Measure #236 (NQF 0018): Controlling High Blood Pressure – National Quality Strategy Domain: Effective Clinical Care

2016 PQRS OPTIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL MEASURES: CLAIMS, REGISTRY

DESCRIPTION:
Percentage of patients 18 through 85 years of age who had a diagnosis of hypertension and whose blood pressure was adequately controlled (< 140/90 mmHg) during the measurement period

INSTRUCTIONS:
This measure is to be reported a minimum of once per reporting period for patients with hypertension seen during the reporting period. The performance period for this measure is 12 months. The most recent quality code submitted will be used for performance calculation. This measure may be reported by clinicians who perform the quality actions described in the measure based on the services provided and the measure-specific denominator coding.

NOTE: In reference to the numerator element, only blood pressure readings performed by a clinician in the provider office are acceptable for numerator compliance with this measure. Do not include blood pressure readings that meet the following criteria:

- Blood pressure readings from the patient’s home (including readings directly from monitoring devices).
- Taken during an outpatient visit which was for the sole purpose of having a diagnostic test or surgical procedure performed (e.g., sigmoidoscopy, removal of a mole).
- Obtained the same day as a major diagnostic or surgical procedure (e.g., stress test, administration of IV contrast for a radiology procedure, endoscopy).

If no blood pressure is recorded during the measurement period, the patient’s blood pressure is assumed “not controlled”.

Measure Reporting via Claims:
ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes, CPT or HCPCS code, and patient demographics are used to identify patients who are included in the measure’s denominator. Quality-data codes are used to report the numerator of the measure.

When reporting the measure via claims, submit the listed ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes, CPT or HCPCS codes and the appropriate quality-data code. The reporting modifier allowed for this measure is: 8P- reason not otherwise specified. All measure-specific coding should be reported on the claim(s) representing the eligible encounter.

Measure Reporting via Registry:
ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes, CPT or HCPCS codes, and patient demographics are used to identify patients who are included in the measure’s denominator. The listed numerator options are used to report the numerator of the measure.

The quality-data codes listed do not need to be submitted for registry-based submissions; however, these codes may be submitted for those registries that utilize claims data.

DENOMINATOR:
Patients 18 through 85 years of age who had a diagnosis of essential hypertension within the first six months of the measurement period or any time prior to the measurement period

Denominator Criteria (Eligible Cases):
Patients 18 through 85 years of age on date of encounter AND
Diagnosis for hypertension (ICD-10-CM): I10
AND
Patient encounter during reporting period (CPT or HCPCS): 99201, 99202, 99203, 99204, 99205, 99212, 99213, 99214, 99215, 99341, 99342, 99343, 99344, 99345, 99347, 99348, 99349, 99350, G0402, G0438, G0439

NUMERATOR:
Patients whose blood pressure at the most recent visit is adequately controlled (systolic blood pressure < 140 mmHg and diastolic blood pressure < 90 mmHg) during the measurement period

Numerator Instructions: To describe both systolic and diastolic blood pressure values, each must be reported separately. If there are multiple blood pressures on the same date of service, use the lowest systolic and lowest diastolic blood pressure on that date as the representative blood pressure.

Numerator Quality-Data Coding Options for Reporting Satisfactorily:
Most Recent Blood Pressure Measurement Performed
Systolic pressure (Select one (1) code from this section):
Performance Met: G8752: Most recent systolic blood pressure < 140 mmHg
OR
Performance Not Met: G8753: Most recent systolic blood pressure ≥ 140 mmHg
AND
Diastolic pressure (Select one (1) code from this section):
Performance Met: G8754: Most recent diastolic blood pressure < 90 mmHg
OR
Performance Not Met: G8755: Most recent diastolic blood pressure ≥ 90 mmHg
OR
Patient not Eligible for Recommended Blood Pressure Parameters for Documented Reasons
Other Performance Exclusion: G9231: Documentation of end stage renal disease (ESRD), dialysis, renal transplant or pregnancy.
OR
Blood Pressure Measurement not Documented, Reason not Given
Performance Not Met: G8756: No documentation of blood pressure measurement, reason not given

RATIONALE:
Hypertension is a very significant health issue in the United States. Fifty million or more Americans have high blood pressure that warrants treatment, according to the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) survey (Joint National Committee on Prevention, Detection, Evaluation, and Treatment of High Blood Pressure 2003). The United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends that clinicians screen adults aged 18 and older for high blood pressure (United States Preventive Services Task Force 2007).

