ALEX MACDONALD

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Required Skills:

To Be Discussed

Preferred Team Communications:

Conference Call, to be discussed

Data Sources:

You will have to retrieve sample Hospital Chargemasters.

Other Items:

Project has time zone flexibility. Mentors and students will determine a good time for virtual meeting

Team Info:

Needs a Developer, Project Manager and QA. Allows one team of 4-6 members.

HOSPITAL PRICING COMPARISON TOOL

Starting on the 1st of January 2019, hospitals in the USA are required to publish their pricing schedules. In an industry, where obfuscation and astronomical "published" pricing are standard ploys, it's no surprise that the results do not provide any clarity and the consumer is still in the dark.

Against a backdrop of the perception of rampant medical costs and medical bankruptcies at a conservative estimate of 26%, it is clear that the consumer is at a disadvantage, and that market forces have been skewed. We need to build tools to bring things back into balance and aid the consumer to better prepare and control medical costs.

NYT article on new regulation: https://nyti.ms/2SUrION

Article on medical bankruptcies: https://bit.ly/2NfVslX

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

For a specific region of the USA, county or state, collect a representative sample set of hospital pricing schedules and determine a path to provide an apples to apples comparative analysis of their pricing.

1. Build a tool to collect or import the data into a suitable application database system.
2. Perform the necessary analysis and correlate the imported pricing against a master schedule of coded services and procedures. (Correlation may require NLP techniques to match non-coded pricing)
3. Build a tool to capture and store treatment profiles on a FHIR Server
4. Provide an interface that can perform comparative analysis between hospitals and/or district within a geographic region. Comparison can be performed at either the coding level, (per procedure/service), or one or more per treatment profiles.

Where insufficient data, or data of sufficient clarity exists, this should be clearly indicated in the results.

For instance, you should be able to compare inner city vs suburban hospital pricing for common conditions and answer the question: "is it more expensive to have a condition in a certain area", as well as determining if the hospital provides enough data to price said condition.

SUCCESSFUL PROJECT

A proof of concept that demonstrates the technology and techniques that facilitate effective price comparison and analysis for a region.

The primary goal of this tool, initially, is to facilitate high-level research into hospital pricing, to drive the resumption of market forces. It's not intended as a consumer tool.

Intellectual Property: None