Quality ID #134: Preventive Care and Screening: Screening for Depression and Follow-Up Plan
– National Quality Strategy Domain: Community/Population Health
– Meaningful Measure Area: Prevention, Treatment, and Management of Mental Health

2021 COLLECTION TYPE:
MIPS CLINICAL QUALITY MEASURES (CQMS)

MEASURE TYPE:
Process

DESCRIPTION:
Percentage of patients aged 12 years and older screened for depression on the date of the encounter or up to 14 days prior to the date of the encounter using an age-appropriate standardized depression screening tool AND if positive, a follow-up plan is documented on the date of the eligible encounter

INSTRUCTIONS:
This measure is to be submitted a minimum of **once per measurement period** for patients seen during the measurement period. The most recent screening submitted will be used for performance calculation. This measure may be submitted by Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) eligible clinicians who perform the quality actions described in the measure based on the services provided and the measure-specific denominator coding. The follow-up plan must be related to a positive depression screening, example: "Patient referred for psychiatric evaluation due to positive depression screening".

NOTE: *Patient encounters for this measure conducted via telehealth (e.g., encounters coded with GQ, GT, 95, or POS 02 modifiers) are allowable.*

Measure Submission Type:
Measure data may be submitted by individual MIPS eligible clinicians, groups, or third party intermediaries. The listed denominator criteria are used to identify the intended patient population. The numerator options included in this specification are used to submit the quality actions as allowed by the measure. The quality-data codes listed do not need to be submitted by MIPS eligible clinicians, groups, or third party intermediaries that utilize this modality for submissions; however, these codes may be submitted for those third party intermediaries that utilize Medicare Part B claims data. For more information regarding Application Programming Interface (API), please refer to the Quality Payment Program (QPP) website.

DENOMINATOR:
All patients aged 12 years and older at the beginning of the measurement period with at least one eligible encounter during the measurement period

Definition:
Not Eligible for Depression Screening or Follow-Up Plan (Denominator Exclusion) –

- Patients who have been diagnosed with depression- F01.51, F32.0, F32.1, F32.2, F32.3, F32.4, F32.5, F32.89, F32.9, F33.0, F33.1, F33.2, F33.3, F33.40, F33.41, F33.42, F33.8, F33.9, F34.1, F34.81, F34.89, F43.21, F43.23, F53.0, F53.1, O90.6, O99.340, O99.341, O99.342, O99.343, O99.345
- Patients who have been diagnosed with bipolar disorder- F31.10, F31.11, F31.12, F31.13, F31.2, F31.30, F31.31, F31.32, F31.4, F31.5, F31.60, F31.61, F31.62, F31.63, F31.64, F31.70, F31.71, F31.72, F31.73, F31.74, F31.75, F31.76, F31.77, F31.78, F31.81, F31.89, F31.9

DENOMINATOR NOTE: The intent of the measure is to screen for depression in patients who have never had a diagnosis of depression or bipolar disorder prior to the eligible encounter used to evaluate the numerator. Patients who have ever been diagnosed with depression or bipolar disorder will be excluded from

the measure.

**Signifies that this CPT Category I code is a non-covered service under the Medicare Part B Physician Fee Schedule (PFS). These non-covered services should be counted in the denominator population for MIPS CQMs.*

Denominator Criteria (Eligible Cases):
Patients aged ≥ 12 years
AND
Patient encounter during the performance period (CPT or HCPCS): 59400, 59510, 59610, 59618, 90791, 90792, 90832, 90834, 90837, 92625, 96105, 96110, 96112, 96116, 96125, 96136, 96138, 96156, 96158, 97161, 97162, 97163, 97165, 97166, 97167, 99078, 99202, 99203, 99204, 99205, 99212, 99213, 99214, 99215, 99304, 99305, 99306, 99307, 99308, 99309, 99310, 99315, 99316, 99318, 99324, 99325, 99326, 99327, 99328, 99334, 99335, 99336, 99337, 99339, 99340, 99401*, 99402*, 99403*, 99483, 99484, 99492, 99493, 99384*, 99385*, 99386*, 99387*, 99394*, 99395*, 99396*, 99397*, G0101, G0402, G0438, G0439, G0444
AND NOT
DENOMINATOR EXCLUSION:
Documentation stating the patient has had a diagnosis of depression or has had a diagnosis of bipolar disorder: G9717

