

Consensus Core Set: Medical Oncology

The Core Quality Measure Collaborative (CQMC) creates core measure sets (core sets) for use in value-based payment (VBP) programs and to drive improvement in high-priority areas. Payers can use the core sets to holistically assess quality or as a starting point to select measures to meet specific goals. The CQMC develops and maintains the core sets using a multistakeholder, consensus-based process and established [measure-selection principles](#). In the table below, the *consensus-based entity (CBE) Number/Specifications* column links to measure specifications and details, and the *Notes* column includes additional considerations for use.

Medical Oncology Measures

The CQMC core set measures focus primarily on ambulatory care measures at the clinician reporting level. The Medical Oncology core set includes 21 measures that have been tested for reliability and validity at the clinician (individual or group/practice) reporting level. The remaining core set measures address important topics related to medical oncology, but they have not been tested at the clinician level of analysis. When using measures specified outside of the clinician level of analysis, core set users should ensure adequate denominator size based on their patient population.

Measure Topic	CBE Number/Specifications	Measure	Steward	Level of Analysis	Notes
Breast Cancer	1858/Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) 450/CMS Measures Inventory Tool (CMIT) 73	Appropriate Treatment for Patients with Stage I (T1c) - III HER2 Positive Breast Cancer	American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)	Clinician: Group/Practice	Fall 2019: Endorsed Spring 2027: Next Maintenance Cycle
Colorectal Cancer	0223/CMIT 769	Adjuvant chemotherapy is recommended or administered within 4 months (120 days) of diagnosis for patients under the age of 80 with AJCC Stage III (lymph node positive) colon cancer	American College of Surgeons (ACS)	Facility	Fall 2019: Endorsed Fall 2026: Next Maintenance Cycle

Measure Topic	CBE Number/Specifications	Measure	Steward	Level of Analysis	Notes
	1859/MIPS 451/CMIT 628	RAS (KRAS and NRAS) Gene Mutation Testing Performed for Patients with Metastatic Colorectal Cancer who Receive Anti-epidermal Growth Factor Receptor (EGFR) Monoclonal Antibody Therapy	ASCO	Clinician: Group/Practice	Fall 2019: Endorsed Fall 2026: Next Maintenance Cycle
	1860/MIPS 452/CMIT 507	Patients with Metastatic Colorectal Cancer and RAS (KRAS or NRAS) Gene Mutation Spared Treatment with Anti-epidermal Growth Factor Receptor (EGFR) Monoclonal Antibodies	ASCO	Clinician: Group/Practice	Fall 2019: Endorsed Fall 2026: Next Maintenance Cycle
Prostate Cancer	Clinical Quality Measure (CQM) Version: 0389 Electronic Clinical Quality Measure (eCQM) Version: 0389e/eCQM Specifications CQM and eCQM Versions: CMIT 614	Prostate Cancer: Avoidance of Overuse of Bone Scan for Staging Low Risk Prostate Cancer Patients	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)	Clinician: Group/Practice, Clinician: Individual	CQM Version: Fall 2022: Endorsement Removed eCQM Version: Fall 2022: Endorsement Removed
	N/A/CMIT 714	Surgical Treatment Complications for Localized Prostate Cancer	Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Alliance of Dedicated Cancer Centers	Facility	Never submitted for CBE endorsement.

Measure Topic	CBE Number/Specifications	Measure	Steward	Level of Analysis	Notes
Hospice/End of Life	0210/CMIT 613	Proportion of Patients Who Died from Cancer Receiving Chemotherapy in the Last 14 Days of Life	ASCO	Clinician: Group/Practice, Clinician: Individual	Spring 2022: Endorsed Spring 2026: Next Maintenance Cycle
	0211/CMIT 1141	Percentage of Patients who Died With Cancer with More Than One Emergency Department and/or Observation Visit in the Last 30 Days of Life	ASCO	Clinician: Group/Practice	Full Year 2015: Endorsement Removed (measure retired)
	0213/MIPS 455/CMIT 611	Proportion of Patients Who Died from Cancer Admitted to the ICU in the Last 30 Days of Life	ASCO	Clinician: Group/Practice, Clinician: Individual	Spring 2022: Endorsed Spring 2026: Next Maintenance Cycle
	0215/CMIT 612	Proportion of patients who died from cancer not admitted to hospice	ASCO	Clinician: Group/Practice	Spring 2022: Endorsement Removed
	0216/MIPS 457/CMIT 610	Proportion of Patients Who Died from Cancer Admitted to Hospice for Less than Three Days	ASCO	Clinician: Group/Practice, Clinician: Individual	Spring 2022: Endorsed Spring 2026: Next Maintenance Cycle

Measure Topic	CBE Number/Specifications	Measure	Steward	Level of Analysis	Notes
	CQM Version: 0384 eCQM Version: 0384e/eCQM Specifications CQM and eCQM Versions: CMIT 474	Oncology: Medical and Radiation – Pain Intensity Quantified	ASCO	Clinician: Group/Practice, Clinician: Individual	Both CQM and eCQM Versions: Fall 2023: Endorsed with Conditions Explore, with the developer's technical expert panel (TEP), adding mention of other specific measurement tools that can be used to support the measure. Include additional guidance for caregivers, namely for patients with cognitive impairment. For instance, adding additional guidance to note alternative methods of assessment, such as observations, behavioral cues, or care plans may be employed. Spring 2029: Next Maintenance Cycle Telehealth eligible for CMS programs.
	2651/CMIT 154	CAHPS® Hospice Survey, Version 9.0	CMS	Facility	Fall 2022: Endorsed Fall 2027: Next Maintenance Cycle
Admissions / Readmissions	3188/CMIT 4	30-Day Unplanned Readmissions for Cancer Patients	Alliance of Dedicated Cancer Centers (ADCC)	Facility	Spring 2025: Endorsed with Conditions When the measure returns in 3 years for maintenance endorsement, the developer would have conducted an empirical exploration of the reasons for patients being readmitted, especially considering those unrelated to cancer, and the impact of those reasons on the measure's performance. Spring 2028: Next Maintenance Cycle
	3490/CMIT 21	Admission and Emergency Department (ED) Visits for Patients Receiving Outpatient Chemotherapy	CMS	Clinician: Group/Practice, Facility	Fall 2022: Endorsed Fall 2028: Next Maintenance Cycle

