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| **Name of organization: \*** | Highmark Inc |
| **Briefly describe your organization: \*** | A national health and wellness organization as well as the second largest integrated delivery and financing system in America, Highmark Health and our diversified portfolio of businesses employ more than 40,000 talented people who proudly serve millions of Americans in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The Highmark Health organization is focused on getting health care right. We are transforming health care by connecting care and coverage through new models that deliver greater value and a better health care experience to our customers. |
| **Website:** | <https://www.highmarkhealth.org/> |
| **Describe the capstone problem: \*** | |
| As part of a pay-for-value arrangement between a payer (health insurance plan) and a provider (hospitals, doctors, etc.), the provider is evaluated based on certain quality and cost metrics. Highmark runs one of the nation's largest pay-for-value programs for the primary care physicians (PCPs) in its network called True Performance (TP). The goal of such an arrangement is to use reimbursement as a lever to drive improvement in the quality of service, prevention of unnecessary medical procedures, and reduction in the total medical cost for both Highmark and its members. Today, as part of the quality gate for providers, we use 35 quality metrics to evaluate if they are hitting the bare minimum criteria to be eligible for extra compensation. In order for the TP program to be effective, we need to ensure that the metrics we are using to evaluate the providers accurately reflect the end results we want to drive. An analytic framework to draw inference (causal or otherwise) between the quality metrics and the medical and cost outcomes to determine which ones are effective and which ones are not would be good way to approach this problem. We would also be open to other metrics that would be better suited to evaluate providers for the outcomes. Here is an example of something similar done on CMS' Medicare metrics: <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp1802595> | |
| **Objectives of the project: \*** | |
| Highmark's mission is to put our customeTre of statistical significance for what kind of cost and medical outcomes, and which ones are not adding any value. A more global scan to figure out any possible metrics that might not be in our set would also be another possible area of further analysis. A report or a working paper (similar to the CMS paper shared earlier) would be an acceptable deliverable. If the students want to create a generalizable framework (and a web-app) where one could upload data in a particular format, and output the results, we would appreciate that as well. | |
| **Recruiting Interests:** | * Are you interested in hiring students as a result of the capstone project? * Would you like to establish a recruiting relationship with Heinz College? |
| **Program preferences: \*** | * [Master of Information Systems Management (MISM)](http://hnz.cm/2tqg7Ls) * [Master of Science in Health Care Policy & Management (MSHCPM)](http://hnz.cm/sJqELk) |
| **Skills/technologies required: \*** | This is a stand-alone project that doesn't directly rely on our applications. We would share all the required data (flat files) using SFTP, and provide all the necessary domain and contextual knowledge. We would be happy to have weekly check-ins to make sure that the students are getting what they need. We are agnostic to the tool used to get to the analysis. |
| **Preferred Semester:** | Spring: Jan-May |
| **Capstone Lead Contact Name: \*** | Irem Velibeyoglu |
| **Job Title: \*** | Data Scientist |
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| **Additional Capstone Company Contact Name:** | Suman Giri |
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