

Predictive Modeling NEWS

Hopkins e-ACG Team: 'BMI Data Improves Cost, Utilization Predictions'

The latest paper to be published from the faculty at the Johns Hopkins Center for Population Health IT's e-ACG line of work – which focuses on bringing electronic health record data into the predictive modeling process – examines Body Mass Index information, showing its impact on PM and risk adjustment; it was recently released pre-publication by Medical Care.

The researchers, all members of the Johns Hopkins ACG System R&D team – Hadi Kharrazi MD PhD, Hsien-Yen Chang PhD, Sara E. Heins PhD, Jonathan Weiner DrPH and Kim Gudzone MD -- note in "Assessing the Impact of BMI Information on the Performance of Risk Adjustment Models in Predicting Healthcare Costs and Utilization" that "using electronic health records for population risk stratification has gained attention in recent years."

- The reason: "Compared with insurance claims, EHRs offer novel data types -- vital signs, for example -- that can potentially improve population-based predictive models of cost and utilization."
- Their findings: "EHR-extracted BMI levels can be used to enhance predictive models of utilization, especially if comprehensive diagnostic data are missing."

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PwC's Prescription for Blockchain in Healthcare: 'Reinvent or Be Reinvented'

"Blockchain-based technologies offer substantial opportunities to reinvent how healthcare companies access, collect, distribute, share, leverage, monitor and audit data. Not all companies will benefit; those that are slow to change may lose out to those that use the technology to cut costs and increase efficiencies."

Blockchain disruption is coming, according to the consultants at PwC, who ask, "Are healthcare companies ready?" In a new report on blockchain, PwC advises healthcare organizations to "be prepared to identify where it could improve operations and interactions with trusted partners" – warning them that they "have precious little time to plan, adjust and adapt." Here's the current state of affairs, according to the report:

- 49% of global healthcare companies are developing blockchain solutions.
- 47% say lack of trust is a barrier to implementation.
- 61% of blockchain projects are challenged by lack of expertise.
- 39% of companies say regulatory uncertainty is holding blockchain back.

Here's a look at six ways PwC sees that changing in the future:

- [1] In back office functions like outcome-based and smart contracts, revenue cycle reconciliation, health savings accounts, fraud detection, tracking copay accumulations and checking claims, blockchain could "ease audits and analysis." Now, the report says, "contracts and payments are manually checked, reconciled and audited," when they could be "coded into smart contracts, with the transaction information stored immutably on the blockchain."

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