

Heart Failure Cost Measure Field Test Report

Name of Clinician

Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN): #####

National Provider Identifier (NPI): #####

Measurement Period: January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

1 MEASURE SCORE

This report shows your performance on the Heart Failure measure for field testing. Field testing is a chance for stakeholders to provide feedback on the cost measures being developed in 2021-2022. For more information about field testing, please refer to the [MACRA Feedback Page](#).¹

The field testing period is from **January 10 to February 25, 2022**. To provide feedback on this measure, please navigate to the [2022 Cost Measures Field Testing Feedback Survey](#).

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The information in this report is for field testing only. It doesn't affect any scoring or payment adjustments in the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS). The information in this report is believed to be accurate at the time of production. The information may be subject to change at the discretion of the Centers for Medicare & Medicare Services (CMS), including but not limited to circumstances in which an error is discovered. Only clinicians (identified by their unique Taxpayer Identification Number [TIN] and National Provider Identifier [NPI] combination, or TIN-NPI) and clinician groups (identified by their TIN) with at least 20 episodes during the measurement period have received a field test report.²

¹ CMS, MACRA Feedback Page, <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Payment-Program/Quality-Payment-Program/Give-Feedback>.

² Individuals using assistive technology may not be able to fully access information in this file. To request a fully accessible report, contact macra-cost-measures-info@acumenllc.com.

What is the Heart Failure Measure?

The Heart Failure cost measure assesses care for heart failure diagnoses in a range of settings. The measure identifies the start of a clinician-patient relationship by looking for a TIN billing a pair of services within 180 days of each other. Once the relationship starts, this opens up a period where the TIN is being monitored for the patient's care. That initial period can be extended if there are more services showing a continuing relationship. This ongoing care is then divided into episodes, or segments of at least one year so that a clinician can be assessed in a measurement period.

The measure includes clinically related costs for heart failure, including routine management for caring for heart failure (such as medication) and consequences of care (such as inpatient admissions). It doesn't include services that are clinically unrelated to heart failure. In this report, "cost" generally means the Medicare allowed amount.³ Costs are payment-standardized to facilitate comparisons of resource use. Payment standardization assigns a comparable allowed amount for the same service by removing geographic differences and payment adjustments from special Medicare programs, such as add-on payments for medical education.⁴

In addition, the actual episode costs are scaled to a one-year period to enable meaningful comparison of costs between episodes of different length. The episode observed cost is also risk-adjusted to ensure fair comparisons. Risk adjustment neutralizes the effects of risk factors deemed to be outside of a clinician's influence (e.g., pre-existing conditions, age, or indicators of clinical severity). Finally, the measure adjusts for cost variation across specialties and across TINs with varying specialty compositions.

Please refer to [Section 4](#) for high-level measure specifications. For more details, please refer to the Measure Information Form and the Measure Codes List file on the MACRA Feedback Page.

Your Field Testing Cost Measure Score

Table 1 shows how you performed on this measure in field testing. The score represents your average risk-adjusted cost to Medicare across all of your episodes for the Heart Failure measure and adjusted for your specialty. You can compare it to the national average score to see how you performed compared to all clinician groups with a least one Heart Failure measure episode. This is an inverse measure, so a lower score indicates a lower cost.

Table 1: Your Field Testing Cost Measure Score

	Heart Failure Measure
Number of Episodes	64
Your Cost Measure Score (TIN-NPI)	\$11,487
National Average Cost Measure Score	\$12,769
Your Cost Measure Score Percentile (TIN-NPI)	50

Note: Refer to the Glossary, [Table A1](#) for definitions of metrics

³ The Medicare allowed amount on Medicare claims data includes both Medicare and trust fund payments and any applicable patient deductible and coinsurance amounts.

