

Quality Measures Fact Sheet

Cardiac Rehabilitation Patient Referral from an Inpatient Setting (NQF #0642)

National Quality Strategy Domain: Communication and Care Coordination

Quality Measures Set: Alternate

Data Source: Registry

BPCI Advanced and Quality

The Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation's (the CMS Innovation Center's) BPCI Advanced Model rewards health care providers for delivering services more efficiently, supports enhanced care coordination, and recognizes high quality care. Hospitals and clinicians should work collaboratively to achieve these goals, which have the potential to improve the BPCI Advanced Beneficiary experience and align to the CMS Quality Strategy goals of promoting effective communication and care coordination, highlighting best practices, and making care safer and more affordable. A goal of the BPCI Advanced Model is to promote seamless, patient-centered care throughout each Clinical Episode, regardless of who is responsible for a specific element of that care.

Background on Cardiac Rehabilitation

Cardiac rehabilitation comprises three core components: exercise counseling and training; education for heart healthy living; and counseling to reduce stress.⁹ For appropriately selected patients, cardiac rehabilitation improves quality of life and function while reducing hospitalization and cardiovascular mortality.¹⁰ This important intervention is also underutilized, and clinicians should assess all eligible beneficiaries and refer to cardiac rehabilitation when appropriate.

CMS Innovation Center Rationale for Including the Cardiac Rehabilitation Patient Referral from an Inpatient Setting Measure in BPCI Advanced

Within the BPCI Advanced Model, patients treated through the heart failure, percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI), and coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) Clinical Episodes may benefit from cardiac rehabilitation referral. The Defect Free Care for Acute Myocardial Infarction (AMI) measure for patients treated through the AMI Clinical Episode already includes cardiac rehabilitation referral. Improving the

⁹ What is cardiac rehabilitation? (2016). Retrieved from <https://www.heart.org/en/health-topics/cardiac-rehab/what-is-cardiac-rehabilitation>.

¹⁰ Anderson, L., Thompson, D. R., Oldridge, N., Zwisler, A., Rees, K., Martin, N., & Taylor, R. S. (2016). Exercise-based cardiac rehabilitation for coronary heart disease. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*, 1. <https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD001800.pub3/full>.

referral rate to cardiac rehabilitation is a crucial first step in increasing beneficiary participation in this service. Care teams should work together to ensure that patients obtain written documentation of a referral for the patient (by the physician, advanced practice nurse, or other personnel) to an outpatient cardiac rehabilitation program prior to discharge and encourage them to follow-through. The CMS Innovation Center selected the Cardiac Rehabilitation Patient Referral from an Inpatient Setting measure for BPCI Advanced to promote and document this best practice. The measure has been used or is currently being used by the Million Hearts®: CVD Risk Reduction Model.

Applicable Clinical Episodes

The Cardiac Rehabilitation Patient Referral from an Inpatient Setting measure is included in the Alternate Quality Measures Set and applies to the following inpatient Clinical Episodes¹¹:

- CABG: Medicare Severity–Diagnosis-Related Groups (MS-DRGs) 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, and 236
- PCI: MS-DRGs 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, and 251

Measure Specifications

The Cardiac Rehabilitation Patient Referral from an Inpatient Setting measure selected for BPCI Advanced follows National Quality Forum (NQF) #0642 measure specifications. The measure assesses the percentage of patients who receive a referral to an outpatient cardiac rehabilitation (CR) or secondary prevention program after completing a PCI or CABG procedure. The registry will calculate Acute Care Hospital (ACH) level performance for all patients included in the denominator. The term “patients” refers to people 18 years and older who undergo a procedure at the hospital associated with the Clinical Episodes from the “Applicable Clinical Episodes” section, not limited to Medicare beneficiaries or BPCI Advanced Beneficiaries. For Physician Group Practices (PGPs), the registry will calculate the measure as specified at individual hospitals, then the CMS Innovation Center will weight measure performance based on PGP Clinical Episode volume for each ACH where a PGP triggers an episode.

