SOLUTION BRIEF

Analytic consulting and research services

Research, policy and analytic expertise decision support

Highlights

Our solution
The healthcare research and consulting services of Watson Health are designed to help you improve healthcare quality, access and efficiency.

Insights to help you address real-world challenges

IBM® Watson Health™ consulting services can provide insights to help you make informed strategic decisions. Our research staff have cross-industry expertise in evolving trends, including comparative effectiveness, quality and cost of care, health information technology advances, clinical decision support and prevention and wellness. Government and private organizations work with our experts and databases to provide them with solutions designed to help improve healthcare access, enhance quality and reduce costs.

Affecting change

Our innovative research and consulting services can provide support to help you drive policy and operational changes in the following areas:

Research data development
Develop and integrate large-scale healthcare databases and other tools to support research and analysis.
Provider quality and efficiency measurement
Assess provider and health plan performance with expertise in value-driven initiatives, healthcare cost and quality measurement and multi-stakeholder data sharing initiatives.

Health and productivity research
Conduct empirical research focused on the relationship between employee wellness, healthcare utilization and cost and work-related productivity.

Comparative effectiveness research
Assess treatment outcomes in defined patient populations using evidence-based research.

Outcomes research
Evaluate the clinical and economic outcomes of disease states, pharmaceutical treatments and other interventions.

Community living systems
Facilitate implementation of long-term services and support systems designed to measure and improve quality, integrate medical and social supports, protect consumer health and use the most cost-efficient purchasing models for your enterprise.

Behavioral health and quality research
Analyze policies in two high-priority areas—the financing of mental health and substance abuse treatment services and the quality of all types of healthcare.

Patient-centered medical home
Design and implement patient-centered medical home models and evaluate their effectiveness in improving the quality and efficiency of patient care.

Sample project experience
As Watson Health, and formerly Truven Health Analytics®, acquired by IBM in 2016 and now part of the Watson Health business, we serve both payer and provider markets, applying cross-industry expertise to develop meaningful solutions for our customers. A sampling of recent work follows.

For more information about a particular project, please visit the website listed for each project or email us at govfed@us.ibm.com.

Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP)
We are developing a series of healthcare databases and related software tools for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to enable research on a broad range of health policy issues at the national, state, and local market levels. http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/home.jsp

State snapshots from the National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Reports
We work with AHRQ to create interactive, web-based reports that summarize key indicators of healthcare quality for states, including relative strengths and opportunities for improvement. http://statesnapshots.ahrq.gov

National expenditures for Mental Health Services and substance abuse treatment
Under contract with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, our team of researchers and actuaries develops national spending estimates for the treatment of mental and substance use disorders. Reports created for them track important national trends, projections and state-level financing of these conditions. http://www.samhsa.gov/spendingestimates/toc.aspx
Home- and community-based waiver application on the web

Our programmers and analysts developed an online application to transform a paper-based process into a more accessible web-based system which is now available to all 50 states to apply for, renew or amend their Medicaid HCBS 1915(c) Waivers. The Waiver Management System (WMS) is also used by states to submit their CMS 372 waiver utilization reports. The 1915(c) Waiver Management System (WMS) provides CMS with automated workflow, email notifications and on-demand reporting capabilities.

Technical support to the CMS Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office

We provide technical support to the newly established Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office (MMCO) at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. The MMCO was established under the Affordable Care Act to improve the coordination of services for persons who are dually eligible for both the Medicare and Medicaid systems. We support the MMCO in its effort to promote new initiatives at the federal and state levels to develop more integrated care systems that are designed to improve quality and lower costs for this vulnerable population. [https://www.cms.gov/Medicare-Medicaid-Coordination/Medicare-MedicaidCoordination.html](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare-Medicaid-Coordination/Medicare-MedicaidCoordination.html)

Integrated Healthcare Association (IHA) Pay for Performance (P4P) Program

We have assisted the IHA in the development of an Efficiency Domain for incorporation into its P4P program, including the identification and testing measures used to reward providers. We currently generate a diverse set of hospital- and pharmacy-related Appropriate Resource Use measures for more than 200 California physician organizations based on integrated claims data from seven health plans. [http://www.iha.org/our-work/accountability/value-based-p4p](http://www.iha.org/our-work/accountability/value-based-p4p)

Structuring care recommendations for clinical decision support

Our researchers and a team of informatics leaders are translating U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) clinical guidelines and federal criteria related to meaningful use of health information technology into readily adaptable logic statements. They plan to make the results publicly available via the internet. [http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/uspstfix.htm](http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/uspstfix.htm)

Office of Information Products and Data Analysis (OIPDA) at Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

The Truven Health Analytics team is developing a strategic plan for the Office of Information Products and Data Analysis (OIPDA) at Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). This plan will support and guide CMS data dissemination activities. We are conducting a comprehensive review of existing CMS data release policies, procedures, dissemination and pricing. The information collection and evaluation activities will inform OIPDA’s creation of a business plan for CMS data dissemination and pricing, allowing the agency to expand the availability of data to a wide range of users in a manner designed to be cost effective and consistent with their legal and policy requirements.

Utilize our expertise and databases to help you improve healthcare access, enhance quality and reduce costs.
About IBM Watson Health

IBM Watson Health aspires to improve lives and give hope by delivering innovation, through data and cognitive insights, to address the world’s most pressing health challenges. The organization aims to provide customers with the technology and expertise they need to power thriving organizations, support vibrant communities, and solve health challenges for people everywhere.

For more information on IBM Watson Health, visit: ibm.com/watsonhealth

Statement of Good Security Practices:

IT system security involves protecting systems and information through prevention, detection and response to improper access from within and outside your enterprise. Improper access can result in information being altered, destroyed, misappropriated or misused or can result in damage to or misuse of your systems, including for use in attacks on others. No IT system or product should be considered completely secure and no single product, service or security measure can be completely effective in preventing improper use or access. IBM systems, products and services are designed to be part of a lawful, comprehensive security approach, which will necessarily involve additional operational procedures, and may require other systems, products or services to be most effective. IBM does not warrant that any systems, product or services are immune from, or will make your enterprise immune from, the malicious or illegal conduct of any party.

The client is responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable laws and regulations applicable to it.

IBM does not provide legal advice or represent or warrant that its services or products will ensure that the client is in compliance with any law or regulation.

The performance data and client examples cited are presented for illustrative purposes only. Actual performance results may vary depending on the specific configurations and operating conditions. It is the user’s responsibility to evaluate and verify the operation of any other products or programs with IBM product and programs.

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