

Learning Objectives: CME Video “Understanding Episodes of Care”

This self-study continuing education video entitled “Understanding Episodes of Care,” is the result of a workshop offered by the Physicians Advocacy Institute, Inc., (PAI) on June 22, 2007. The goal of this video is to educate physicians about what “Episode of Treatment Groupers (ETGs) are and how they are used by health plans to rate physicians.

Upon completion of this activity, the participant should be able to:

- Define terminology involved in “episodes of care,” as currently defined by those deploying the methodology and software to evaluate physician “efficiency.”
- Explain how the methodology works. This involves many inputs and outputs of “efficiency” as defined by health plans. Physicians must understand the intricacies of formulas and health plan data that is encapsulated in claims data used to derive the ratings. This particularly means that physicians must learn the shortcomings of using claims data alone for such evaluations.
- Engage health plans in a meaningful dialog related to physicians’ patient population and the necessity for risk adjustment to take into account sicker patients or special needs assessments of physicians’ patient populations.
- Defend their quality of care decisions and patient advocacy. Physicians can demand information and due process from health plans but only if they are armed with the knowledge to do so.

Accreditation

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the Essential Areas and Policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint sponsorship of Texas Medical Association and Physicians Advocacy Institute, Inc. The Texas Medical Association is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Hour Designation

The TMA designates this educational activity for a maximum of 3 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*[™]. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.