

Standard Measure Repository (SMaRt)

SOUND FAMILIAR?

Different areas of your organization define the same measure in different ways...at least that's what you suspect but you don't know for sure since it's near impossible to get a straight answer on how measures are defined. And this is just for the basics like length of stay and readmissions. Forget trying to work with clinical measures and the changing science that drives the definitions—it's measurement chaos!

WE'RE STILL HUNTING AND GATHERING

Not only is it difficult to get your arms around how measures are defined and who is using which definition, but trying to compile a few metrics together in Excel takes weeks of a data analyst's time hunting for and gathering data, scrubbing, and formatting before a moderately attractive and understandable dashboard emerges. Chances are this is not what your data analyst got an advanced degree to do.

THERE IS A BETTER WAY

So many organizations struggle with the same issues related to corporate metrics, which is why we at DTA created SMaRt, the Standard Measure Repository. SMaRt is a tool that allows your metrics to be defined in one place, and then your reports and dashboards can all pull from the same place to ensure what shows up in those various business intelligence tools is consistent. Even better, the business logic for each measure isn't hidden deep in the underlying code of a report somewhere, it is available for everyone to see.

ESTABLISH RELIABILITY AND CONSISTENCY

Combat the "sprawl" of business logic by bringing visibility, transparency and consistency to your measures. Assign measure owners so it's clear who is responsible for definition updates and answering questions about the measure. Add categories and other information to your measures so they can be located and managed more easily. Add as many goals and benchmarks related to each measure as you want. Organizations that have aligned incentive programs around measures can rest assured that consistency in measurement and reporting supports the program in an objective manner.

BUT WHAT ABOUT...?

Are there legitimate reasons to have more than one definition of a readmission? That's ok, but they need to be named differently so it's clear which one is being used ("CMS Pneumonia Readmission Rate" vs. "Pneumonia Readmission Rate"). Do you have metrics based on data that needs to be [gasp!] manually entered? SMaRt can accommodate that too.

BRINGING ORGANIZATION TO THE CHAOS

SMaRt isn't a packaged software solution, it's an approach to managing and standardizing your metrics that can be customized to the unique needs of your organization. If you want to achieve sanity and transparency in your corporate metrics, we can help!

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