

ONCOLOGY CARE MODEL

OCM QUALITY MEASURE CALCULATIONS AND DEFINITIONS

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Section1: Introduction

The OCM Quality Measures include populations that contain criteria used to calculate the measure performance rate. This document provides definitions of the populations and explains how they are used to calculate the measure performance rate. While not all populations will be used in each measure, the available measure populations are:

- Initial Population
- Denominator
- Denominator Exclusion
- Numerator
- Numerator Exclusion
- Denominator Exception

1.1 Definitions

- **Initial Population** – The *Initial Population* refers to all events (e.g., patients, visits) to be evaluated by a specific performance measure that share a common set of specified characteristics within a specific measurement set to which a given measure belongs. Details often include information based on specific age groups, diagnoses, diagnostic and procedure codes, and enrollment periods.
- **Denominator** – The *Denominator* can be the same as the *Initial Population* or a subset of the *Initial Population* to further constrain the population for the purpose of the measure. Different measures within a measure set may have different *Denominators*.
- **Denominator Exclusions** – Events (e.g. patients, visits) that should be removed from the measure *Initial Population* and *Denominator* before determining if *Numerator* criteria are met. *Denominator Exclusions* are used to help narrow the *Denominator* (e.g., patients diagnosed with metastatic cancer would be listed as a *Denominator Exclusion* for a measure requiring a primary diagnosis).
- **Numerator** – The *Numerator* criteria are the processes or outcomes expected for each patient, procedure, or other unit of measurement defined in the *Denominator* (e.g., a *Numerator* listing the number of visits where the current medication list was documented and a *Denominator* indicating the number of visits in a specific time period).
- **Numerator Exclusions** – Numerator Exclusions are generally used when the improvement notation is a “lower score indicates better quality.” Numerator exclusions remove events from the numerator population while retaining them in the denominator. For example, a *Numerator* listing at least one short-term acute care hospital admission and a *Numerator Exclusion* for patients admitted for certain cancer-related surgeries.
- **Denominator Exceptions** – *Denominator Exceptions* are those conditions that should remove a patient, procedure, or unit of measurement from the *Denominator* of the performance rate only if the *Numerator* criteria are not met. *Denominator Exceptions* allow for adjustment of the calculated score for those providers with higher risk populations. *Denominator Exceptions* allow for the exercise of clinical judgment and should be specifically defined where capturing

the information in a structured manner fits the clinical workflow. Generic *Denominator Exception* reasons fall into three general categories:

- Medical reasons (e.g., contraindicated, drug allergy, treatment changed)
- Patient reasons (e.g., drug declined, financial problem, refusal of treatment)
- System reasons (e.g., drug not available/out of stock, patient transfer, loss of benefits)

****Please note** when exceptions (medical, patient, and/or system reasons for not achieving a quality action) are applicable to a measure, the exceptions are only applied when the quality action is not performed.

1.2 Aggregate-Level Calculation Steps

1. **Initial Population:** Identify the Initial Population (if applicable).
2. **Denominator:** From the Initial Population, identify how many events satisfy the Denominator criteria.
3. **Denominator Exclusions:** From the Denominator, remove any events that satisfy the Denominator Exclusion criteria.
4. **Numerator:** From the remaining Denominator population, identify how many events satisfy the Numerator criteria.
5. **Numerator Exclusions:** From the Numerator population, identify how many events satisfy the Numerator Exclusion criteria. The population not meeting the Numerator Exclusion criteria is the final Numerator population.
6. **Denominator Exceptions:** From the Denominator population that did not satisfy the Numerator criteria, remove from the Denominator any events that satisfy the Denominator Exception criteria; this is the final Denominator population.
7. **Performance Rate:** Divide the Numerator (step 4) by the final Denominator (step 5) to calculate the Performance Rate.

1.3 Sample Aggregate-Level Calculation

1. **Initial Population:** 100 patients
2. **Denominator:** Of the 100 patients in the Initial Population, 90 patients meet the additional Denominator criteria.
3. **Denominator Exclusions:** Of the 90 patients in the Denominator, 10 patients meet the Denominator Exclusion criteria, leaving 80 patients in the Denominator (90-10=80).
4. **Numerator:** Of the 80 patients remaining in the Denominator after applying the Denominator Exclusion criteria, 50 patients meet the Numerator criteria.
5. **Numerator Exclusions:** Of the 50 patients in the Numerator, 10 patients meet the Numerator Exclusion criteria, leaving 40 patients in the Numerator (50-10=40).
6. **Denominator Exceptions:** The Denominator included 80 patients, with 50 meeting the Numerator prior to removing the Numerator Exclusions, leaving 30 patients in the

Denominator that did not meet the Numerator criteria. Of those 30 patients, **10** meet the Denominator Exception criteria, leaving **70** patients in the Denominator ($80-10=70$).

7. **Performance Rate:** Divide the Numerator (**40**) by the final Denominator (**70**) to calculate the performance rate of **57.14%**.