



Empanelment: Four-Cut Methodology

CP3 Toolkit: Panels

The four-cut methodology is a process to assign patients to a provider-based patient’s past history of visits among a group of providers. The methodology results in an estimation of a primary care provider’s panel. In order to use the four-cut methodology, you can use claims data or another data source to track patient utilization over a specific timeframe (e.g., one year). The following was adapted from an October 10, 2016 presentation by Amy Ham, Consultant. Download the [complete slide set](#).

Four-Cut Methodology

Cut	Report Description	PCP Assignment
1 st Cut	Patients who have seen only one provider in the past year	Assigned to that provider
2 nd Cut	Patients who have seen multiple providers, but one provider the majority of the time in the past year	Assigned to the majority provider
3 rd Cut	Patients who have seen two or more providers equally in the past year (No majority provider can be determined)	Assigned to the provider who performed the last physical exam
4 th Cut	Patients who have seen multiple providers	Assigned to the last provider seen

Example of Four-Cut Methodology

Patient	Provider 1	Provider 2	Provider 3
Sam	1*	5	2



Patient	Provider 1	Provider 2	Provider 3
Trish	2	4	4*
Lisa	5	0	0
John	1	1	1*