

# NEWS RELEASE



**Contact:**  
Chris Goldman  
Media Relations  
(816) 843-9087

## **DST Health Solutions Releases Enhanced ACG System to Help Health Plans Improve Member Health**

**ACG Version 9.0 Helps Enhance Predictive Modeling Accuracy, Identify High Cost Members and Increase Opportunities for Early Intervention**

**BIRMINGHAM, Ala., March 22, 2010**—DST Health Solutions, LLC announced today the release of Version 9.0 of The Johns Hopkins University's Adjusted Clinical Groups (ACG) System. ACG Version 9.0 includes extensive enhancements that not only improve predictive accuracy but also identify opportunities for intervention to improve health outcomes. DST Health Solutions is the exclusive distributor of the ACG System in the United States.

"Risk adjustment and predictive modeling are critical to measuring population health to support quality assessment and payment reform," said Professor Jonathan Weiner, co-developer of the original ACG System and leader of the research and development team at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. "The ACG System was conceived to ensure access and equity in healthcare purchasing. Version 9.0 will allow users to better understand the needs of the chronically ill."

ACG Version 9.0 builds on the success of previous releases by identifying members with chronic conditions that are at risk for low adherence to prescription regimens, poor coordination of care among primary care providers and specialists or acute hospitalization needs. Greater predictive accuracy is also achieved through further refinement of the ACG System's clinical classifications.

"Most predictive models focus heavily on costs, but often we already know about the highest cost members and there is little opportunity for intervention," said Don Hughes, president of Encompass Medical Management, an ACG client. "With the ACG System, we can describe populations for intervention where we can have the greatest impact through better coordination of care and targeted improvements in pharmacy adherence. The ACG System enables us to focus interventions for both the extreme high cost patients and those in danger of becoming high cost."

Health plans and physicians are finding that predictive models based solely upon statistical performance are not producing actionable information regarding member or patient care. The Johns Hopkins system applies unique clinical criteria—including information regarding medication use and coordination of care—to create intuitive ACG models for clients seeking greater insights into opportunities for early intervention.

The ACG System maximizes the use of available data to support a full range of risk adjustment applications based on a multi-morbidity framework. The system continues to be developed by Johns Hopkins' Bloomberg School of Public Health, ensuring a unique level of openness and continual evaluation in the context of rigorous health services research.

"We continue to see significant interest in predictive modeling, particularly in finding those cases amenable to care management interventions," said Amy Salls, business solutions director for decision support, DST Health Solutions. "Johns Hopkins continues to innovate, enabling clinical insight that is the hallmark of the ACG System."

### **About DST Health Solutions**

DST Health Solutions, LLC delivers systems and services that help improve efficiency, reduce operational costs, increase speed to market, and facilitate medical cost management and price containment. Our clients include commercial health plans, consumer-directed plans, government plans (Medicare Advantage, Medicare Part D and Medicaid) and physician practices. DST Health Solutions' enterprise applications and outsourcing services include claims processing, member and provider management, benefit plan management, new product development, care management and medical management, and decision support/analytics. DST Health Solutions is a wholly-owned subsidiary of DST Systems, Inc. For more information about DST Health Solutions, contact 800.272.4799, email [inforequests@dsthealthsolutions.com](mailto:inforequests@dsthealthsolutions.com) or visit [www.dsthealthsolutions.com](http://www.dsthealthsolutions.com).

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