NUMERATOR:
Patients screened for depression on the date of the encounter or up to 14 days prior to the date of the encounter using an age-appropriate standardized tool AND if positive, a follow-up plan is documented on the date of the eligible encounter

Definitions:
Screening – Completion of a clinical or diagnostic tool used to identify people at risk of developing or having a certain disease or condition, even in the absence of symptoms.
Standardized Depression Screening Tool – A normalized and validated depression screening tool developed for the patient population in which it is being utilized..

Examples of standardized depression screening tools include but are not limited to:

- **Adolescent Screening Tools (12-17 years)**
  Patient Health Questionnaire for Adolescents (PHQ-A), Beck Depression Inventory-Primary Care Version (BDI-PC), Mood Feeling Questionnaire (MFQ), Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale (CES-D), Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9), Pediatric Symptom Checklist (PSC-17), and PRIME MD-PHQ-2
- **Adult Screening Tools (18 years and older)**
  Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9), Beck Depression Inventory (BDI or BDI-II), Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale (CES-D), Depression Scale (DEPS), Duke Anxiety-Depression Scale (DADS), Geriatric Depression Scale (GDS), Cornell Scale for Depression in Dementia (CSDD), PRIME MD-PHQ-2, Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression (HAM-D), Quick Inventory of Depressive Symptomatology Self-Report (QID-SR), Computerized Adaptive Testing Depression Inventory (CAT-DI), and Computerized Adaptive Diagnostic Screener (CAD-MDD)
- **Perinatal Screening Tools**
  Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale, Postpartum Depression Screening Scale, Patient Health Questionnaire 9 (PHQ-9), Beck Depression Inventory, Beck Depression Inventory–II, Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale, and Zung Self-rating Depression Scale

Follow-Up Plan – Documented follow-up for a positive depression screening ***must*** include one or more of the following:

- Referral to a practitioner who is qualified to diagnose and treat depression
- Pharmacological interventions

- Other interventions or follow-up for the diagnosis or treatment of depression

Examples of a follow-up plan include but are not limited to:

- Referral to a practitioner or program for further evaluation for depression, for example, referral to a psychiatrist, psychologist, social worker, mental health counselor, or other mental health service such as family or group therapy, support group, depression management program, or other service for treatment of depression
- Other interventions designed to treat depression such as behavioral health evaluation, psychotherapy, pharmacological interventions, or additional treatment options

Patients with a Documented Reason for not Screening for Depression (Denominator Exception) –

Patient Reason(s)

Patient refuses to participate

OR

Medical Reason(s)

Documentation of medical reason for not screening patient for depression (e.g., cognitive, functional, or motivational limitations that may impact accuracy of results; patient is in an urgent or emergent situation where time is of the essence and to delay treatment would jeopardize the patient's health status)

Numerator Instructions:

A depression screen is completed on the date of the encounter or up to 14 days prior to the date of the encounter using an age-appropriate standardized depression screening tool AND if positive, a follow-up plan must be documented on the date of the encounter, such as referral to a practitioner who is qualified to treat depression, pharmacological interventions or other interventions for the treatment of depression.

Depression screening is required once per measurement period, not at all encounters. An age-appropriate, standardized, and validated depression screening tool must be used for numerator compliance. The name of the age-appropriate standardized depression screening tool utilized must be documented in the medical record. The depression screening must be reviewed and addressed in the office of the provider on the date of the encounter. Positive pre-screening results indicating a patient is at high risk for self-harm should receive more urgent intervention as determined by the provider practice. The screening should occur during a qualifying encounter or up to 14 days prior to the date of the qualifying encounter.

