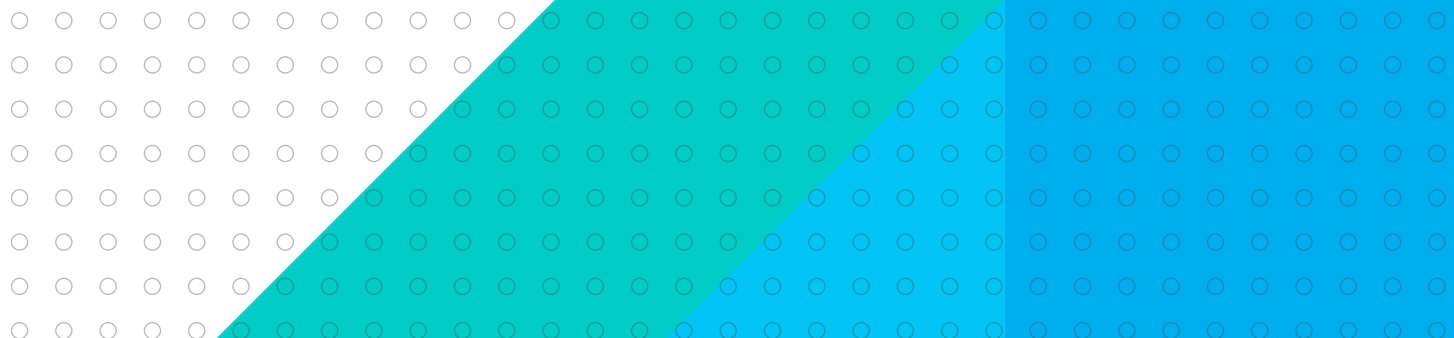


Scaling Value-Based Care Through Data-Driven Infrastructure

**How SIU Medicine Transformed Value-Based
Performance with Azara DRVS**



Overview

Southern Illinois University (SIU) Medicine is an academic health system with a dual mission: advancing medical education and delivering high-quality, community-based care. Headquartered in Springfield, SIU operates as a safety-net provider across 66 counties in central and southern Illinois, many of which are rural and medically underserved. With more than 800 physicians, advanced practice providers, and clinical staff, the organization provides coordinated, team-based care across a wide network of primary and specialty care services.

As both a provider and an academic institution, SIU Medicine balances innovation with access. The health system delivers care to some of the most complex and vulnerable populations in the state, many of whom face social, economic, and geographic barriers to timely, equitable care. In FY2023 alone, SIU Medicine recorded more than 151,000 visits and cared for nearly 47,000 unique patients—underscoring its critical role in the region’s healthcare safety net.

At the same time, SIU Medicine has made a strategic commitment to population health and value-based care. With over 15 active value-based contracts tied to state and commercial payers, the organization must track a wide range of quality metrics and contractual requirements. To succeed in this evolving environment, SIU Medicine needed more than clinical expertise, it required a modern data infrastructure to unify its efforts, support real-time decision-making, and scale improvement initiatives across its growing footprint.

Challenge

For all its clinical sophistication and geographic reach, SIU Medicine faced many of the same operational hurdles as other health systems navigating value-based care: siloed data sources, inconsistent reporting standards, and growing administrative strain on frontline teams. Managing over 15 active VBC contracts, each with its own set of measures and incentives, required precision, agility and coordination across a large provider network.

“We were managing quality across 15 spreadsheets, that’s not sustainable when you’re responsible for 200 providers and 15 different contracts.”

Lindsey Freeman, MBA

*Deputy Director of Quality and Practice Transformation
at SIU Family and Community Medicine*

However, performance monitoring remained fragmented. Quality data lived in multiple systems and spreadsheets, attribution lists changed frequently, and care gap closure was often reactive rather than proactive.

In 2023 alone, SIU Medicine estimated it missed out on over \$1.1 million in performance-based incentives, capturing just 28% of the potential value across key payer programs. The remaining 72%—more than \$1.1 million—was left on the table due to fragmented reporting, attribution confusion, and delayed visibility into contract performance.