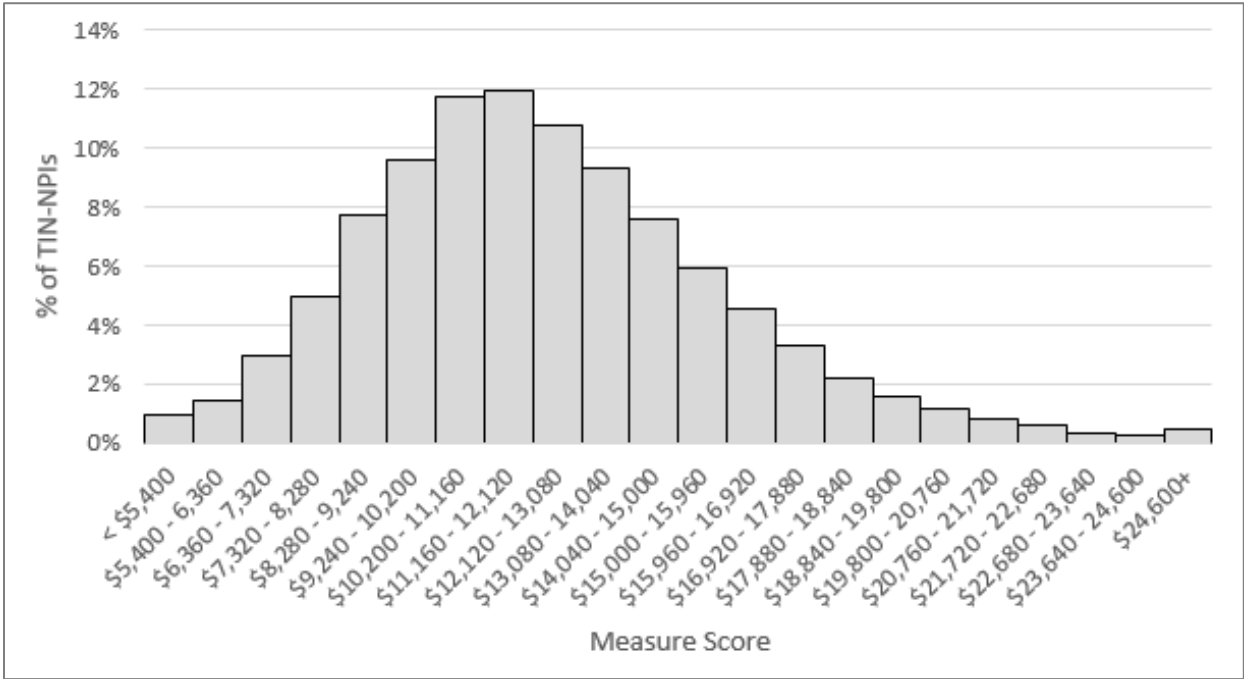
⁴ CMS, Price (Payment) Standardization Overview, <https://www.resdac.org/articles/cms-price-payment-standardization-overview>.

The score percentile shows where you rank among all clinicians receiving a field test report. It represents the percentage of clinicians that had an equal or lower risk-adjusted cost to Medicare. Since this is an inverse measure, a lower percentile means that you performed at a lower cost than more clinicians. For example, if you're in the 25th score percentile, it means that your score was lower and you performed at a lower cost than 75% of clinicians for this measure.

Histogram of National Cost Measure Scores

Figure 1 shows a histogram of how clinicians performed on the Heart Failure measure in field testing. Specifically, the distribution includes measure scores for all TIN-NPIs with at least 20 Heart Failure measure episodes. There were 19,829 clinicians that met this volume threshold in field testing.

Figure 1: National Distribution of Field Testing Measure Scores



2 BREAKDOWN OF COST MEASURE PERFORMANCE

There are many ways of looking at where costs are coming from in your measure. This section has information about types of services and clinicians who are contributing to your episode costs.

Utilization and Cost of Different Types of Services

This section shows what types of costs are being captured by the measure. The tables show your performance compared with the national average and for TIN-NPIs in your risk bracket. A risk bracket represents clinicians likely to have a similar patient case-mix as you.