Denominator

The denominator for the Cardiac Rehabilitation Patient Referral from an Inpatient Setting measure includes all patients 18 or older who are hospitalized in the US regardless of payer status, with a qualifying cardiovascular diagnosis. Qualifying events include all patients hospitalized with primary diagnosis of myocardial infarction (MI), chronic stable angina, or who during hospitalization have undergone CABG, PCI, cardiac valve surgery, and/or heart transplantation. This measure is not limited to Medicare beneficiaries or BPCI Advanced Beneficiaries.

The exclusions for this measure include patients:

- on comfort measures only
- discharged against medical advice (AMA)
- who die during hospitalization
- transferred to another acute care facility

¹¹ MS-DRGs are up to date as of Model Year 3 (2020) and will be updated for Model Year 4 as needed.

- discharged to hospice

The exceptions for this measure include patients:

- with a medical reason for not providing a cardiac rehabilitation referral
- with a health care system reason for not providing a cardiac rehabilitation referral

Numerator

The numerator includes individuals in the previously defined denominator who qualified health care professionals refer to an outpatient CR program prior to hospital discharge.

Note: A referral is an official communication between the health care provider and the patient to recommend and carry out a referral order to an early outpatient CR program. This includes the provision of all necessary information to the patient that will allow the patient to enroll in an early outpatient CR program. This also includes a communication between the health care provider or health care system and the CR program that includes the patient's referral information for the program.

Measure Submission

BPCI Advanced Participants may submit this measure through American College of Cardiology (ACC) National Cardiovascular Data Registry (NCDR®) CathPCI Registry® or the Society of Thoracic Surgery (STS) National Database™, Adult Cardiac Surgery Database (ACSD) depending on the Clinical Episode.

The ACC NCDR® CathPCI Registry® will report on the following Clinical Episodes:

- PCI (Inpatient)

The STS ACSD Registry will report on the following Clinical Episodes:

- CABG (Inpatient)

Revisions to the Published Specifications

This registry measure specification reflects the NQF published specifications (e.g., exceptions) as well as annual updates provided to NQF by the measure steward to maintain endorsement status.

Composite Quality Score

The Cardiac Rehabilitation Patient Referral measure is one component of the BPCI Advanced Composite Quality Score (CQS) calculation. The CMS Innovation Center uses the CQS to adjust a portion of any Positive Total Reconciliation Amount and any Negative Total Reconciliation Amount. The CQS adjustment will not adjust the Positive Total Reconciliation Amount down by more than 10 percent, nor will it adjust the Negative Total Reconciliation Amount up by more than 10 percent. More information is available at the BPCI Advanced website provided below.

Other Resources

Organization/Resource	Website Address
NQF #0642 specifications	http://www.qualityforum.org/QPS/0642
BPCI Advanced	https://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/bpci-advanced
ACC measure specification	https://www.onlinejacc.org/content/71/16/1814/T7
ACC/AHA® performance measures	https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jacc.2018.01.004
ACC NCDR® BPCI Advanced	https://cvquality.acc.org/BPCIAdvanced
ACC NCDR® CathPCI Registry® Data Coder's Dictionary v5.0	https://www.ncdr.com/WebNCDR/docs/default-source/cathpci-v5.0-documents/cathpci_v5_codersdatadictionary.pdf?sfvrsn=3eafde9f_7
ACC data quality checklist	https://cvquality.acc.org/docs/default-source/public-reporting-toolkit/b15229_public_reporting_toolikit_checklist_v5a.pdf?sfvrsn=ae418fbf_2
For a current list of participating hospitals; Find Your Heart A Home	https://www.cardiosmart.org/Resources/For-Hospitals
Hospital to Home (H2H) Initiative	https://cvquality.acc.org/initiatives/hospital-to-home
STS National Database™	https://www.sts.org/registries-research-center/sts-national-database