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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD FOR USING PHYSICIAN SOCIAL NETWORKS TO PREDICT COST AND INTENSITY OF CARE IN HOSPITALS

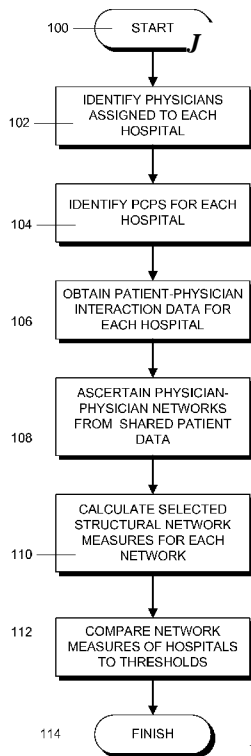


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: Health care costs can be predicted for a particular hospital relative to other hospitals by examining physician-physician network structural measures within the hospitals. The physician-physician networks are ascertained by examining patient sharing data between physicians and the network structural measures include the median adjusted degree of all physicians in the hospitals, and the relative centrality of primary care physicians in the hospitals. For any particular hospital, the median adjusted degree and the primary care physician relative centrality of can be compared to the median adjusted degree and median primary care physician relative centrality over all the hospitals to determine whether the health care costs for the particular hospital will be higher or lower than the other hospitals.

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TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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PCT/US2011/043347**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER****G06Q 50/00(2006.01)i**

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

G06Q 50/00; A61B 5/05; G06F 17/60

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Korean utility models and applications for utility models

Japanese utility models and applications for utility models

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

eKOMPASS(KIPO internal) & Keywords: hospital, primary care, physician

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 2004-0044546 A1 (GORDON, T. MOORE) 04 March 2004 See abstract and paragraphs [0063]-[0067].	1-10
A	US 2009-0099865 A1 (ZAK SOLOMON J. et al.) 16 April 2009 See abstract and paragraphs [0009]-[0020].	1-10
A	W0 2007-047241 A2 (WEISS, SANFORD, B. et al.) 26 April 2007 See abstract and claims 8-9.	1-10
A	US 2005-0086074 A1 (STEPHEN PUNZAK et al.) 21 April 2005 See abstract and claim 1.	1-10

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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