

Analyze future risk and health care usage

Risk assessment is more important than ever for health plans trying to understand future health care needs of individuals or entire populations

Optum® Symmetry® Risk Engine (SRE) helps health plans accurately assess future risk in a variety of ways. Organizations can identify and assess risk and predict the potential medical and pharmaceutical costs.

The Symmetry Risk Engine predicts future health care usage for individuals and groups in commercial and Medicare Advantage populations. As a foundation, a methodology of episodes of care is used to create individual risk profiles by combining medical and pharmacy claims with other relevant markers. We also include a wide variety of markers for utilization and social determinants of health (SDOH).

Like many existing risk assessment methodologies, SRE uses administrative medical claims as input to predict cost risk. But SRE uses episodes of care from Symmetry® Episode Treatment Groups® (ETG®) as markers of risk, rather than the diagnoses from individual medical encounters.

SRE can also assess the probability of inpatient admission or an avoidable emergency department event. Assessment of Medicaid populations is also now possible using new functionality that allows model results to be recalibrated for more reliable predictions.

An innovative approach to risk assessment

With over 160 model configurations to address your unique business needs, the result is a powerful, cost-effective and practical solution to risk assessment. SRE focuses on the key information describing a member's underlying condition instead of the individual services rendered in treatment. SRE also uses information from a member's prescription drug and medication regimen complexity to provide care. Pharmacy Risk Groups® (PRG®) is now integrated into SRE. PRG provides predictions using pharmacy data only.



The use of over 3,000 possible markers of risk allows Symmetry Risk Engine to be one of the most effective risk assessment tools for predicting future health care costs

SRE has historically been a key analytic component of Impact Pro, our premier population management and care management solution. With newly designed capabilities, SRE is now available as a product within the Symmetry suite. Customers now can access the analytical power of the risk scoring engine and use the results with their existing care management solutions.

Model use cases

The SRE prospective risk scoring engine includes models predicting future cost outcomes, and event probability models such as inpatient admission and avoidable ED visit. Models are also included that predict only the future expenditures related to behavioral health care. Common use cases include, but are not limited to:

- Predicting member and population future cost burden
- Identifying and prioritizing members who would benefit most from health plan programs
- Renewal underwriting and other actuarial pricing
- Assessing future network expenses
- Using pharmacy-data-only models for earlier identification of high risk than is typically possible with medical claim models

Customizable features

The SRE models are built on large, nationally representative commercial and Medicare Advantage datasets. Client data can differ significantly from data used to build SRE models. SRE now includes a novel capability that allows recalibration of existing SRE cost models to better fit a customer's data, while maintaining the power of the original models.

Clients with entirely different populations (for example, Medicaid) or distinct subpopulations (with different plan types, payment structures, geography, etc.) may see significantly better predictions with models recalibrated to those populations and/or subpopulations.

SRE also supports integration of custom models built on the robust risk marker framework. Data science teams or other advanced users can use the SRE risk markers to build custom risk models for their specific outcomes and use cases and incorporate those models directly into SRE.

Key benefits of SRE

- Flexibility of input data, model timing, line of business, expenditure thresholds, partial enrollment and predicted outcomes
- Deep clinical foundation to provide an effective tool for understanding how patient profiles impact future health and cost risk
- Innovative functionality allowing customers to recalibrate their models' results based on their unique population or subpopulations
- Capability for customers to build their own specific custom models
- Easy to integrate with the existing Symmetry suite of products to provide a comprehensive solution for health risk assessment and episode-of-care methodologies

For more information on Symmetry Risk Engine, visit optum.com/symmetry.



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