

Designed for today's complex
ambulatory environment:

Solventum™ Enhanced Ambulatory Patient Groups (EAPGs) Classification System



The challenge:

Managing the complex world of outpatient care, resource utilization and payment

The outpatient environment continues to grow in complexity as patients receive care in many settings instead of just one. Services are less centralized as care shifts from inpatient to outpatient settings. With all these changes, facilities can struggle to understand their outpatient populations, identify the resources that were used and generate clean claims. When facilities can manage the complexity of outpatient claims, they can easily identify cost-recovery opportunities and improve outpatient coding compliance and reimbursement.

The Solventum EAPGs is a comprehensive outpatient prospective payment system (OPPS) and methodology used to organize and pay for services with similar resource consumption across multiple settings, including hospitals, freestanding ambulatory surgery centers (ASCs) and renal dialysis centers. Solventum EAPGs gives outpatient facilities unprecedented tools for effectively analyzing and managing this environment.

Read on to find out how Solventum EAPGs can help transform patient data into actionable knowledge.



While inpatient care uses the patient stay as the unit of analysis, Solventum EAPGs use the patient visit and groups services that are similar in clinical characteristics and typical provider cost.

Why major payers and providers turn to Solventum EAPGs



Appropriate for all patient populations

Unlike other OPPS methodologies, the Solventum EAPG methodology is not limited to the Medicare and Medicaid populations. It applies to all ambulator patients.



Clinically meaningful

Solventum EAPGs create a clinically meaningful outpatient classification system that serves as an efficient and vital communication tool for hospitals, physicians and health plans.



Rewards efficiency through bundling and incentives

The Solventum EAPG methodology takes a more bundled approach than other available methods. Payments can now be packaged and consolidated, creating efficiency and analytical clarity.



Flexible use cases

The Solventum EAPG methodology gives payers and providers flexibility to meet their use-case needs. This allows users to customize and choose among several options for bundling, including: consolidation, packaging, discounting, use of modifiers, handling medical visits and more.

Appropriate for all patient populations

In the past, payment methodologies were specific to one setting or population, but the Solventum EAPG methodology was designed to be suitable for all populations in multiple ambulatory settings.



This comprehensive approach is regularly updated to reflect services typically provided together.



Patient visit



Hospital outpatient department



Freestanding ASC



Physician clinic



Renal dialysis center



Other diverse outpatient care settings



Solventum EAPGs can be used for fetal procedures, RSV pneumonia, childhood preventive medicine and procedures considered “inpatient only” by Medicare.

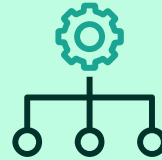
Clinically meaningful



Solventum EAPGs bring clinical insight and appropriate incentives to the historically jumbled world of outpatient utilization and payment. Clinical meaningfulness is critical to a successful outpatient classification system, because in order to respond effectively, hospitals must communicate the incentives to medical staff. A clinically meaningful methodology is more readily accepted by hospitals and physicians and more useful as a communication and management tool. With Solventum EAPGs, providers have access to powerful tools they haven't had before.

Solventum EAPGs provide

- ✓ A complete platform for analyzing and managing outpatient care
- ✓ Data that can be used in public reporting and other comparisons across hospitals and states
- ✓ Hospitals and other providers, government agencies, payers and researchers with a methodology that accommodates financial measures such as charges, costs and payments to create fair comparisons between utilization and efficiency across providers, attending physicians or service lines



Outpatient data is grouped into clinically relevant categories, which supports meaningful improvements in the delivery of care.

The Solventum EAPG classification groups are more clinically meaningful than the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) Ambulatory Payment Classification (APC) codes. In the APC methodology, an emergency department visit for chest pain would be classified as “level IV ED visit.” Using Solventum EAPG classification groups, the same visit can be classified in clear, succinct terms: chest pain.

Rewarding efficiency



The Solventum EAPG methodology takes a more bundled approach than either the CMS APCs or the other fee schedule and percentage-of-charge methods that are still widely used for outpatient care. Solventum EAPGs consolidate procedures when multiple occurrences of the same procedure are present. In addition, clinically similar procedures are consolidated when reported on the same service date.

The consolidation feature allows for more efficient bundled payments rather than individual procedure payments. It also packages ancillary services together with the significant procedure where appropriate. When payment for all routine services delivered in a single patient visit is captured within a single, fixed charge, hospitals have a financial incentive to provide only the most appropriate services.



The goal

Provide hospitals with financial incentives to deliver appropriate services. Solventum EAPGs take a bundled, per-visit approach, which is why it has been widely adopted.



Solventum EAPGs are updated quarterly to stay current with industry standard outpatient code sets (i.e., ICD-10-CM and Health Care Procedure Coding System) and changes in clinical practice.

Rewarding efficiency

Easily predict and verify expected payment for hospitals and providers



Solventum EAPG grouping logic is the same for every payer, although different payers can choose different configuration options and may follow different update schedules. Each payer that uses Solventum EAPGs makes its own decisions about prices and payment policies. For hospitals, other providers, health plans and other organizations that seek to understand, predict and verify expected payment, Solventum makes available software that emulates payer-specific grouping, pricing and reimbursement policies. This payment prediction software is available for 16 payers nationwide (as of 2018).

1,000
provider
organizations

18
Medicaid
programs

13
Commercial
payers

have licensed
Solventum EAPGs
to predict and verify
payment as well as
analyze and improve
internal operations



Flexibility is key

A successful outpatient classification system must be flexible enough to accommodate a full range of options to incorporate ancillary services into the visit payment. The Solventum EAPG methodology can be used to develop an outpatient case mix index called the “service mix index” for managing, comparing and analyzing ambulatory care and various other settings. Additionally, the Solventum EAPG methodology only needs information that is already routinely available from hospital outpatient or professional claims.



Solventum EAPGs can be configured to meet the needs of payment policy

For example, users may choose among several options for packaging ancillary services, discounting multiple occurrences of the same procedure, and paying or not paying for multiple medical visits that occurred on the same day.

Rely on a proven methodology

In ambulatory care, it's always been challenging to see the full picture, including all the services provided, how the organization was paid for those services, which providers are efficient and which are not, and, ultimately, the patient's outcome. By consistently defining the unit of analysis as the ambulatory visit across different settings, Solventum EAPGs can provide deep insight and facilitate unique comparisons.

By using Solventum EAPGs, providers can easily manage the complexity of outpatient claims, identify cost-recovery opportunities and improve outpatient coding compliance and reimbursement.



Contact Solventum today

For more information on how our products and services can assist your organization, contact your Solventum sales representative, call us at 800-367-2447, or visit us online at [Solventum.com](https://www.solventum.com).



Solventum Corporation
3M Center, Building 275
2510 Conway Avenue East
Maplewood, MN 55144

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