The measure assesses the most recent depression screening completed either during the eligible encounter or within the 14 days prior to that encounter. Therefore, a clinician would not be able to complete another screening at the time of the encounter to count towards a follow-up, because that would serve as the most recent screening. In order to satisfy the follow-up requirement for a patient screening positively, the eligible clinician would need to provide one of the aforementioned follow-up actions, which does not include use of a standardized depression screening tool.

Should a patient screen positive for depression, a clinician should opt to complete a suicide risk assessment when appropriate and based on individual patient characteristics. However, for the purposes of this measure, a suicide risk assessment or additional screening using a standardized tool, will not qualify as a follow-up plan.

Numerator Options:

Performance Met: Screening for depression is documented as being positive AND a follow-up plan is documented **(G8431)**

OR

Performance Met: Screening for depression is documented as negative, a follow-up plan is not required **(G8510)**

OR

Denominator Exception: Screening for depression not completed, documented reason **(G8433)**

OR

Performance Not Met: Depression screening not documented, reason not given **(G8432)**

OR

Performance Not Met: Screening for depression documented as positive, follow-up plan not documented, reason not given **(G8511)**

RATIONALE:

Depression is a serious medical illness associated with higher rates of chronic disease, increased health care utilization, and impaired functioning (Katon, 2003; Wells et al., 1989). 2016 U.S. survey data indicate that 12.8 percent of adolescents (3.1 million adolescents) had a major depressive episode (MDE) in the past year, with nine percent of adolescents (2.2 million adolescents) having one MDE with severe impairment. The same data indicate that 6.7 percent of adults aged 18 or older (16.2 million adults) had at least one MDE with 4.3 percent of adults (10.3 million adults) having one MDE with severe impairment in the past year (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2017). Data indicate that severity of depressive symptoms factor into having difficulty with work, home, or social activities. For example, as the severity of depressive symptoms increased, rates of having difficulty with work, home, or social activities related to depressive symptoms increased. For those twelve and older with mild depressive symptoms, 45.7% reported difficulty with activities and those with severe depressive symptoms, 88.0% reported difficulty (Pratt & Brody, 2014). Children and teens with major depressive disorder (MDD) have been found to have difficulty carrying out their daily activities, relating to others, growing up healthy, and also are at an increased risk of suicide (Siu on behalf of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force [USPSTF], 2016). Additionally, perinatal depression (considered here as depression arising in the period from conception to the end of the first postnatal year) affects up to 12% of women (Woody, Ferrari, Siskind, Whiteford, & Harris, 2017). Depression and other mood disorders, such as bipolar disorder and anxiety disorders, especially during the perinatal period, can have devastating effects on women, infants, and families (American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, 2018). Maternal suicide rates rise over hemorrhage and hypertensive disorders as a cause of maternal mortality (Palladino, Singh, Campbell, Flynn, & Gold, 2011).

Negative outcomes associated with depression make it crucial to screen in order to identify and treat depression in its early stages. While Primary Care Providers (PCPs) serve as the first line of defense in the detection of depression, studies show that PCPs fail to recognize up to 50% of depressed patients (Borner, Braunstein, St. Victor, & Pollack, 2010). "In nationally representative U.S. surveys, about eight percent of adolescents reported having major depression in the past year. Only 36% to 44% of children and adolescents with depression receive treatment, suggesting that the majority of depressed youth are undiagnosed and untreated" (Siu on behalf of USPSTF, 2016, p. 360 & p. 364). Evidence supports that screening for depression in pregnant and postpartum women is of moderate net benefit and treatment options for positive depression screening should be available for patients twelve and older including pregnant and postpartum women.