Risk brackets are constructed in several steps:

- We calculate a risk score for each episode that indicates the complexity of your patient.
 - It's calculated as the episode's expected cost (as predicted through risk adjustment) divided by the national average observed cost for the measure.
 - This yields a ratio, where a higher value indicates that the episode is expected to be more costly, based on the patient characteristics in the risk adjustment model.
- We then calculate your average risk score. This is the average of the risk scores for all your episodes.
- Finally, we create a distribution for the average risk score across all clinicians with at least 20 episodes for this measure.
 - We divide the distribution into deciles to create risk brackets.
 - Each risk bracket has clinicians who, on average, have a similar average episode risk score as you.

Table 2 provides a breakdown of service use and cost by setting and various categorizations. The table includes Medicare Parts A, B, and D services. For Part B and outpatient services, the table uses the Restructured BETOS Classification System (RBCS). This is a taxonomy that allows researchers to group Medicare Part B healthcare service codes into clinically meaningful categories.⁵

You can use this table to see how often your episodes have particular services, and compare this to the national average and to clinicians with a similar case-mix. You can also see the average observed cost of those services for all episodes with at least one service in a particular category.

To highlight services where your performance is more markedly different from clinicians in your risk bracket, please refer to values with:

- An asterisk (*), which indicates that your performance was more than 1 standard deviation above the average for clinicians in your risk bracket; and
- A caret (^), which indicates that your performance was more than 2 standard deviations above the average for clinicians in your risk bracket.

⁵ CMS, Restructured BETOS Classification System, <https://data.cms.gov/provider-summary-by-type-of-service/provider-service-classifications/restructured-betos-classification-system>.

Table 2: Service Use and Cost by Medicare Setting and Service Category

Medicare Setting and Service Category	Share of Episodes with ≥1 Service			Average Observed Cost of Services among Episodes with ≥ 1 Service		
	Your TIN-NPI	National Average	Your Risk Bracket	Your TIN-NPI	National Average	Your Risk Bracket
All Services	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	\$10,845	\$12,181	\$12,546
Outpatient Evaluation and Management Services, Procedures, and Therapy (excluding Emergency Department)	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	\$1,898	\$2,735	\$2,853
Outpatient Evaluation & Management Services	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	\$1,285	\$1,267	\$1,286
Major Procedures	6.8%	22.5%	18.4%	\$5,684	\$8,885	\$8,803
Ambulatory/Minor Procedures	15.4%	25.3%	20.2%	\$4,078	\$5,079	\$5,062
Outpatient Physical, Occupational, or Speech and Language Pathology Therapy	16.4%	21.8%	16.8%	\$1,245	\$1,298	\$1,316
Ancillary Services	98.4%	97.3%	97.2%	\$898	\$909	\$940
Laboratory, Pathology, and Other Tests	90.4%	94.8%	94.7%	\$311	\$391	\$405
Imaging Services	91.5%	79.7%	77.6%	\$514	\$489	\$497
Durable Medical Equipment and Supplies	10.1%	30.5%	23.6%	\$884	\$1,060	\$1,106
Hospital Inpatient Services	56.1%	51.7%	45.2%	\$3,448	\$9,236	\$9,332
Facility Services	34.8%	38.9%	31.7%	\$6,589	\$12,683	\$12,732
Physician Services During Hospitalization	56.1%	51.6%	45.2%	\$847	\$1,366	\$1,376
Emergency Department Services	56.0%	57.8%	52.6%	\$2,154	\$1,373	\$1,397
Emergency Evaluation & Management Services	56.0%	56.8%	51.5%	\$984	\$1,337	\$1,362
Procedures	1.7%	17.5%	12.9%	\$65	\$169	\$169
Laboratory, Pathology, and Other Tests	48.1%	40.1%	33.8%	\$32*	\$14	\$14
Imaging Services	45.6%	47.5%	41.6%	\$99	\$67	\$67
Post-Acute Services	51.0%	53.0%	45.2%	\$6,541	\$8,313	\$8,156
Home Health	44.6%	49.4%	42.0%	\$6,548	\$6,365	\$6,246
Skilled Nursing Facility	3.2%	25.6%	17.7%	\$4,102	\$9,236	\$9,337
Inpatient Rehabilitation or Long-Term Care Hospital	0.9%	14.4%	9.4%	\$19,548	\$22,129	\$21,325
Part D Services	78.0%	81.2%	79.1%	\$1,648	\$1,516	\$1,575
All Other Services	89.9%	89.8%	89.1%	\$2,105	\$1,917	\$1,984
Ambulance Services	26.4%	36.4%	29.2%	\$948	\$951	\$907
Anesthesia Services	29.5%	33.8%	28.7%	\$244	\$242	\$243
Chemotherapy and Other Part B-Covered Drugs	34.5%	41.5%	36.0%	\$798	\$978	\$992
Dialysis	0.2%	14.4%	7.2%	\$465	\$576	\$626
All Other Services Not Otherwise Classified	0.0%	14.2%	10.3%	\$0	\$1,437	\$1,620