Further, these inefficiencies led to missed opportunities to engage patients, close gaps in care, and meet payer benchmarks. Clinicians often received data too late to make meaningful changes, and administrators were burdened with manual reconciliation across payer-specific requirements.

“We couldn’t act fast enough on what the data was telling us because we didn’t have it in a usable form,” Freeman said.

The Solution

To stay ahead of performance targets and risk-based reimbursement models, SIU Medicine partnered with Azara Healthcare to implement its Best in KLAS population health management platform, Azara DRVS. DRVS enables a single source of truth for quality data, allowing SIU a more agile and integrated way to manage data, unify contract monitoring, and engage teams in real-time performance efforts.

With Azara DRVS, SIU Medicine supports:

- Continuous performance monitoring across 15+ VBC contracts
- Real-time attribution tracking and patient panel management
- Centralized dashboards tailored to providers, quality leaders, and executives
- Proactive care gap closure workflows integrated into clinical operations
- Standardized reporting that reduces rework and improves accountability
- Automated supplemental data submission directly to health plans

“We needed to streamline our processes and have one source of truth, DRVS gave us a clear picture of our data and allowed us to course-correct in real time.”

Michal Dynda, MD
Chief Medical Officer and Chief Medical Information
Officer at SIU Medicine

The Results

With DRVS in place, SIU Medicine has made meaningful progress in operationalizing its value-based care strategy. What once required reconciling fragmented spreadsheets and payer-specific reports is now driven by a single, consistent analytics platform. By giving providers and administrators easy to use reports and facilitating automated supplemental data submission with health plans, all staff members now have the visibility they need to act.

The impact of ingesting supplemental data alone is already measurable. For its Centene Medicaid contract, SIU Medicine achieved a 27.3% improvement in overall measure performance, increasing earnings from \$2,800 in 2023 to \$70,560 in early 2024.

Key improvements include:



Diabetes HbA1c <8

improved from 7.6% to 52.63%,
or by 45.03%



Controlling High Blood Pressure

improved from 47.64% to 68.39%
or by +20.75%



Adults' Access to Care

increased by 6.01%



Breast Cancer Screening

improved by 4.92%



Cervical Cancer Screening

improved by 3.09%

But the transformation goes beyond financial impact.

By implementing Azara DRVS and building a foundation of trust in their data, SIU Medicine has been able to standardize reporting, engage clinical teams, and accelerate their value-based care efforts.

Benefits include:

- Greater confidence in data accuracy and measure definitions
- Streamlined workflows for closing care gaps and monitoring contract performance
- Improved efficiency in generating payer reports and internal dashboards
- Expanded ability to drill down by location, provider and patient population
- Increased engagement from providers and care teams through accessible, actionable insights
- Improved operational efficiencies, patient outcomes, and contract performance through automated supplemental data submission to payers

“DRVS has given us the ability to standardize the way we measure success, not just across programs but across our entire organization, it’s helped us get everyone on the same page and focus on what matters most: patient care.”

Lindsey Freeman, MBA
*Deputy Director of Quality and Practice Transformation
at SIU Family and Community Medicine*

“We’re not just using data to report performance anymore, we’re using it to drive decisions and shape our future strategy.”

Michal Dynda, MD
*Chief Medical Officer and Chief Medical Information
Officer at SIU Medicine*



What’s Next

As SIU Medicine continues to deepen its value-based care footprint, the organization is focused on expanding its use of DRVS to drive more advanced population health strategies. Plans include integrating more social needs insights into clinical workflows, refining risk stratification models, and further aligning incentives across clinical departments.

By investing in a data-driven foundation, SIU Medicine is not only improving operational efficiency and provider engagement, it’s creating a more responsive and equitable health system for the communities it serves.



Learn more about how Azara Healthcare can support your organization by exploring the resources available in the DRVS Help section, contacting the Azara support team, or reaching out to your client success manager.

We at Azara can't wait to see what you will do!