patients within a particular disease in order to promote timely and appropriate interventions; and health risk assessment by assessing members without past medical utilization as well as members more recently enrolled with a health plan. The clinical outputs from PRG also supports care management planning and resource allocation.

Financial/Actuarial Applications

PRG can support actuaries and underwriters in setting appropriate premium rates and in more accurately matching premium revenue with expected health care expenses. PRG can help you achieve a quick completion rate for pharmacy claims—and execute more timely risk assessment and underwriting. Access to the pharmacy claims data can help underwriters set appropriate rates for new groups. Outputs describe disease prevalence and comorbidities based on pharmacy treatment patterns. Finally, PRG results can be used to compute IBNR adjustments and reserve allocation.

Key Features

Compelling advantages include accuracy, timeliness, system compatibility, and more:

- **Medical claims data not required—PRG uses only pharmaceutical claims information, which is more widely available and often coded in a more reliable and complete manner.**
- **Provides timely prediction—When compared to medical claims, pharmacy claims data is available to users on a**
- **more timely basis—typically within two weeks of the prescription fill date.**
- **More frequent risk assessment—Given the timeliness and administrative advantages of working with pharmacy claims data, PRG allows users to assess member health risk on a more frequent basis.**
- **Predictive accuracy—PRG provides better predictions of future health risk approaching that of Symmetry’s Episode Risk Groups® (ERG®) product—a health**
- **risk assessment tool that uses both medical and pharmacy claims.**
- **Practical and cost-effective—PRG is fully compatible with ETG and ERG, allowing for seamless integration into the Ingenix Symmetry portfolio of integrated grouper technologies.**
- **User-friendly—PRG is also easy to implement and understand, and require minimal IT resources.**

Benefits

PRG can be used to reliably assess risk using pharmacy claims. Because pharmacy claims information is often easier to access, more complete, more consistent, and more current than medical claims data, PRG is a convenient and timely predictor of health risk.

- **Better predict future health care costs**
- **Better predict future pharmaceutical use**
- **Understand and measure member health risk**

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