Notes: Asterisk (*): More than 1 standard deviation above the average for clinicians in your risk bracket.

Caret (^): More than 2 standard deviations above the average for clinicians in your risk bracket.

Refer to the Glossary, [Table A2](#) for definitions of metrics.

Table 3 provides a breakdown of service use and cost by clinical themes. Clinical themes are another way of categorizing the services that may be assigned in the measure.

Table 3: Service Use and Cost by Heart Failure Clinical Theme

Clinical Theme	Share of Episodes with ≥ 1 Service			Average Observed Cost of Services among Episodes with ≥ 1 Service		
	Your TIN-NPI	National Average	Your Risk Bracket	Your TIN-NPI	National Average	Your Risk Bracket
Aftercare, Rehab, Ancillary Services	51.6%	62.6%	55.2%	\$5,011	\$7,127	\$6,973
Blood Transfusions and Associated Labs	0.2%	14.9%	11.0%	\$7,168	\$7,708	\$7,730
Cardiac Medications (Injections, Infusions, Other Forms)	8.8%	36.2%	30.8%	\$1,789	\$1,123	\$1,126
Cardiopulmonary Procedures / Interventions	90.2%	86.1%	85.2%	\$1,015	\$2,816	\$2,980
Diagnostic Imaging	90.3%	84.1%	82.4%	\$797	\$530	\$548
Durable Medical Equipment	15.8%	37.3%	31.0%	\$356	\$834	\$873
Laboratory (Panels, Counts, Smears, Other Analysis)	78.6%	86.6%	85.1%	\$200	\$218	\$221
Other Hospitalizations (Complications and Adverse Drug Events)	31.2%	36.8%	29.5%	\$9,847	\$10,972	\$10,858
Outpatient Visits	100.0%	97.9%	98.1%	\$2,154	\$1,740	\$1,802
Part D Drugs	81.0%	81.2%	79.1%	\$1,348	\$1,516	\$1,575
Patient Transport	41.8%	43.9%	35.7%	\$628	\$786	\$758
Services Related to Bleeding	0.0%	12.1%	8.6%	\$0	\$259	\$282
Telehealth	34.8%	31.2%	25.3%	\$268	\$227	\$229

Notes: Asterisk (*): More than 1 standard deviation above the average for clinicians in your risk bracket.
Caret (^): More than 2 standard deviations above the average for clinicians in your risk bracket.
Refer to the Glossary, [Table A3](#) for definitions of metrics.

Clinicians Contributing to Your Episode Costs

Table 4 lists the clinicians that contributed the most to your Part B Physician/Supplier episode costs for the Heart Failure measure. The table is divided into columns for clinicians within and outside your TIN.