The most frequent and serious complications of uncontrolled hypertension include coronary heart disease, congestive heart failure, stroke, ruptured aortic aneurysm, renal disease, and retinopathy. The increased risks of hypertension are present in individuals ranging from 40 to 89 years of age. For every 20 mmHg systolic or 10 mmHg diastolic increase in blood pressure, there is a doubling of mortality from both ischemic heart disease and stroke (Joint National Committee on Prevention, Detection, Evaluation, and Treatment of High Blood Pressure 2003).

Better control of blood pressure has been shown to significantly reduce the probability that these undesirable and costly outcomes will occur. The relationship between the measure (control of hypertension) and the long-term clinical
outcomes listed is well established. In clinical trials, antihypertensive therapy has been associated with reductions in stroke incidence (35-40 percent), myocardial infarction incidence (20-25 percent) and heart failure incidence (>50 percent) (Joint National Committee on Prevention, Detection, Evaluation, and Treatment of High Blood Pressure 2003).

**CLINICAL RECOMMENDATION STATEMENTS:**
The United States Preventive Services Task Force (2007) recommends screening for high blood pressure in adults age 18 years and older. This is a grade A recommendation.


Treating systolic blood pressure and diastolic blood pressure to targets that are < 140/90 mmHg is associated with a decrease in cardiovascular disease complications.

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2016 Claims/Registry Individual Measure Flow
PQRS #236 NQF #0018: Controlling High Blood Pressure

Please refer to the specific section of the Measure Specification to identify the denominator and numerator information for use in reporting this Individual Measure.

1. Start with Denominator

2. Check Patient Age:
   a. If the Age is equal to 18 thru 85 years of age on Date of Service equals No during the measurement period, do not include in Eligible Patient Population. Stop Processing.
   b. If the Age is equal to 18 thru 85 years of age on Date of Service equals Yes during the measurement period, proceed to check Patient Diagnosis.

3. Check Patient Diagnosis:
   a. If Diagnosis of Essential Hypertension as Listed in the Denominator equals No, do not include in Eligible Patient Population. Stop Processing.
   b. If Diagnosis of Essential Hypertension as Listed in the Denominator equals Yes, proceed to check Encounter Performed.

4. Check Encounter Performed:
   a. If Encounter as Listed in the Denominator equals No, do not include in Eligible Patient Population. Stop Processing.
   b. If Encounter as Listed in the Denominator equals Yes, include in the Eligible population.

5. Denominator Population:
   a. Denominator population is all Eligible Patients in the denominator. Denominator is represented as Denominator in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter d equals 8 patients in the sample calculation.

6. Start Numerator

7. Check Most Recent Blood Pressure Measurement Performed - Systolic Pressure <140 mmHG AND Most Recent Blood Pressure Measurement Performed - Diastolic Pressure <90 mmHG:
   a. If Most Recent Blood Pressure Measurement Performed - Systolic Pressure <140 mmHG AND Most Recent Blood Pressure Measurement Performed - Diastolic Pressure <90 mmHG equals Yes, include in Reporting Met and Performance Met.
   b. Reporting Met and Performance Met letter is represented in the Reporting Rate and Performance Rate in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter a1 equals 2 patients in Sample Calculation.
   c. If Most Recent Blood Pressure Measurement Performed - Systolic Pressure <140 mmHG AND Most Recent Blood Pressure Measurement Performed - Diastolic Pressure <90 mmHG equals No, proceed to Most Recent Blood Pressure Measurement Performed- Systolic Pressure ≥140 mmHG AND Most Recent Blood Pressure Measurement Performed- Diastolic Pressure <90 mmHG.
8. Check Most Recent Blood Pressure Measurement Performed- Systolic Pressure ≥140 mmHG AND Most Recent Blood Pressure Measurement Performed- Diastolic Pressure <90 mmHG:
   a. If Most Recent Blood Pressure Measurement Performed- Systolic Pressure ≥140 mmHG AND Most Recent Blood Pressure Measurement Performed- Diastolic Pressure <90 mmHG equals Yes, include in Reporting Met and Performance Not Met.
   b. Reporting Met and Performance Not Met letter is represented in the Reporting Rate in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter c1 equals 2 patients in the Sample Calculation.
   c. If Most Recent Blood Pressure Measurement Performed- Systolic Pressure ≥140 mmHG AND Most Recent Blood Pressure Measurement Performed- Diastolic Pressure <90 mmHG equals No, proceed to Most Recent Blood Pressure Measurement Performed- Systolic Pressure <140 mmHG AND Most Recent Blood Pressure Measurement Performed- Diastolic Pressure ≥90 mmHG.

