



Association, Professional Society & Advocacy Organization Capabilities



About Discern Health

Discern advises clients across the private and public sectors. Our focus is on helping to define the value of health care services through quality-based payment and delivery models. These models align performance with incentives by rewarding doctors, hospitals, suppliers, and patients for working together to improve health care while lowering total costs.



Because of our breadth and depth of knowledge, we can connect the dots between your experiences and opportunities to engage with the broader health care landscape.

Learn More

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Organizations aimed at engaging, educating, and promoting the interests of key health care stakeholder groups continue to play an essential role in the US value-based care environment. Health care associations and societies promote shared missions and values, support the needs of their members, and educate external audiences. Advocacy organizations bring the voices of their stakeholders to the national health care conversation.

Discern Health partners with clients to pursue strategies that enhance care quality and patient outcomes while promoting organizational goals. By understanding and applying health care policy, conducting and disseminating health services research, and engaging with the broader health care landscape, we help convert evidence into real-world insights and strategies.

Our Solutions

Discern helps associations, professional societies, and advocacy organizations engage in the value-based care environment by:

- Providing targeted updates on health care policy, quality, and other drivers of change in the health care landscape
- Monitoring the quality environment for measure gaps and opportunities for specific clinical areas, patient populations, or provider groups
- Designing and implementing innovative quality improvement initiatives, pilots, and research studies
- Generating evidence, analyzing data, and providing strategic recommendations to support quality and advocacy initiatives
- Writing white papers, issue briefs, blogs, and comment letters
- Developing and delivering educational resources, including virtual learning programs
- Creating data dashboards that highlight performance on measures and/or participation in value-based payment
- Recommending and facilitating innovative opportunities and partnerships
- Supporting convening and coalition building

Our Expertise

Discern supports a variety of health care stakeholders, including providers, life sciences companies, health plans, and government agencies, to improve and enhance success with value-based care initiatives. Our team has decades of leadership experience with health care measurement and payment models at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the National Quality Forum (NQF), the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), the National Partnership for Hospice Innovation (NPHI), state Medicaid agencies, and managed care organizations. Our expertise includes:

- Quality measurement & improvement
- Alternative incentive & payment models
- Patient-centered care models & transformation
- Data modeling & analytics
- Research & program evaluation
- Convening & consensus building



Discern provides the expertise of a larger firm, while maintaining a responsive, flexible, and customized approach.



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Select Project Examples



Recommendations for Timely Dissemination of Guidance *National Professional Society*

To help a national professional society meet its immediate business need of more timely release of actionable guidance, Discern provided strategic direction by identifying unmet needs for rapid-delivery guidance in the marketplace, exploring methods of balancing timeliness and precision/level of evidence for guidance within health care, and offering recommendations for the content, format, and delivery mechanisms of that guidance.



Evidence-Based Best Practices for Improving Advance Care Planning *Coalition to Transform Advanced Care (C-TAC)*

The C-TAC Advanced Care Transformation (ACT) Index is a single composite measure of the status of advanced illness across the US. Discern conducted a literature review, a data analysis, and interviews with key informants to identify best practices to improve one of the ACT Index measures, Advance Care Planning. These efforts resulted in a white paper, a webinar, news articles, and two presentations at the C-TAC annual meeting.



Policy Analysis & Impact Modeling *Kidney Care Partners*

For nearly a decade, Discern has partnered with Kidney Care Partners, a coalition of more than 30 organizations and dialysis stakeholders, to showcase progress made by the dialysis care community. In support of better outcomes, Discern has analyzed dialysis facility performance data, evaluated proposed federal regulations, and exhibited thought leadership through recommendations. One focus of this work has been how performance on the CMS Quality Incentive Program can effect spending and outcomes for CMS and dialysis patients.



Improving Patient-Reported Outcomes Measures in Oncology *National Pharmaceutical Council (NPC)*

Discern supported NPC by conducting a quality measure landscape scan to identify existing patient-reported measures (PRMs) and performance measures (PR-PMs) in oncology, along with measure gaps. Discern also conducted interviews, a survey, and a roundtable with diverse stakeholders to develop recommendations for filling gaps and removing barriers to implementation of PR-PMs in accountability programs. Additionally, Discern helped NPC to disseminate related findings through a white paper, webinars, conference presentations, and a peer-reviewed article.



Recommendations for Patient & Family Engagement in Measure Development *Patient Family Centered Care Partners (PFCCpartners)*

With support from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), PFCCpartners and Discern facilitated a Patient Family Advisor Summit focused on improving patient and family engagement in measure development. Discern synthesized the qualitative data gathered at the summit and developed an issue brief that describes an action plan to advance priorities that strengthen partnerships with patients and families and addresses barriers to valuable engagement.



Framework for Improving Quality Measurement in Medicaid *Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA)*

Discern assessed the use of quality measures by state Medicaid programs and analyzed alignment (or lack thereof) across states, identified gaps in overall use of measures, developed a framework for a more comprehensive measurement approach in Medicaid, and provided a series of recommended actions needed to reach the idealized future state presented in the framework. The framework and recommendations are aimed at influencing federal and state policymakers, Medicaid managed care organizations, and other stakeholders as they design and implement policies and programs related to quality measurement.