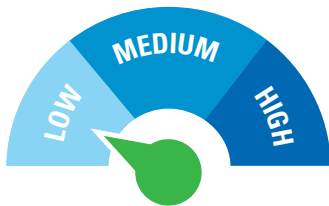# Analytic Recipe for Successful Population Health Management
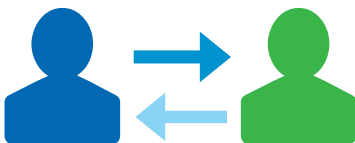## FIVE KEY INGREDIENTS

1. RISK STRATIFICATION

Successful population health management analysis enables users to focus their attention appropriately across the care continuum. Deployment of a sophisticated method that divides a population into meaningful health risk groupings and assigns individuals to a unique clinically relevant risk categories based on how physicians make treatment decisions is critical to success. The Cobalt Talon solution:

- Enables an innovative way of analyzing healthcare utilization and costs with a higher priority given to conditions having greater impact on clinical decision making.

- Consists of over 40 discrete categories - 25 for catastrophic and chronic conditions and 19 for healthy individuals stratified by gender and age.

- Includes a primary classification for each individual plus up to four additional classifications for quick identification of co-morbid conditions.

2. MEMBER ATTRIBUTION

Member attribution links a patient to a particular medical provider for a specified period of time based on his or her medical history. Once attributed to an accountable provider, the patient's care can be better monitored and managed through the assistance of metrics and indicators providing insight to the overall medical experience. The Cobalt Talon solution:

- Leverages a hierarchy system based on evaluation and management codes, provider specialty and volume of services performed for each patient.

- Includes a hierarchy of the following specialty categories - Primary Care Physician, Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant, Medical Specialist, Surgical Specialist, and Allied Provider.

- Assigns a "strength rating" created to indicate the degree of connection between each patient and their attributed provider and other providers who have also treated the patient.

3. PROVIDER EFFICIENCY

Population health management analysis is made more successful through the use of a provider efficiency rating solution which groups data into meaningful medical conditions and measures individual physician or physician group performance. Physicians can be compared to their specialty peer group and protocol ranges utilizing calculated efficiency scores. This type of methodology identifies procedures and services that are potentially over or underutilized. The Cobalt Talon solution:

- Groups diagnosis codes into meaningful medical conditions with all patient services linked together within a specified period of time.

- Measures physician efficiency using a standardized set of prevalent medical conditions by removing outliers and minimizing the influence of patient health status.

- Employs correlation models to detect those procedures and services most related with a physician's efficiency scores and the associated savings opportunities.

4. QUALITY MEASURES

Understanding quality performance is vital to population health analysis. Analysts can utilize quality-of-care indicators derived from evidence-based guidelines for a variety of purposes including identification of opportunities to improve patient health, to monitor provider effectiveness, and to manage network performance. The Cobalt Talon solution:

- Includes select HEDIS measures, Dartmouth Atlas Health Care Preference-Sensitive Care measures, AHRQ Prevention Quality Indicators, and other measures from sources such as state Medicaid Programs, NQF, Pioneer ACOs, etc.

- Leverages quality measures alongside cost and efficiency metrics to ensure a balance between financial savings and positive health outcomes.

- Includes a mixture of process measures (e.g., eye exam for diabetes members) and outcome measures (e.g., lab test results).

5. PREDICTIVE INSIGHTS

Predictive insights are designed to enable healthcare organizations to focus resources on patients most likely to consume future healthcare services. Effective use of such insights can proactively save administrative and medical costs and most importantly, improve health outcomes. Prediction metrics estimate levels of future healthcare consumption and include propensity scores that indicate the statistical likelihood of certain high-impact events to occur. The Cobalt Talon solution:

- Includes predictive risk scoring models with hundreds of supporting condition categories to inform users of specific patient risk drivers.

- Contains predictive insights related to high-cost procedures, high-cost patients, readmissions, frequent ER utilizers, and chronic or pre-chronic patients.

- Enhances capabilities through appending geo-demographic consumer data to claims data.