

Onpoint's Open Service-Focused Episode Grouper

Onpoint is excited to announce the upcoming release of the logic that powers our proven grouper for analyzing high-interest episodes of care. This solution and its related documentation will be freely available under a Creative Commons license to expand the tools available to the analytics community.

WHAT IS THE SERVICE-FOCUSED EPISODE GROUPEE?

The Service-Focused Episode (SFE) grouper is a healthcare analytics tool used to group medical services into episodes of care based on the type of procedure or services provided. The grouper was developed in collaboration with Onpoint's clients and a clinical consultant to offer a simplified, more transparent, and cost-effective solution than other commercial products on the market – a solution that is intuitive and accepted by providers and other stakeholders.

Onpoint's SFE grouper is designed to support many common analytic use cases, including comparative cost and utilization reporting across a large volume of common shoppable services. It is not designed to support the specific complexities of bundled payment arrangements between payers and providers.

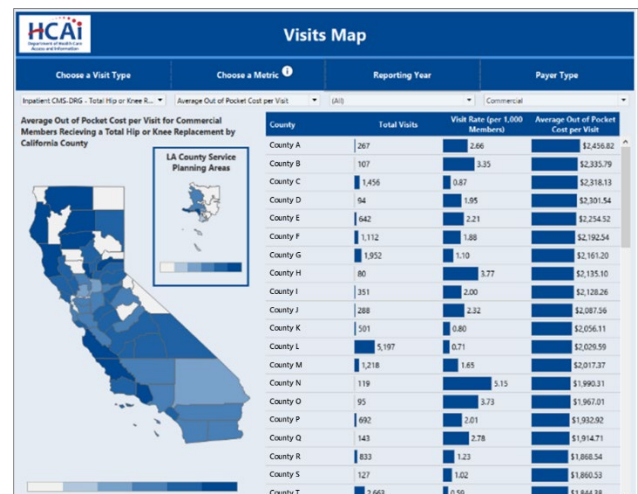
The SFE grouper generates summary cost and volume information that span a range of common procedures delivered in different care settings (e.g., inpatient and outpatient hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers, physician practices) and are summarized on a per-member-per-reporting-period basis. The SFE grouper focuses on medical procedures rather than medical conditions.

Onpoint's grouper logic and definitions are reproduceable across payers and are maintained over time through regular updates.

HOW CAN ONPOINT'S SFE GROUPEE ENRICH ANALYSIS?

Our SFE grouper can be used for a variety of different purposes, including comparative cost and performance reporting. In value-based care analyses, the SFE grouper has been used to compare utilization and the cost of common shoppable services across facilities and geographical regions to help guide patients to cost-effective providers.

In California, the Department of Health Care Access and Information is using the SFE grouper to develop public reporting that provides policymakers, researchers, and consumers with a robust picture of the cost of healthcare being delivered across regions and by facility (<https://hcai.ca.gov>).



WHAT MAKES ONPOINT'S SOLUTION "OPEN"?

Onpoint has been using the SFE grouper for the benefit of our clients since 2017 with much positive feedback and success. We are making the detailed logic underlying the tool publicly available to further support our clients and help meet the wider healthcare analytics community's interest in greater transparency.

Beginning in 2025, Onpoint will publicly release detailed documentation, including code sets and narrative descriptions of the logic that outlines precisely how claims data are grouped to form episodes of care. This documentation will be shared via a Creative Commons licensing structure, allowing anyone to freely share the documentation and implement the code sets and logic for non-commercial use cases.

Through open access to detailed documentation, researchers and analysts will be able to clearly see the methodology behind how SFEs are derived and can be more confident in their analyses and conclusions based on the grouper's output. Analysts also can implement the logic

and episode definitions for their own independent research for non-commercial use.






Additionally, Onpoint will open our product planning process through the creation of a Technical Advisory Committee. This committee will facilitate the involvement and input of key stakeholders, including users of the grouper solution and leaders within the health data analytics community.

WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR RELEASE?

Onpoint is currently working through the steps necessary to release SFE technical documentation to the public through a Creative Commons license. (Please see the current timeline below for the grouper's planned release in summer 2025.)

We are excited about the opportunity to leverage new models for sharing technical documentation in a way that builds trust and transparency and provides a sustainable path for continued product development and sharing.

2025 Schedule for Releasing the Open SFE Grouper

April – May	May	May – June	June	Summer
Recruit members for the Technical Advisory Committee	Launch the public website landing page with email sign-up for notification of release	Review and revise documentation in preparation for release	Convene the Technical Advisory Committee for feedback	Release Onpoint's Open SFE Grouper tool to the public
				

For questions or further information, follow Onpoint on [LinkedIn](#) or contact our SFE grouper team at open-solutions@onpointhealthdata.org.

ABOUT ONPOINT HEALTH DATA

Onpoint Health Data is a nonprofit organization that specializes in collecting, integrating, and analyzing health data to provide our clients with enriched data sets and innovative analytic solutions tailored to their specific needs. We are an independent, nonpartisan organization supporting federal, state, and regional health improvement initiatives for nearly 50 years.