

Predictive Modeling NEWS

Journal Scan



Hopkins Research Finds Analytic Value in Lab Test Results

“The addition of laboratory risk markers can significantly improve the identification of high-risk patients using models that include age, gender and a limited number of morbidities; however, models that use comprehensive risk measures may be only marginally improved.”

Jonathan Weiner DrPH, professor of Health Policy & Management and of Health Informatics and director of the ACG R&D Team at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, and a *Predictive Modeling News* Editorial Advisory Board member, reports that the team at The Johns Hopkins Center for Population Health IT has just published research – in the *American Journal of Managed Care* -- on the impact of lab tests on predictive modeling. The takeaway points, the article notes, are these:

- Frequently ordered lab tests in outpatient practices “contain valuable data for individual risk assessment.”
 - Ranges of blood chemistries and hematology results “define a set of model markers that have clinical face validity and potential utility for care management.”
 - Adding lab-based markers to risk levels from claims, prescriptions and enrollment data “improves the prediction of individual cost and inpatient admission and the prospective identification of high-cost patients.”
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Actuaries: Healthcare Companies Have High Hopes for Predictive Analytics

“58% of healthcare executives anticipate dedicating 15% or more of their budgets to predictive analytics in 2018, a five-point increase from 2017. The increase spans both payer and provider organizations.”

Each year, the Society of Actuaries surveys payer and provider executives for insights into future predictive analytics trends in the healthcare industry, the organization reports. This year’s survey found a majority of users expecting predictive analytics to save their organizations more than 15% over the next five years -- but with significantly more provider executives, 75%, doing so than payers, 44% -- and a huge majority touting analytics’ importance to the future of their businesses. The survey also turned up a slight majority saying cost reduction is analytics’ most important outcome and giant majorities reporting use – or planned use in the near term. Here are details from *2018 Predictive Analytics in Healthcare Trends*:

- 16% of organizations that currently use predictive analytics don’t expect to increase the PA budget at all over the next five years; 13% won’t up it more than 5%; and 14% plan to increase PA spending by 10%. 22% see a 15% rise; 19% see a 20% jump; and 17% expect to spend at least 25% more. That means 58% expect to spend at least 15% more and 43% plan on a 0% to 15% increase. 15% don’t know what they’ll spend.
 - Interestingly, the survey this year found “a notable seven-point year-over-year decline in the overall number of executives currently using predictive analytics, driven primarily by payers,” the report says. “However, 26% of payers anticipate using predictive analytics in the next year, a 10-point increase from last year, which indicates the potential for future growth.”
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