

Population Health Management: New Tool to Revamp Health Care

Devansh Mehta^{1*}

Population health management is new tool to revamp the healthcare industry. With growing number of population over >65 and >80 years. Proper management of health status of population is need of hour. Maintaining the overall health of population is not as easy task. Proper guidelines and actions shall be taken to care the lowering levels of complete population. The present letter to editor mainly focuses upon the strategies and actions which shall be taken to take care of health of population as a whole.

Population health management is defined as system whose core responsibility is to minimize the cost factor associated with delivering of health services to the patients. It's a highly disciplined and effective system for the benefit of the patients. US has been witnessing the unsustainable growth of health cost, increase in lack of access to quality healthcare, as well as increasing disparities. Out of the three the core issue is with unsustainable growth of health cost. To cope with the issue the US government has drafted two main Acts for reforming the healthcare system in US. These are HITECH Act and Affordable care act of 2010. The health reform law clearly instructs the Centre for Medicare and Medicaid services (CMS) to create a system to revamp the complete healthcare system in the US. Thus, Population Health Management is born to redefine the healthcare system in the US. Population Health Management will become a required core competency system for provider organization in a post fee for service payment environment. The main benefits of PHM (Population health management) will be that it will focus on high risk patients who generate the majority of healthcare cost, it will systematically address the preventive and chronic care needs of every patient. The goal of population health management will be to keep population as healthy as possible, along with minimizing the expensive interventions such as emergency department visits, hospitalizations, imaging tests and procedures. Population health management to achieve the reformation goal in US, will use automation system. This automation system will proactively work upon minimizing the cost and improving the efficiency as well as effectiveness of the overall quality health care in the complete system in the country. Business intelligence which will be brought under the gambit of population health management system will use automation system. The core actions under automation will be,

1. Defining the population
2. Identifying the care gaps
3. Stratifying the risks
4. Engaging the patients

5. Managing the care
6. Measuring the outcomes

Such type of automation will boost the overall effectiveness as well as efficiency of the healthcare system in US.

To look deep into the crisis which the US is currently facing, lets looks at some facts and figures. It is estimated that in US population of people living in the country over >65 years of age is projected to increase by 19.6 % by 2030. The population of people above >65 years would increase to 71 million by 2030. The population of age above >80 would increase to 19.5 million by 2030. By 2025, the proportion of Florida's population aged ≥ 65 is projected to increase by 26 %. There will be 15 % increase in population above >65 in rest of the 48 states. These are alarming numbers. Hence, need of Population health management system is need of an hour. With automation in line in the system, data integration, analysis, reporting, and communications will bring in better outcomes from PHM. Thus PHM model is a model which could be looked forward to, in improving the current status of health care in the US.^[1]

REFERENCES

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¹Content Writer, TRM Writer's™, Flat No. 301, Eden Garden, Near Jatauli Phattak, Modipuram, Meerut-250110, Uttar Pradesh, India.

E-mail: trmwriters@gmail.com

*Corresponding author