Table 4: Top Clinicians Within and Outside Your TIN Contributing to Your Part B Physician/Supplier Episode Costs

NPIs Within Your TIN	NPIs Outside Your TIN
(1) Name of Clinician - #####	(1) Name of Clinician - #####
(2) Name of Clinician - #####	(2) Name of Clinician - #####
(3) Name of Clinician - #####	(3) Name of Clinician - #####
(4) Name of Clinician - #####	(4) Name of Clinician - #####
(5) Name of Clinician - #####	(5) Name of Clinician - #####

Refer to the Glossary, [Table A4](#) for definitions of metrics

3 EPISODE COSTS

Your measure score reflects how you performed on at least 20 episodes. This section shows episode cost distributions and the share of your episodes in each of the measure sub-groups.

Your Risk-Adjusted Episode Costs

Table 5 shows how your risk-adjusted episode costs are spread out across the distribution. Risk-adjusted costs are costs that have been calculated to take into account risk factors such as patient health characteristics, age, reason for enrollment, and others.

Table 5: Distribution of the Risk-Adjusted Costs for Your Episodes

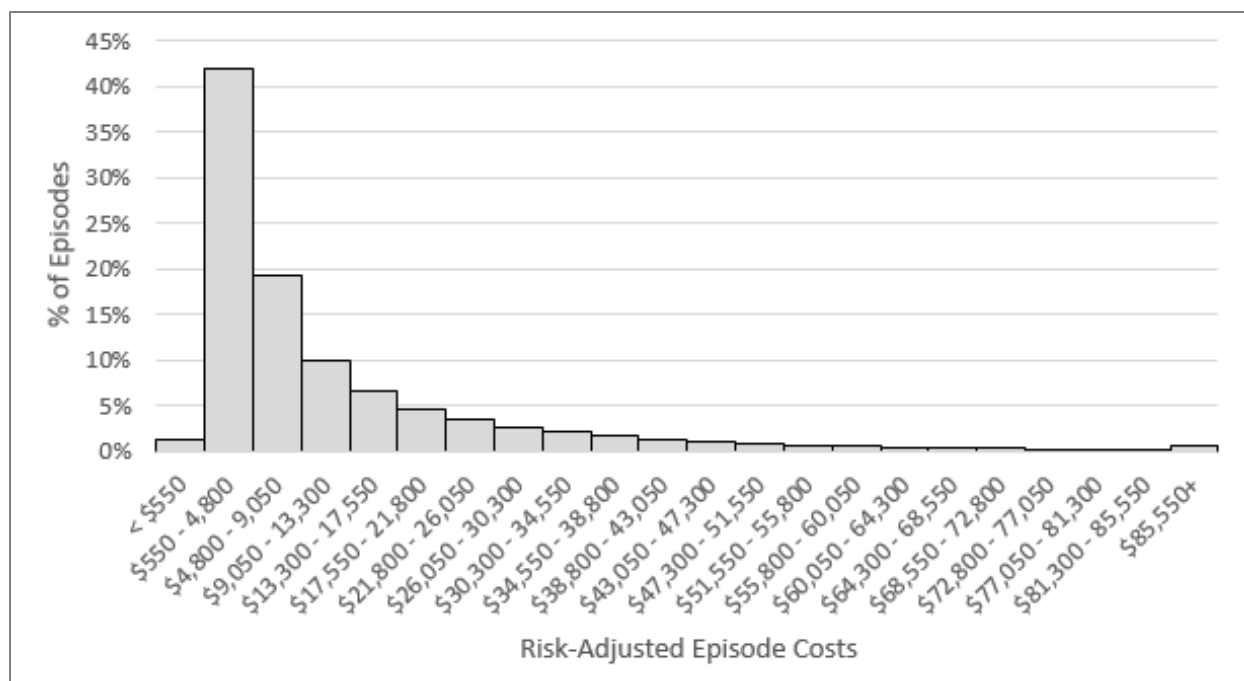
	Mean	Percentiles				
		5 th (Least Expensive)	25 th	50 th (Median)	75 th	95 th (Most Expensive)
Your Episodes	\$9,817	\$1,564	\$3,160	\$7,548	\$14,879	\$24,546

