Hopkins Team Lays Out Ways to Integrate SDOH Data into Population Health Platforms

A team from the Johns Hopkins Center for Population Health Information Technology has published a new paper in the Journal of Population Health Management called “Integrating Social and Behavioral Determinants of Health into Population Health Analytics: A Conceptual Framework and Suggested Road Map,” says Jonathan P. Weiner DrPH, Professor of Health Policy & Management and of Health Informatics, CPHIT Director, ACG Co-Developer and Director of the ACG R&D Team at Baltimore’s Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. He’s also a Care Analytics News Editorial Advisory Board member.

- Researchers developed the framework and undertook the associated literature review “to help provide a foundation for CPHIT’s wide-ranging portfolio of work focusing on the integration of SDOH factors into population-level predictive analytics,” says Weiner.
- Specifically, he adds, “we have several projects underway where we are developing methods for integrating social determinant data derived from free- text and structured EHRs, community-level GIS files and social service agency data into traditional claims and clinical databases.”

Data Analyzers Offer Innovative Options

Blue Health Intelligence reports that 18 months in, its revolutionary employer analytics and reporting solution is “providing healthcare insights for millions of individuals who receive health benefits through their employers;” after working together for five years to streamline electronic workflows for post-acute discharge, Cerner and naviHealth say they anticipate launching “an offering to support BPCI Advanced.”

BHI Touts Whyzen’s Ability to ‘Tap Into Powerful Benchmarks’

Whyzen Analytics, says Blue Health Intelligence, has “increased operational efficiencies and value by providing more actionable population health information to four large regional health plans.” Adds Swati Abbott, CEO at BHI: “The days of time-consuming cut-and-paste healthcare benefits report production are over.” The solution “provides fully secure, on-demand analytics via mobile platforms and interactive dashboards,” a statement notes, allowing plans and employers to “spend more time on what matters most: understanding cost, use and outcomes trends and identifying improvement opportunities.”

Health plans’ customers also leverage the Whyzen solution “to better understand the cost and quality impacts of care management within different accounts,” according to the statement. By simultaneously harnessing BHI’s complete data repository -- consisting of more than 190 million lives and 19 billion claims -- Whyzen’s users “can readily evaluate the performance of any customized narrow network and tap into powerful benchmarks to derive actionable recommendations for different member populations.”

Says Mary Henderson, Senior Vice President at BHI: “Thanks to partnerships with four leading health plans and our sophisticated associative data model, employers have a comprehensive view of how their accounts -- including active and retired employees and their dependents -- use HMO, PPO and other healthcare products. Whyzen breaks down previous analytics barriers.” Whyzen’s use of natural language generation technology allows users to hover over graphics and see full-text explanations of underlying data, she adds; the findings can be exported into Microsoft or Adobe presentations.

As BHI onboards new customers, Whyzen will provide "predictive analytics and prescriptive recommendations" to:
- avoid admissions, readmissions and emergency room visits
- use network services more effectively