

Caboodle vs Clarity Decision Guide

Use Case Fit | Platform Selection |
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Use this guide to select the correct Epic data platform for each analytical use case. Neither Caboodle nor Clarity is universally better - the correct choice depends on the analytical question, data freshness requirement, and query complexity.

SECTION 1 - USE CASE DECISION MATRIX

Analytical Use Case	Clarity (Workbench)	Clarity (Direct SQL)	Caboodle (SQL)	Caboodle (via BI Platform)	Recommended Platform
Daily census / patient volume	Yes	Yes	Partial	Partial	Clarity + Workbench (operational)
Near-real-time ED tracking dashboard	Partial	Partial	No	No	Near-real-time Clarity extract
Monthly operational report (scheduled)	Yes	Yes	Partial	Partial	Clarity + Workbench scheduled report
Multi-year trend analysis (3+ years)	Partial	Partial	Yes	Yes	Caboodle - pre-computed, faster at scale
30-day readmission rate (internal)	Partial	Yes	Yes	Yes	Caboodle EncounterFact (validate READMISSION_FLG)
CMS HRRP readmission submission	Partial	Yes	Partial	Partial	Clarity SQL with CMS spec logic (not Caboodle flag)
LOS by DRG and payer (multi-dimensional)	Partial	Yes	Yes	Yes	Caboodle - star schema reduces join complexity
Medication compliance by unit (all meds)	Partial	Yes	Yes	Yes	Caboodle MedicationAdministrationFact
Provider productivity / wRVU by quarter	Partial	Yes	Yes	Yes	Caboodle OrderFact or Clarity CLB_PROV_CHARGE
Claims + Epic data analysis (leakage)	No	No	Yes	Yes	Caboodle with external claims integration
HR + clinical data (staffing analytics)	No	No	Yes	Yes	Caboodle with external HR integration
Executive dashboard (C-suite)	Partial	No	Partial	Yes	Caboodle via Power BI / Tableau
Sepsis bundle compliance (same-day)	Partial	Yes	No	No	Near-real-time Clarity SQL or Workbench
Population health cohort analysis	No	Partial	Yes	Yes	Caboodle with SlicerDicer complement
Ad hoc patient-level detail query	Yes	Yes	Partial	No	Clarity SQL - fact tables not designed for row-level detail
Payer mix trend over 24 months	Partial	Partial	Yes	Yes	Caboodle PatientDim + DateDim fiscal quarters
Benchmark comparison (Vizient/Premier)	No	No	Yes	Yes	Caboodle with external benchmark integration

Y=Yes (good fit) P=Partial (workable but not optimal) N=No (wrong tool for this use case)

SECTION 2 - PLATFORM SELECTION DECISION QUESTIONS

Answer these questions to determine the correct platform for your specific use case:

YES: Use near-real-time Clarity extract or Reporting Workbench with NRT-configured data model. Neither Caboodle nor nightly Clarity will work for same-day data. NO: Continue to Q2.

YES: Build a Reporting Workbench report template using Clarity. This is the correct recurring operational report tool. NO (ad hoc analysis): Continue to Q3.

YES: Caboodle with external data integration is required. Clarity contains Epic data only. NO: Continue to Q4.

YES: Caboodle is the better fit. The star schema and pre-computed metrics make multi-dimensional historical analysis significantly more efficient. NO (single dimension or narrow time range): Clarity direct SQL may be sufficient.

YES: Caboodle is the preferred backend. The dimensional model maps naturally to BI tools. Connect Clarity only if Caboodle is not available. NO (analyst-to-analyst or report-level output): Clarity SQL or Workbench is appropriate.