Refer to the Glossary: [Table A5](#) for definitions of metrics

Histogram of National Risk-Adjusted Episode Costs

Figure 2 shows a histogram of resource use for Heart Failure measure episodes in field testing. Specifically, the distribution includes risk-adjusted episode costs for all episodes among clinicians with at least 20 Heart Failure measure episodes. Note that Figure 1 shows provider-level scores, whereas this figure shows episode-level costs.

Figure 2: National Distribution of Risk-Adjusted Episode Costs

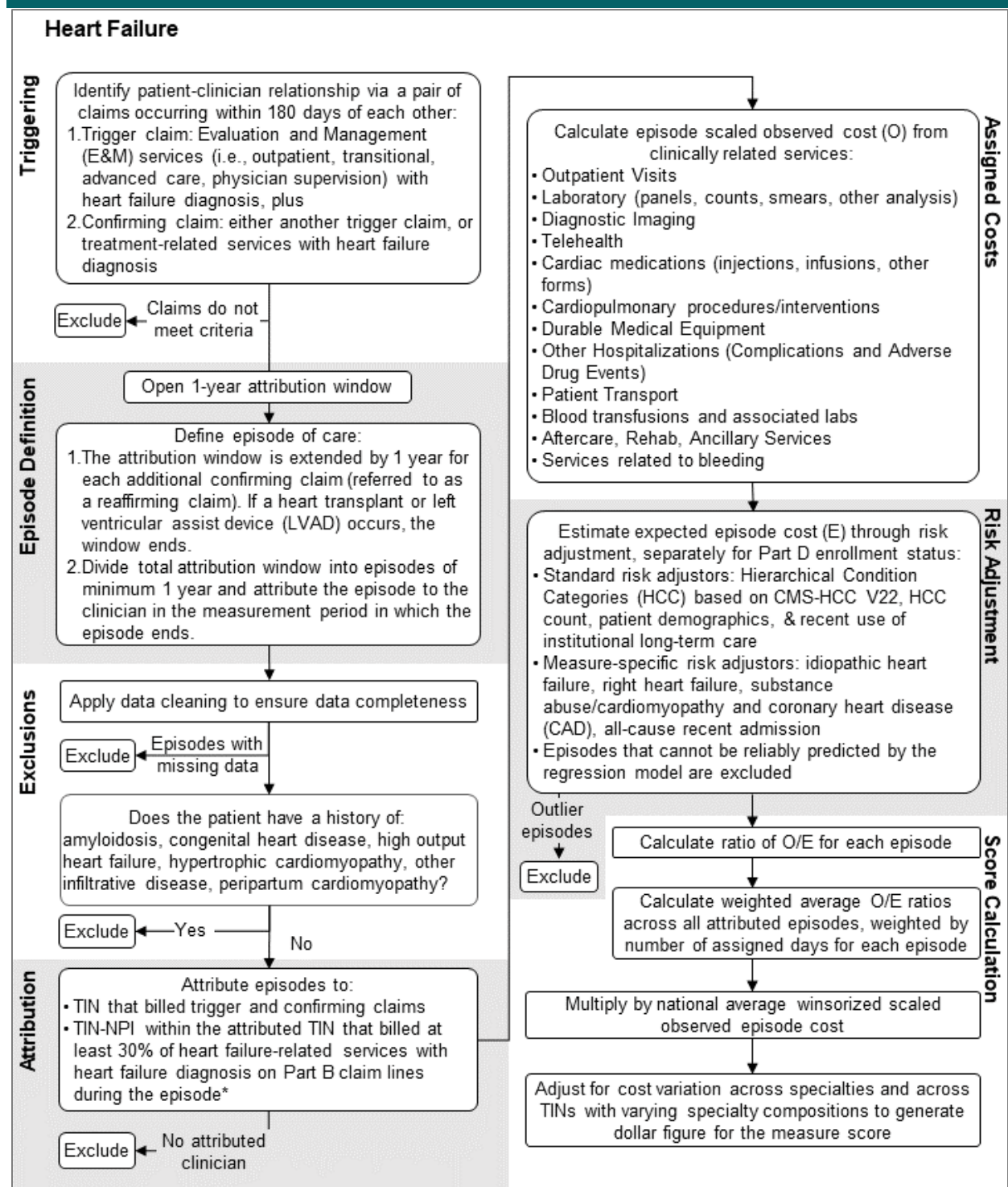


Episode-Level File (CSV)

For the most granular information for each episode, you have an episode-level file in the same ZIP file as this report. This file lists each episode used to calculate your field testing measure score and provides information to help you understand the costs of care for each episode. It includes details to help you identify your patient and which providers furnished services during the episode of care. The file also has detailed breakdowns of what types of services in each episode counted towards your cost measure score. Finally, there's a data dictionary in the format of an excel workbook that has definitions for all metrics in the episode-level file.

4 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Measure Flowchart



*To ensure that TIN-NPIs are appropriately attributed, TIN-NPIs meeting the 30% threshold must also have billed at least 1 heart failure-related Part B claim with heart failure diagnosis within 1 year prior to the start of the episode.

Where Can I Find More Information?

The [MACRA Feedback Page](#)⁶ has all the field testing resources. Materials include:

- An online field testing survey (embedded in some of the field testing resources) where you can provide feedback about the measures,
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ),
- An overview of the measure development process,
- Draft measure specifications (Measure Information Form, Measure Codes List file), and
- Testing results.

If you have further questions, please contact the Quality Payment Program Service Center:

- Email: gpp@cms.hhs.gov
- Telephone: 1-866-288-8292, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. ET