If preventing negative patient outcomes is not enough, the substantial economic burden of depression for individuals and society alike makes a case for screening for depression on a regular basis. Depression imposes economic burden through direct and indirect costs: "In the United States, an estimated $22.8 billion was spent on depression treatment in 2009, and lost productivity cost an additional estimated $23 billion in 2011" (Siu & USPSTF, 2016, p. 383-384).

This measure seeks to align with clinical guideline recommendations as well as the Healthy People 2020 recommendation for routine screening for mental health problems as a part of primary care for both children and adults (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2014) and makes an important contribution to the quality domain of community and population health.

CLINICAL RECOMMENDATION STATEMENTS:

Adolescent Recommendation (12-18 years):

"The USPSTF recommends screening for MDD in adolescents aged 12 to 18 years. Screening should be

implemented with adequate systems in place to ensure accurate diagnosis, effective treatment, and appropriate follow-up (B recommendation)" (Siu on behalf of USPSTF, 2016, p. 360).

Adult Recommendation (18 years and older)

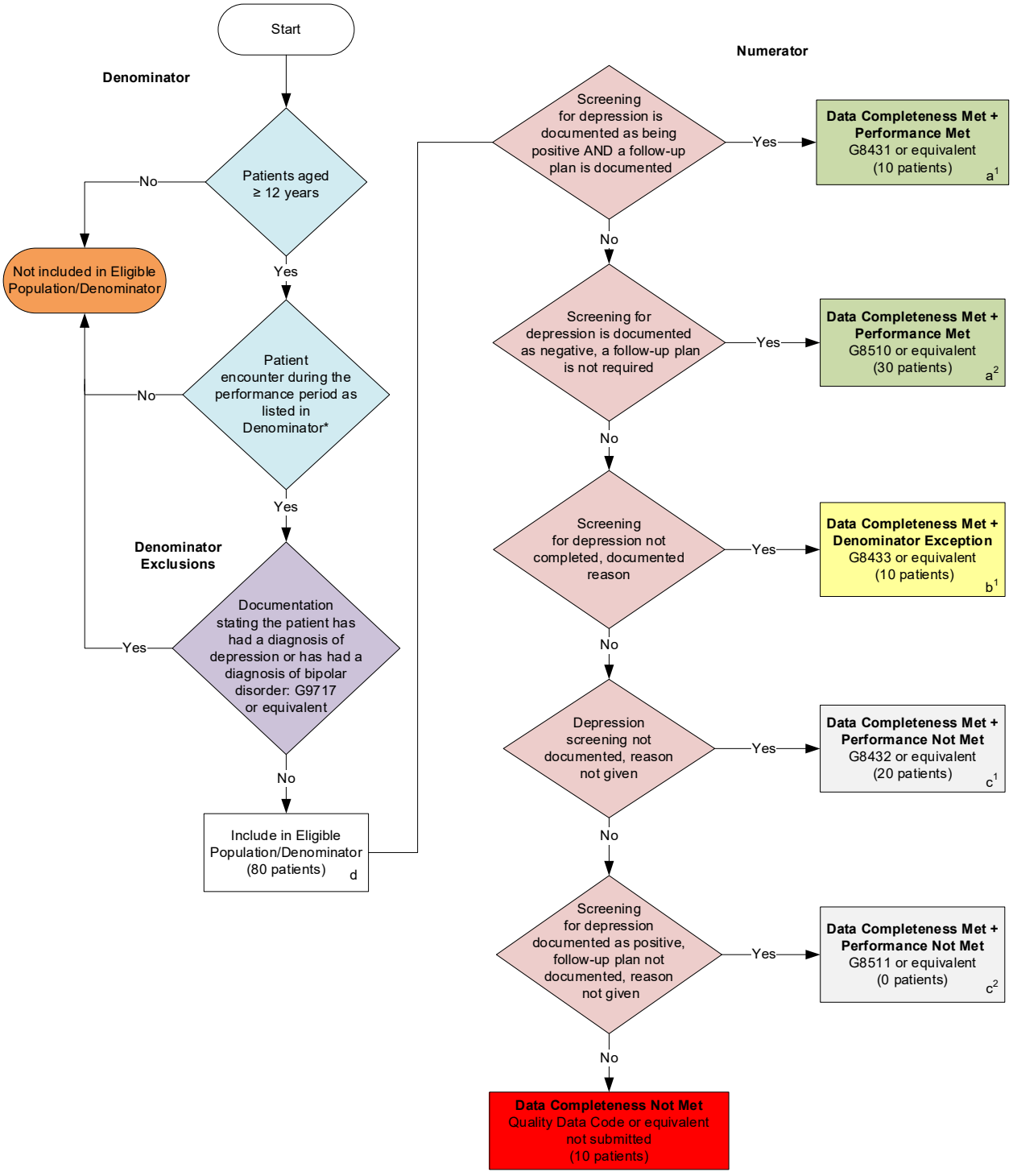
"The USPSTF recommends screening for depression in the general adult population, including pregnant and postpartum women. Screening should be implemented with adequate systems in place to ensure accurate diagnosis, effective treatment, and appropriate follow-up (B recommendation)" (Siu & USPSTF, 2016, p. 380).

The Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement (ICSI) health care guideline, Adult Depression in Primary Care, provides the following recommendations:

1. "Clinicians should routinely screen all adults for depression using a standardized instrument."
2. "Clinicians should establish and maintain follow-up with patients."
3. "Clinicians should screen and monitor depression in pregnant and post-partum women." (Trangle et al., 2016 p.. 8 – 10).

2021 Clinical Quality Measure Flow for Quality ID #134: Preventive Care and Screening: Screening for Depression and Follow-Up Plan

Disclaimer: *Refer to the measure specification for specific coding and instructions to submit this measure.*



SAMPLE CALCULATIONS

Data Completeness Rate=

Performance Met (a^1+a^2=40 patients) + Denominator Exception (b^1=10 patients) + Performance Not Met (c^1+c^2=20 patients) = 70 patients = **87.50%**

Eligible Population / Denominator (d=80 patients) = 80 patients

Performance Rate=

Performance Met (a^1+a^2=40 patients) = 40 patients = **66.67%**

Data Completeness Numerator (70 patients) - Denominator Exception (b^1=10 patients) = 60 patients

*See the posted measure specification for specific coding and instruction to submit this measure.

NOTE: Submission Frequency: Patient-Intermediate

2021 Clinical Quality Measure Flow Narrative for Quality ID #134: Preventative Care and Screening: Screening for Depression and Follow-Up Plan

Disclaimer: *Refer to the measure specification for specific coding and instructions to submit this measure.*

1. Start with Denominator

2. Check *Patients aged greater than or equal to 12 years*:

    a. If *Patients aged greater than or equal to 12 years* equals No, do not include in *Eligible Population/Denominator*. Stop processing.

    b. If *Patients aged greater than or equal to 12 years* equals Yes, proceed to check *Patient encounter during the performance period as listed in Denominator**.

3. Check *Patient encounter during the performance period as listed in Denominator**:

    a. If *Patient encounter during the performance period as listed in Denominator** equals No, do not include in *Eligible Population/Denominator*. Stop processing.

    b. If *Patient encounter during the performance period as listed in Denominator** equals Yes, proceed to check *Documentation stating the patient has had a diagnosis of depression or has had a diagnosis of bipolar disorder*.

4. Check *Documentation stating the patient has had a diagnosis of depression or has had a diagnosis of bipolar disorder:*

    a. If *Documentation stating the patient has had a diagnosis of depression or has had a diagnosis of bipolar disorder* equals Yes, do not include in *Eligible Population/Denominator*. Stop processing.

    b. If *Documentation stating the patient has had a diagnosis of depression or has had a diagnosis of bipolar disorder* equals No, include in *Eligible Population/Denominator*.

