

CBE ID

2512

Title

All-Cause Unplanned Readmission Measure for 30 Days Post Discharge from Long-Term Care Hospitals (LTCHs)

Project

All-Cause Admissions and Readmissions

Endorsement Status

Endorsement Removed

Is Under Review

No

Previous Endorsement Cycle

Spring 2020

Removal Date

Mon, 11/25/2019 - 19:00

Initial Endorsement

Tue, 12/23/2014 - 08:13

Steward

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

1.0 New or Maintenance

Maintenance

1.1 Measure Structure

Single Measure

1.3 Electronic Clinical Quality Measure (eCQM)

No

1.6 Measure Description

This measure estimates the risk-standardized rate of unplanned, all-cause readmissions for patients (Medicare fee-for-service [FFS] beneficiaries) discharged from a Long-Term Care Hospital (LTCH) who were readmitted to a short-stay acute-care hospital or a Long-Term Care Hospital (LTCH), within 30 days of an LTCH discharge. The measure is based on data for 24 months of LTCH discharges to non-hospital post-acute levels of care or to the community.

A risk-adjusted readmission rate for each facility is calculated as follows:

Step 1: Calculate the standardized risk ratio of the predicted number of readmissions at the facility divided by the expected number of readmissions for the same patients if treated at the average facility. The magnitude of the risk-standardized ratio is the indicator of a facility's effects on readmission rates.

Step 2: The standardized risk ratio is then multiplied by the mean rate of readmission in the population (i.e., all Medicare FFS patients included in the measure) to generate the facility-level standardized readmission rate.

For this measure, readmissions that are usually for planned procedures are excluded. Please refer to Appendix Tables A1-A5 for a list of planned procedures.

The measure specifications are designed to harmonize with CMS' hospital-wide readmission (HWR) measure to a great extent. The HWR (NQF #1789) estimates the hospital-level, risk-standardized rate of unplanned, all-cause readmissions within 30 days of a hospital discharge, similar to this LTCH readmission measure.

1.7 Measure Type

Outcome

1.8 Level of Analysis

Facility

1.9 Care Setting

Post-Acute Care

1.14 Numerator

The numerator is mathematically related to the number of patients in the target population who have the event of an unplanned readmission in the 30-day post-discharge window. The measure does not have a simple form for the numerator and denominator—that is, the risk adjustment method used does not make the observed number of readmissions the numerator and a predicted number the denominator. Instead, the numerator is the risk-adjusted estimate of the number of unplanned readmissions that occurred within 30 days from discharge. This estimate includes risk adjustment for patient characteristics and a statistical estimate of the facility effect beyond patient mix.

1.15 Denominator

The denominator is computed with the same model used for the numerator. It is the model developed using all non-excluded LTCH stays in the national data. For a particular facility the model is applied to the patient population, but the facility effect term is 0. In effect, it is the number of readmissions that would be expected for that patient population at the average LTCH. The measure includes all the LTCH stays in the measurement period that are observed in national Medicare FFS data and do not fall into an excluded category.

1.20 Types of Data Sources

Claims Data, Other

6.1.2 Current or Planned Use(s)

Public Reporting, Quality Improvement (Internal to the specific organization), Quality Improvement with Benchmarking (external benchmarking to multiple organizations)

Exclusions

The measure excludes some LTCH patient stays; some of these exclusions result from data limitations.

The following are the measure's denominator exclusions, including the rationale for exclusion:

1.LTCH patients who died during the LTCH stay.

Rationale: A post-discharge readmission measure is not relevant for patients who died during their LTCH stay.

2.LTCH patients less than 18 years old.

Rationale: LTCH patients under 18 years old are not included in the target population for this measure. Pediatric patients are relatively few and may have different patterns of care from adults.

3.LTCH patients who were transferred at the end of a stay to another LTCH or short-term acute-care hospital.

Rationale: Patients who were transferred to another LTCH or short-term acute-care hospital are excluded from this measure because the transfer suggests that either their LTCH treatment has not been completed or that their condition worsened, requiring a transfer back to the acute care setting. The intent of the measure is to follow patients deemed well enough to be discharged to a less intensive care setting (i.e., discharged to less intense levels of care or to the community).

4.Patients who were not continuously enrolled in Part A FFS Medicare for the 12 months prior to the LTCH stay admission date, and at least 30 days after LTCH stay discharge date.

Rationale: The adjustment for certain comorbid conditions in the measure requires information on acute inpatient bills for 1 year prior to the LTCH admission, and readmissions must be observable in the observation window following discharge. Patients without Part A coverage or who are enrolled in Medicare Advantage plans will not have complete inpatient claims in the system.

5.Patients who did not have a short-term acute-care stay within 30 days prior to an LTCH stay admission date.

Rationale: This measure requires information from the prior short-term acute-care stay in the elements used for risk adjustment.

6.LTCH patients discharged against medical advice (AMA).

Rationale: Patients discharged AMA are excluded because these patients have not completed their full course of treatment in the opinion of the facility.

7.LTCH patients for whom the prior short-term acute-care stay was for nonsurgical treatment of cancer.

Rationale: Consistent with the HWR Measure, patients for whom the prior short-term acute-care stay was for nonsurgical treatment of cancer are excluded because these patients were identified as following a very different trajectory after discharge, with a particularly high mortality rate.

8.LTCH stays with data that are problematic (e.g., anomalous records for hospital stays that overlap wholly or in part or are otherwise erroneous or contradictory).

Rationale: This measure requires accurate information from the LTCH stay and prior short-term acute-care stays in the elements used for risk adjustment. No-pay LTCH stays involving exhaustion of Part A benefits are also excluded.

Planned Use

Public Reporting, Quality Improvement (Internal to the specific organization), Quality Improvement with Benchmarking (external benchmarking to multiple organizations)

Risk Adjustment

Statistical risk model

Target Population

Elderly, Individuals with multiple chronic conditions, Populations at Risk

Steward Organization

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Steward POC email

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