 - To receive assistance more quickly, please consider calling during non-peak hours – before 10 a.m. and after 2 p.m. ET.
 - Customers who are hearing impaired can dial 711 to be connected to a Telecommunications Relay Services Communications Assistant.

Appendix A – Glossary

Table A1: Definitions for Your Cost Measure Score Performance (Report: [Table 1](#))

Term	Description
Number of Episodes	The number of episodes attributed to your TIN-NPI within the measurement period.
Your TIN-NPI's Cost Measure Score	Your TIN-NPI's average risk-adjusted cost for the measure. <u>Method of calculation:</u> The weighted average ratio of the observed cost to expected cost (as predicted through a risk adjustment model) across all your episodes, multiplied by the national average observed episode cost. The weighting factor for each episode's number of assigned days.
National Average Cost Measure Score	Average risk-adjusted cost across all clinicians nationally for this episode-based cost measure. <u>Method of calculation:</u> The mean ratio of observed cost to expected cost (as predicted through a risk adjustment model) across all clinicians nationally, multiplied by the national average observed episode cost. The mean ratio is calculated by taking the weighted average of the observed to expected ratio for each clinician (the weighting factor for each episode's number of assigned days) and then calculating the average of these ratios across all clinicians.
Your TIN-NPI's Cost Measure Score Percentile	The percentile for your TIN-NPI's cost measure score among all cost measure scores for all clinicians nationally. <u>Interpretation:</u> Higher values indicate that your episodes are relatively more expensive than episodes attributed to other clinicians (and the inverse for lower values). <u>Example:</u> If your cost measure score percentile is in the 40 th percentile, then that means your cost measure score was higher than the scores for 40% of all clinicians nationally and lower than the scores for 60% of all clinicians. This is an inverse measure, so a lower score indicates a lower cost.

⁶ CMS, MACRA Feedback Page, <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Payment-Program/Quality-Payment-Program/Give-Feedback>.

