
CBE ID

0052

Title

Use of Imaging Studies for Low Back Pain

Project

2016-2017 Off-Cycle Activities: Measure Review

Endorsement Status

Endorsement Removed

Is Under Review

No

Previous Endorsement Cycle

Full Year 2016

Removal Date

Sun, 04/30/2017 - 20:00

Initial Endorsement

Sun, 08/09/2009 - 20:00

Steward

National Committee for Quality Assurance

1.0 New or Maintenance

Maintenance

1.1 Measure Structure

Single Measure

1.3 Electronic Clinical Quality Measure (eCQM)

No

1.6 Measure Description

The percentage of patients with a primary diagnosis of low back pain who did not have an imaging study (plain X-ray, MRI, CT scan) within 28 days of diagnosis.

1.7 Measure Type

Process

1.8 Level of Analysis

Health Plan, Integrated Delivery System

1.9 Care Setting

Emergency Department and Services, Outpatient Services

1.14 Numerator

Patients who received an imaging study (x-ray, CT, MRI) within the 28 days following a diagnosis of low back pain.

1.15 Denominator

All patients 18 years as of January 1 of the measurement year to 50 years as of December 31 of the measurement year with a claim/encounter for an outpatient, observation, emergency department, physical therapy, or telehealth visit, or osteopathic or chiropractic manipulative treatment, with a principal diagnosis of low back pain during the Intake Period (January 1 – December 3 of the measurement year).

1.20 Types of Data Sources

Claims Data

6.1.2 Current or Planned Use(s)

Payment Program, Public Reporting, Quality Improvement with Benchmarking (external benchmarking to multiple organizations), Regulatory and Accreditation Programs

6.1.3 Current Use(s)

Payment Program, Public Reporting, Quality Improvement with Benchmarking (external benchmarking to multiple organizations), Regulatory and Accreditation Programs

Exclusions

Because the intent of the measure is to assess imaging for patients with a new episode of low back pain, exclude patients with a recent diagnosis of low back pain.

Also, exclude any patient who had a diagnosis for which imaging is clinically appropriate. Any of the following meet criteria:

- (1) Cancer
- (2) Trauma
- (3) Recent IV drug abuse
- (4) Neurologic impairment
- (5) HIV
- (6) Spinal infection
- (7) Major organ transplant
- (8) Prolonged use of corticosteroids

Measure Disclaimer

These performance measures are not clinical guidelines and do not establish a standard of medical care, and have not been tested for all potential applications.

THE MEASURES AND SPECIFICATIONS ARE PROVIDED “AS IS” WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND

Risk Adjustment

No risk adjustment or risk stratification

Target Population

Adults

Use In Federal Program

Medicare Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS), Physician Feedback/Quality and Resource Use Reports (QRUR), Physician Value-Based Payment Modifier (VBM)

Steward Organization

National Committee for Quality Assurance

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