

Resolving Duplicate Medical Records and Achieving Meaningful Use

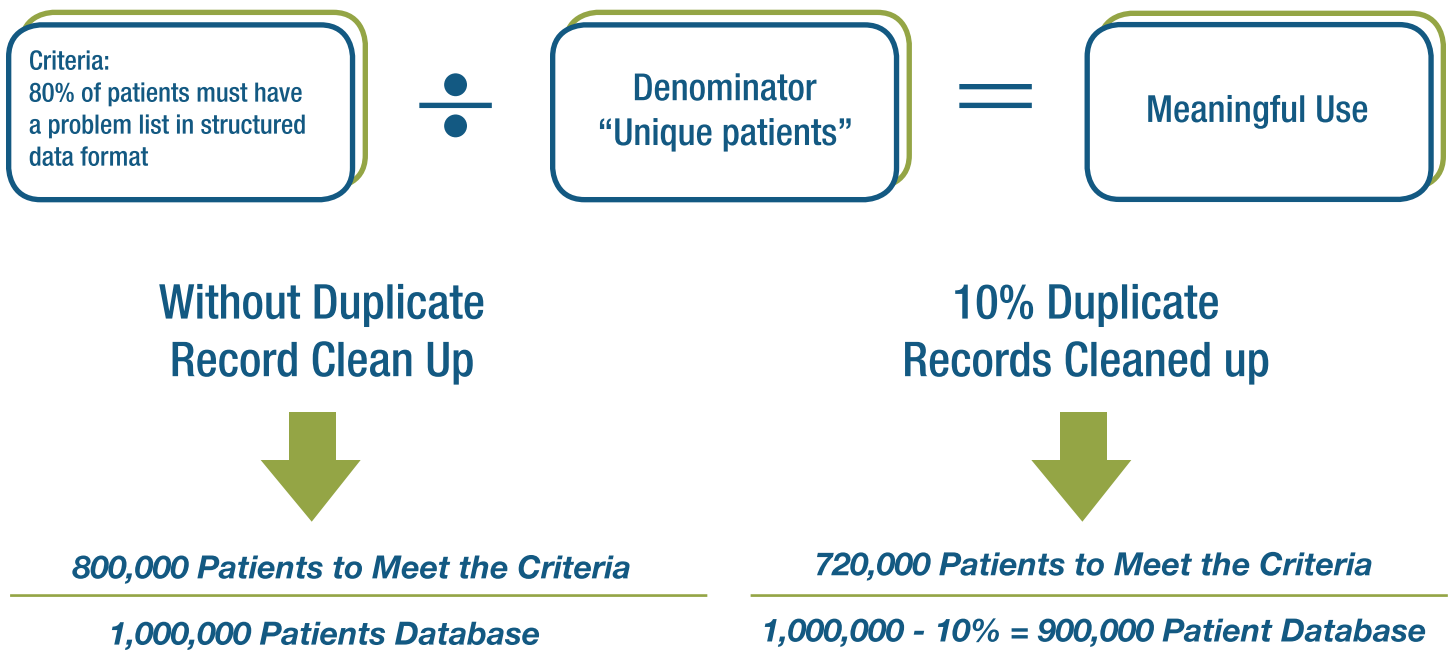


The HITECH provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provide billions of dollars for the adoption and use of Health Information Technology by Medicare and Medicaid providers over the next 10 years. To receive the financial incentives, eligible physicians and hospitals must achieve “meaningful use” of a certified electronic medical record (EMR). In addition, in order to avoid penalties to Medicare rates, eligible providers and hospitals must be engaging in meaningful use by 2015.

The requirements for meaningful use are defined in three stages. Several Stage 1 qualifying criteria are tied to a percentage of unique patients. When that percentage is based on records, the recommended approach, even a relatively low duplicate volume will falsely inflate the number of patients to which the criteria must be applied.

For example, one criterion is that 80% of patients must have a problem list within the EMR in a structured data format. If a hospital has 1 million patient records in its system, 10% of which are duplicates, compliance would require problem lists for 800,000 patients.

Eliminating those duplicates drops that number to a more easily attained 720,000 patients. If that same hospital had a duplicate volume of 15%, eliminating the duplicates would drop the number of patients requiring problem lists to just 680,000.



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Just Associates Gets You There Faster

While resolving duplicate medical records is exceptionally important, it can be a tedious, labor intensive and time-consuming process. The time spent reviewing and validating a lengthy list of potential duplicates can be a serious drain on your limited resources, which is why more and more hospitals are turning to Just Associates to manage and resolve their data integrity issues.

Just Associates has the project and process knowledge, systems expertise and technologies to resolve your data integrity issues more efficiently. Our thorough data analysis services using sophisticated record-matching algorithms, combined with IDMaster®, our proprietary duplicate record workflow tool, allow us to efficiently review potential duplicate record sets, drive a complete resolution process and ultimately help you achieve key Meaningful Use criteria faster.

In fact, we recently helped a large hospital in the Midwestern United States make significant gains toward compliance. Our MPI cleanup services resolved 168,558 duplicate records in their system. As a result, the threshold for the number of patients that must meet specific criteria (80% of patients must have a problem list in a structured data format) was reduced by eight percent, or 134,847! This represents a significant reduction, resulting in direct time and cost savings for the hospital.

ABOUT JUST ASSOCIATES, INC.

Just Associates is a healthcare data integrity consulting firm that delivers superior value to our clients through improved data integrity. We have the process expertise and systems knowledge to deliver tailored, value-added solutions that improve your financial outcomes and business processes, support delivery of quality patient care, and meet your diverse stakeholders' expectations through improved data integrity.

Our services include: MPI Cleanup, Data Integration/ Migration Consulting, MPI/EMPI and HIE Consulting, Outsourced MPI Management and Patient Access Consulting. Our software solution, IDMaster® puts workflow processes and controls for resolving duplicate medical records quickly.



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