5. Denominator Population:

    a. Denominator Population is all Eligible Patients in the Denominator. Denominator is represented as Denominator in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter d equals 80 patients in the Sample Calculation.

6. Start Numerator

7. Check *Screening for depression is documented as being positive AND a follow-up plan is documented*:

    a. If *Screening for depression is documented as being positive AND a follow-up plan is documented* equals Yes, include in *Data Completeness Met and Performance Met*.

        - *Data Completeness Met and Performance Met* letter is represented as Data Completeness and Performance Rate in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter a^1 equals 10 patients in the Sample Calculation.

    b. If *Screening for depression is documented as being positive AND a follow-up plan is documented* equals No, proceed to check *Screening for depression is documented as negative, a follow-up plan is not*

required.

8. Check *Screening for depression is documented as negative, a follow-up plan is not required*:

    a. If *Screening for depression is documented as negative, a follow-up plan is not required* equals Yes, include *in Data Completeness Met and Performance Met*.

        - *Data Completeness Met and Performance Met* letter is represented as Data Completeness and Performance Rate in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter a^2 equals 30 patients in the Sample Calculation.

    b. If *Screening for depression is documented as negative, a follow-up plan is not required* equals No, proceed to check *Screening for depression not completed, documented reason*.

9. Check *Screening for depression not completed, documented reason* :

    a. If *Screening for depression not completed, documented reason* equals Yes, include in the *Data Completeness Met and Denominator Exception*.

        - *Data Completeness Met and Denominator Exception letter is represented as Data Completeness and Performance Rate in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter b^1 equals 10 patients in the Sample Calculation.*

    b. If *Screening for depression not completed, documented reason* equals No, proceed to check *Depression screening not documented, reason not given*.

10. Check *Depression screening not documented, reason not given*:

    a. If *Depression screening not documented, reason not given* equals Yes, include in the *Data Completeness Met and Performance Not Met.*

        - *Data Completeness Met and Performance Not Met letter is represented as Data Completeness in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter c^1 equals 20 patients in the Sample Calculation.*

    b. If *Depression screening not documented, reason not given* equals No, proceed to check *Screening for depression documented as positive, follow-up plan not documented, reason not given.*

11. Check *Screening for depression documented as positive, follow-up plan not documented, reason not given*:

    a. If *Screening for depression documented as positive, follow-up plan not documented, reason not given* equals Yes, include in the *Data Completeness Met and Performance Not Met*.

        - *Data Completeness Met and Performance Not Met letter is represented as Data Completeness in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter c^2 equals 0 patients in the Sample Calculation.*

    b. If *Screening for depression documented as positive, follow-up plan not documented, reason not given* equals No, proceed to check *Data Completeness Not Met*.

12. Check *Data Completeness Not Met*:

a. If *Data Completeness Not Met*, the Quality Data Code or equivalent was not submitted. 10 patients have been subtracted from the Data Completeness Numerator in the Sample Calculation.

Sample Calculations:

Data Completeness Rate equals Performance Met (a^1 plus a^2 equals 40 patients) plus Denominator Exception (b^1 equals 10 patients) plus Performance Not Met (c^1 plus c^2 equals 20 patients) divided by Eligible Population/Denominator (d equals 80 patients). All equals 70 patients divided by 80 patients. All equals 87.5 percent.

Performance Rate equals Performance Met (a^1 plus a^2 equals 40 patients) divided by Data Completeness Numerator (70 patients) minus Denominator Exception (b^1 equals 10 patients). All equals 40 patients divided by 60 patients. All equals 66.67 percent.

*See the posted measure specification for specific coding and instruction to submit this measure.

NOTE: Submission Frequency: Patient-Intermediate

The measure diagrams were developed by CMS as a supplemental resource to be used in conjunction with the measure specifications. They should not be used alone or as a substitution for the measure specification.