

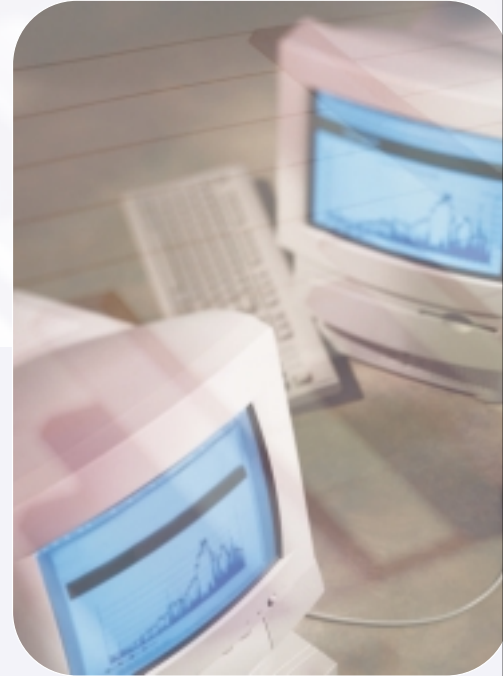


Best Practice Manager

Under constant pressure to improve patient care while reducing costs, today's healthcare organizations need a practical and accurate tool for analyzing the quality and efficiency of patient care. HCC provides that method with Best Practice Manager—decision support software that enables you to monitor clinical practice patterns and evaluate the financial impact of clinical decisions. With Best Practice Manager you can easily create user-defined populations of patients and analyze the clinical and financial data of these patient groups. The resulting information is used to continuously improve care and lower costs. In addition, you can establish product lines within Best Practice Manager to determine profitability of service offerings and support strategic decision making.

How Best Practice Manager Works

Best Practice Manager allows you to access the HCC patient database for the clinical and financial analysis of specific patient populations. This extensive database contains demographic, payer, physician, diagnosis, charge-item level cost (generated by the HCC Cost Accounting Manager application), payment, and adjustment data at the patient encounter level. The HCC patient database receives this information on a daily basis, providing timely information at the charge-item level of detail.



*Supporting Continuous
Quality Improvement
and Cost Control*



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Patient Populations

Best Practice Manager provides tools that enable you to set up criteria for grouping patient encounters into specific populations. You can base these criteria on any combination of data elements within the HCC patient database, including but not limited to DRGs, procedure and diagnosis codes, length of stay, patient type, payer, contract service, and physician. Once you have defined a population, you can analyze it over time either on-line or through Best Practice Manager's extensive report library. You can also create custom reports using the HCC Information Manager query and reporting tool, which provides OLAP analyses and access to any element in the HCC patient database.

Profiles of Care

Best Practice Manager allows you to create charge-item level patient care profiles defining the expected resource utilization by day of stay for any patient population and then monitor actual patient encounters against these care profiles.

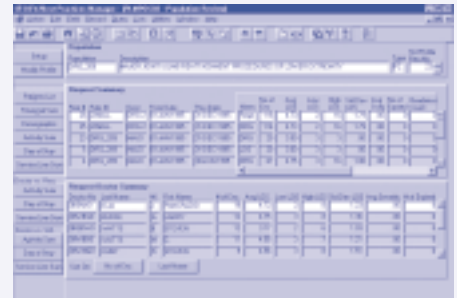
Initially, a baseline care profile is created from the historical data in the HCC patient database. You can then modify the baseline profile at the charge-item level to create an appropriate standard care profile. Best Practice Manager compares all patient discharges against the standard care profile and generates variances at the charge-item level. You can analyze day of stay charge-item variances by physician either on-line or through Best Practice Manager's extensive library of variance reports. Physicians and clinical staff can use variance data to reduce and control costs in areas of excess resource utilization. Case managers can utilize Best Practice Manager to track variances to standard care profiles by day of stay, ensuring quality and cost effectiveness.

Technology Specifications

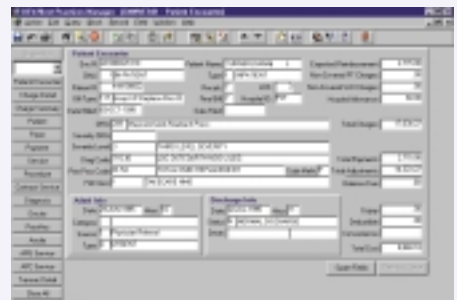
HCC partners with Oracle to provide applications that use Oracle's widely accepted database, client-server, and web-enabled technologies. HCC applications are available as on-site systems and as HCC-managed services.

About HCC

Based in Pleasanton, CA, Hospital Cost Consultants LLC is a leading provider of cost and reimbursement management software and services. With over 20 years of experience in the healthcare industry, HCC offers a full range of implementation, training, and consulting services to complement its decision support applications—Contract Manager, Cost Accounting Manager, and Best Practice Manager. All are available as stand-alone products or as part of an integrated decision support system that utilizes a single patient database for consistent, enterprise-wide reporting.



The Population Review screen displays summary level data for a patient population by request (each time the population has been generated) and by physician. The buttons on the left-hand side of the screen provide access to additional types of data for the population.



The Patient Encounter screen displays clinical and financial data for a specific patient encounter selected from a patient population. The buttons on the left-hand side of the screen provide access to additional types of data for the selected patient encounter.

- Comprehensive patient encounter level financial and clinical database with charge-item level detail
- Create user-defined patient populations using any data elements
- Analyze the profitability and resource utilization of user-defined patient populations and product lines
- Analyze physician practice patterns by comparing actual patient encounters against user-defined standard care profiles
- Daily source system interfaces ensure that the HCC patient database contains timely, accurate information

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