Table A2: Definitions for Cost and Use by Medicare Setting and Service Category
(Report: [Table 2](#))

Term	Description
Medicare Setting and Service Category	The settings and service categories available from the claims data. This includes RBCS categorizations.
Share of Episodes with ≥ 1 Service	<p><u>Your TIN-NPI</u>: The share of episodes with any cost from a setting/category across all episodes for your TIN-NPI.</p> <p><u>National Average</u>: The average share of episodes with any cost from a setting/category across all clinicians nationally.</p> <p><u>TIN-NPIs in Your Risk Bracket</u>: The share of episodes with any cost from a setting/category across all clinicians in your risk bracket.</p>
Average Observed Cost of Services among Episodes with ≥ 1 Service	<p><u>Your TIN-NPI</u>: The average cost of services from a setting/category across all episodes for your TIN-NPI. Note that this average is calculated out of all your TIN-NPI's episodes that include at least 1 service from the given setting/category.</p> <p><u>National Average</u>: The average cost of services for a setting/category across all episodes for all clinicians nationally. Note that this average is calculated out of all episodes that include at least 1 service from the given setting/category.</p> <p><u>TIN-NPIs in Your Risk Bracket</u>: The average cost of services for a setting/category across all episodes for clinicians in your risk bracket. Note that this average is calculated out of all episodes that include at least 1 service from the given setting/category.</p>

Table A3: Definitions for Cost and Use by Clinical Theme (Report: [Table 3](#))

Term	Description
Clinical Theme	Clinical themes are clinical categorizations that organize all assigned services into broader categories. They are mutually exclusive and exhaustive of all service assignment rules, which were developed with input from the Heart Failure Clinician Expert Workgroup. To see which service assignment rules fall within each clinical theme, you may review the Draft Measure Codes List file for the measure.
Share of Episodes with ≥ 1 Service	<p><u>Your TIN-NPI</u>: The share of episodes with any cost from a given clinical theme across all episodes for your TIN-NPI.</p> <p><u>National Average</u>: The average share of episodes with any cost from a given clinical theme across all clinicians nationally.</p> <p><u>TIN-NPIs in Your Risk Bracket</u>: The average share of episodes with any cost from a given clinical theme across all clinicians in your risk bracket.</p>
Average Observed Cost of Services among Episodes with ≥ 1 Service	<p><u>Your TIN-NPI</u>: The average cost calculated per episode for the clinical theme (i.e., for all billed items within that clinical theme). Note that this average is calculated out of all your episodes that include at least 1 service from the given clinical theme.</p> <p><u>National Average</u>: The average cost calculated per episode for the clinical theme out of all episodes for all clinicians nationally (calculated only for episodes that include at least 1 service from the given clinical theme).</p> <p><u>TIN-NPIs in Your Risk Bracket</u>: The average cost calculated per episode for the clinical theme out of all episodes for TIN-NPIs in your risk bracket (calculated only for episodes that include at least 1 service from the given clinical theme).</p>

Table A4: Definitions for Top Clinicians Within and Outside Your TIN Contributing to Your Part B Physician/Supplier Episode Costs (Report: [Table 4](#))

Term	Description
NPIs Within Your TIN	List of the top 5 clinicians (i.e., NPIs) within your TIN that contributed the most Part B Physician/Supplier costs to your episodes.
NPIs Outside Your TIN	List of the top 5 clinicians (i.e., NPIs) outside your TIN that contributed the most Part B Physician/Supplier costs to your episodes.

Table A5: Distribution of the Risk-Adjusted Costs for Your Episodes (Report: [Table 5](#))

Term	Description
Risk-adjusted cost	This is the episode cost after accounting for risk factors deemed to be outside of a clinician's influence (e.g., pre-existing conditions, age, or indicators of clinical severity). The episode cost is risk-adjusted to ensure fair comparisons and neutralize the effects of these risk factors. The distribution statistics of the risk-adjusted costs for your episodes are shown (including mean and various percentiles).