9. Check Most Recent Blood Pressure Measurement Performed- Systolic Pressure <140 mmHG AND Most Recent Blood Pressure Measurement Performed- Diastolic Pressure ≥90 mmHG:
   a. If Most Recent Blood Pressure Measurement Performed- Systolic Pressure <140 mmHG AND Most Recent Blood Pressure Measurement Performed- Diastolic Pressure ≥90 mmHG equals Yes, include in Reporting Met and Performance Not Met.
   b. Reporting Met and Performance Not Met letter is represented in the Reporting Rate in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter c2 equals 1 patient in the Sample Calculation.
   c. If Most Recent Blood Pressure Measurement Performed- Systolic Pressure <140 mmHG AND Most Recent Blood Pressure Measurement Performed- Diastolic Pressure ≥90 mmHG equals No, proceed to Most Recent Blood Pressure Measurement Performed- Systolic Pressure ≥140 mmHG AND Most Recent Blood Pressure Measurement Performed- Diastolic Pressure ≥90 mmHG.

10. Check Most Recent Blood Pressure Measurement Performed- Systolic Pressure ≥140 mmHG AND Most Recent Blood Pressure Measurement Performed- Diastolic Pressure ≥90 mmHG:
    a. If Most Recent Blood Pressure Measurement Performed- Systolic Pressure ≥140 mmHG AND Most Recent Blood Pressure Measurement Performed- Diastolic Pressure ≥90 mmHG equals Yes, include in Reporting Met and Performance Not Met.
    b. Reporting Met and Performance Not Met letter is represented in the Reporting Rate in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter c3 equals 0 patient in the Sample Calculation.
    c. If Most Recent Blood Pressure Measurement Performed- Systolic Pressure ≥140 mmHG AND Most Recent Blood Pressure Measurement Performed- Diastolic Pressure ≥90 mmHG equals No, proceed to Patient Not Eligible for Recommended Blood Pressure Parameters for Documented Reasons.
11. Check Patient Not Eligible for Recommended Blood Pressure Parameters for Documented Reasons:
   a. If Patient Not Eligible for Recommended Blood Pressure Parameters for Documented Reasons equals Yes, include in the Reporting Met and Performance Exclusion.
   b. Reporting Met and Performance Exclusion letter is represented in the Reporting Rate and Performance Rate in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter b equals 1 patient in the Sample Calculation.
   c. If Patient Not Eligible for Recommended Blood Pressure Parameters for Documented Reasons equals No, proceed to Blood Pressure Measurement Not Documented, Reason Not Given.

12. Check Blood Pressure Measurement Not Documented, Reason Not Given:
   a. If Blood Pressure Measurement Not Documented, Reason Not Given equals Yes, include in the Reporting Met and Performance Not Met.
   b. Reporting Met and Performance Not Met letter is represented in the Reporting Rate in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter c equals 1 patient in the Sample Calculation.
   c. If Blood Pressure Measurement Not Documented, Reason Not Given equals No, proceed to Reporting Not Met.

13. Check Reporting Not Met
   a. If Reporting Not Met equals No, Quality Data Code or equivalent was not reported. 1 patient has been subtracted from the reporting numerator in the sample calculation.

SAMPLE CALCULATIONS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reporting Rate=</th>
<th>Performance Met (a = 2 patients) + Performance Exclusion (b = 1 patient) + Performance Not Met (c^2 + d^2 + e^2 + f^2 = 4 patients) =</th>
<th>Eligible Population / Denominator (d = 8 patients) =</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 patients = 87.50%</td>
<td>8 patients</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance Rate=</th>
<th>Performance Met (a = 2 patients) = 2 patients = 33.33%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reporting Numerator (7 patients) - Performance Exclusion (b = 1 patient) = 6 patients</td>
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