EPISODE OF CARE (EoC) GROUPER
Why it matters and how it helps

What the BHI EoC Grouper Does
The Blue Health Intelligence® (BHI®) Episode of Care (EoC) Grouper bundles all care for thousands of conditions and complex treatments into a single unit of analysis. Its unique integration of medical and pharmacy claims data with clinical logic empowers healthcare stakeholders to make more informed contracting decisions, conduct research, and better understand the cost and quality of care offerings in different settings.

Why BHI Developed its Own EoC Grouper
BHI developed its own proprietary grouper to meet the need for more robust quality metrics and better analytics than was being offered by most commercial groupers. Our grouper leverages extensive data* to analyze over 1,500 conditions and procedures, producing clinically accurate and comprehensive comparisons that are instrumental in making better healthcare decisions.

Healthcare stakeholders use the BHI EoC Grouper to:

- Develop high-quality provider networks to support fee-for-service and value-based payment arrangements
- Compare cost and quality metrics across healthcare organizations
- Fuel meaningful "if then" analyses to help business and clinical leaders grasp the cost of contracts and clinical protocols
- Evaluate treatment differences within a given condition
- Determine if preventive screening leads to diagnosis and treatment of related conditions
- Explore the prevalence of a condition in relevant populations
- Produce the analytics needed to analyze a complete episode of care, from pre-op to surgery to rehabilitation

Internally, BHI uses its grouper as a foundational part in its identification, prediction, stratification, and intervention tools. These are used for care management, employer account reporting, utilization management, provider engagement, contracting analysis, customized benchmarking, and quality-of-care evaluations.

How BHI is Sharing its EoC Grouper with Potential New Users
The EoC Grouper is currently offered as software-as-a-service. In 2019, BHI will offer an additional option of an on-premise solution while continuing to integrate more grouper applications into its other products and consulting services.

> The BHI EoC Grouper was built by a team of leading health plan experts, clinicians, statisticians, data scientists, expert coders, information technology professionals, and actuaries.

"If Then" Questions the BHI EoC Grouper Answers

- What facilities and/or individual providers should be included in a bundled payment or an accountable care organization arrangement?
- Should we use procedure-based incentives and pay-for-performance contracts?
- What procedures should we include or exclude to drive better outcomes in condition-centric clinical pathways or protocols?

*THE POWER OF BHI DATA

190M+ UNIQUE MEMBERS AND GROWING

REFRESHED MONTHLY

19B CLAIMS AND CLIMBING

COVERAGE FOR EVERY 3-DIGIT ZIP CODE IN THE U.S.

10+ YEARS OF HISTORIC DATA

CONFORMED UNIFORMLY

How the BHI EoC Grouper Works

Our grouper defines care episodes using diagnosis and/or procedure codes billed by hospitals and physicians. It identifies members' claims using customer-defined trigger procedures during a specified timeframe and then adds in client-defined events or interventions. Attributes are then defined for each episode construct. Clinical logic tables are used to roll up procedures or diagnoses that represent these events or interventions, and to define the events and interventions that will be eligible for inclusion in each episode type.

BHI's episodes include related services, complications, comorbidities, and symptoms. The episode's relationship to a trigger event always remains in the output results for greater transparency and additional analysis. To better understand total costs and care complexities, each episode type has a flexible timeframe setting that looks before, during, and after the trigger event. Our grouper can easily bring in additional events or interventions, and is capable of quickly processing large volumes of data.

Coding Inclusions Within the BHI EoC Grouper

- CPT, HPCPS, ICD-9, and ICD-10 codes are used to trigger a surgical treatment episode

- Medicare severity DRGs are used to trigger events that occur in an inpatient setting

What Sets the BHI EoC Grouper Apart

The EoC Grouper's value proposition is built on a rare combination of flexibility, transparency, and agility.

Flexibility – It has the ability to focus on both treatments and conditions. It can maintain existing standard or custom logic and methodologies within an episode definition, e.g., a plan's pre-existing provider attribution rules.

Transparency – It can drill into all the specific claims that make up each episode. When sharing episode results with various stakeholders, our grouper helps answer general and detailed questions to improve communication and provide a shared understanding of results.

Agility – Since the clinical logic tables used in our grouper are owned and maintained by BHI, episodes can be added, updated, tested, and analyzed faster than many off-the-shelf products. Clients looking to conduct specialized studies choose our grouper because unlike other groupers, it allows them to incorporate customized requirements and share patient-related research results more quickly.

How the BHI EoC Grouper is Reviewed and Validated

- BHI has continually maintained the grouper's clinical mapping logic, medical coding changes, and clinical guidelines with assistance from external consulting resources such as Allegheny Healthcare Orthopedics Group, Informatics Advantage, LLC, Milliman, and the University of Michigan's Center for Healthcare Research and Transformation.

- A rotating panel of speciality experts regularly evaluate all clinical algorithms and assumptions that are tied to medical literature.

- The EoC Grouper undergoes a formal endorsement-based review process including a thorough clinical literature review and validation by an independent third-party expert panel, along with consultation from multidisciplinary experts at academic institutions such as Johns Hopkins, Harvard, and Stanford.

- BHI's Advisory Council helps assess, validate, and continuously improve all BHI products, with special attention given to the EoC Grouper.

The EoC Grouper's review processes include technical testing, statistical validation, and clinical logic mapping assessments.