Measure Topic	CBE Number/Specifications	Measure	Steward	Level of Analysis	Notes
Patient-Reported Outcomes	N/A	CAHPS Cancer Care Survey	Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)	Clinician: Group/Practice, Clinician: Individual	Never submitted for CBE endorsement.
	3665/MIPS 495/CMIT 50	Ambulatory Palliative Care Patients' Experience of Feeling Heard and Understood	American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM)	Clinician: Group/Practice	Fall 2021: Endorsed Fall 2027: Next Maintenance Cycle
	3666/CMIT 51	Ambulatory Palliative Care Patients' Experience of Receiving Desired Help for Pain	AAHPM	Clinician: Group/Practice	Fall 2021: Endorsed Fall 2027: Next Maintenance Cycle
Biomarker	3661/MIPS 491/CMIT 1659	Mismatch Repair (MMR) or Microsatellite Instability (MSI) Biomarker Testing Status	College of American Pathologists (CAP)	Clinician: Group/Practice, Clinician: Individual	Fall 2021: Endorsed Fall 2027: Next Maintenance Cycle
	MIPS 507/CMIT 1794	Appropriate Germline Testing for Ovarian Cancer Patients	ASCO	Clinician: Group/Practice, Clinician: Individual	Never submitted for CBE endorsement.
	MIPS 506/CMIT 1792	Positive PD-L1 Biomarker Expression Test Result Prior to First-Line Immune Checkpoint Inhibitor Therapy	Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC)	Clinician: Group/Practice	Never submitted for CBE endorsement.

Measure Topic	CBE Number/Specifications	Measure	Steward	Level of Analysis	Notes
Symptom Management	MIPS 490/CMIT 1651	Appropriate intervention of immune-related diarrhea and/or colitis in patients treated with immune checkpoint inhibitors	SITC	Clinician: Group/Practice	Never submitted for CBE endorsement. Telehealth eligible for CMS programs.
Behavioral Health	CQM Version: 0028/MIPS 226 eCQM Version: 0028e/eCQM Specifications CQM and eCQM Versions: CMIT 596	Preventive Care and Screening: Tobacco Use: Screening and Cessation Intervention	National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)	Clinician: Group/Practice, Clinician: Individual, Health Plan	CQM Version: Fall 2022: Endorsed Spring 2028: Next Maintenance Cycle eCQM Version: Fall 2019: Endorsement Removed Telehealth eligible for CMS programs.
Pain	0383/MIPS 144/CMIT 473	Oncology: Medical and Radiation – Plan of Care for Pain	ASCO	Clinician: Group/Practice, Clinician: Individual	Fall 2023: Endorsed Spring 2029: Next Maintenance Cycle Telehealth eligible for CMS programs.
Other	CQM Version: 0418/MIPS 134 eCQM Version: 0418e/eCQM Specifications CQM and eCQM Versions: CMIT 672	Preventive Care and Screening: Screening for Depression and Follow-Up Plan	CMS	Clinician: Group/Practice, Clinician: Individual, Facility, Health Plan	CQM Version: Fall 2020: Endorsement Removed eCQM Version: Fall 2020: Endorsement Removed Telehealth eligible for CMS programs.

Gap Areas for Future Consideration and Measure Development

- Patient-reported outcomes and patient experience remain a challenge and priority area for oncology. Areas of particular need include:
 - Symptoms
 - Pain control
 - Functional status and/or quality of life
 - Anxiety and stress management and screening
 - Patient education
 - Care coordination, transitions of care, and care navigation
 - Shared decision-making
- Measures that reflect molecular biology of cancer, interpretation of biomarkers and tumor information, and immunotherapy. A measure on molecular testing for metastatic, non-squamous, non-small cell lung cancer is highly recommended for development and implementation.
- Measures related to telemedicine
- Utilization measures:
 - Appropriate use of chemotherapy
 - Under or overtreatment (will need to develop a baseline/threshold based on data)
 - Emergency room (ER) utilization, unplanned hospitalization, and inpatient hospital admission rate. Avoidance of ER and inpatient stays is of interest to consumers. The workgroup also expressed interest in linkage between these areas and patient education and care coordination.
 - Choosing Wisely (ABIM and ASCO) concepts: Several identified metrics are valuable and could be advanced for measure development. While Concept #2 is already addressed in the core set (Measure #0389/0389e), Concept #10 represents a high-value opportunity, and Concept #7 is considered lower priority.
- Additional outcome measures, such as disease-free survival for X number of years or 5-year cure rate
- Reporting of cancer stage
- Lung cancer measures
- Affordability of care/financial burden
- Utilization and patient-centered care:
 - Focus on reducing unnecessary hospitalizations for cancer patients
 - Align measures with patient preferences

- End-of-life and palliative care:
 - Current measures are retrospective and lagging
 - Need for more prospective end-of-life and palliative care measures
- Measures for side effect management to help prevent ER visits

Core Set Updates for 2025

The Medical Oncology Workgroup removed one measure from the core set:

- CBE #0420 Pain Assessment and Follow-Up