

Quality ID #326 (NQF 1525): Atrial Fibrillation and Atrial Flutter: Chronic Anticoagulation Therapy
– National Quality Strategy Domain: Effective Clinical Care
– Meaningful Measure Area: Management of Chronic Conditions

2020 COLLECTION TYPE:
MEDICARE PART B CLAIMS

MEASURE TYPE:
Process

DESCRIPTION:

Percentage of patients aged 18 years and older with nonvalvular atrial fibrillation (AF) or atrial flutter who were prescribed warfarin OR another FDA-approved oral anticoagulant drug for the prevention of thromboembolism during the measurement period

INSTRUCTIONS:

This measure is to be submitted a minimum of **once per performance period** for patients with nonvalvular AF or atrial flutter seen during the performance period. 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.

Measure Submission Type:

Measure data may be submitted by individual MIPS eligible clinicians using Medicare Part B claims. The listed denominator criteria are used to identify the intended patient population. The numerator quality-data codes included in this specification are used to submit the quality actions allowed by the measure on the claim form(s). All measure-specific coding should be submitted on the claim(s) representing the denominator eligible encounter and selected numerator option.

DENOMINATOR:

All patients aged 18 years and older with a diagnosis of nonvalvular AF or atrial flutter who do not have a documented CHA₂DS₂-VASc risk score of 0 or 1

DENOMINATOR NOTE: *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 will not be counted in the denominator population for Medicare Part B claims measures.

Denominator Criteria (Eligible Cases):

Patients aged ≥ 18 years on the date of encounter

AND

Diagnosis for nonvalvular atrial fibrillation or atrial flutter (ICD-10-CM): I48.0, I48.3, I48.4, I48.11, I48.19, I48.20, I48.21, I48.91, I48.92

AND

Patient encounter during the performance period (CPT): 99201, 99202, 99203, 99204, 99205, 99212, 99213, 99214, 99215, 99241*, 99242*, 99243*, 99244*, 99245*, 99304, 99305, 99306, 99307, 99308, 99309, 99310, 99324, 99325, 99326, 99327, 99328, 99334, 99335, 99336, 99337, 99341, 99342, 99343, 99344, 99345, 99347, 99348, 99349, 99350

WITHOUT

Telehealth Modifier: GQ, GT, 95, POS 02

NUMERATOR:

Patients with nonvalvular AF or atrial flutter for whom warfarin or another FDA-approved oral anticoagulant was prescribed

Definition:

Prescribed – also satisfied by documentation in current medication list.

Comfort Care Only - Refers to medical treatment of a dying person where the natural dying process is permitted to occur while assuring maximum comfort. It includes attention to the psychological and spiritual needs of the patient and support for both the dying patient and the patient's family. Comfort Measures Only is commonly referred to as "comfort care" by the general public. It may be completed in an inpatient, outpatient or home environment. Comfort Measures Only includes hospice, palliative and supportive treatment for patients who are suffering from a terminal illness—e.g., AIDS, cancer—or who have refused life-sustaining treatment. In order to use **G9930**, a patient must be on comfort care measures only and not be receiving any other types of care. It is not equivalent to a physician order to withhold emergency resuscitative measures such as Do Not Resuscitate (DNR).

CHA₂DS₂-VAsC Stroke Risk Assessment - The assessment of patients with nonvalvular AF or atrial flutter, assessment of thromboembolic risk should include:

| CHA₂DS₂-VAsC Criteria | Score |
|--|--------------|
| Congestive HF | 1 |
| Hypertension | 1 |
| Age ≥ 75 years | 2 |
| Diabetes Mellitus | 1 |
| Stroke/Transient Ischemic Attack (TIA)/Thromboembolism (TE) | 2 |
| Vascular disease (prior myocardial infarction [MI], peripheral artery disease [PAD], or aortic plaque) | 1 |
| Age 65-74 years | 1 |
| Sex category (i.e.; female) | 1 |

NUMERATOR NOTE: Denominator Exclusions/Exception(s) are determined on the date of the denominator eligible encounter.

The intent of the denominator exclusion **G9931** is to allow patients with a low risk for a thromboembolic event (i.e. a CHA₂DS₂-VAsC score of 0 or 1) to be excluded from the sample. This denominator exclusion serves as documentation that a patient's risk for a thromboembolic event was appropriately assessed using the CHA₂DS₂-VAsC scoring tool and that the risk was low enough to not warrant anticoagulation treatment. In order to exclude low risk patients, eligible clinicians must use the CHA₂DS₂-VAsC assessment tool to determine a patient's risk score and must document either the numeric score (i.e. 0 or 1) or all the individual risk factors assessed to support an assessment of the CHA₂DS₂-VAsC score.

NUMERATOR QUALITY-DATA CODING OPTIONS:

If patient is not eligible for this measure because patient has transient or reversible cause of AF OR patient is receiving comfort care OR CHA₂DS₂-VAsC of 0 or 1

(One of three quality-data codes [G9929 **OR** G9930 **OR** G9931] is required on the claim form to submit this numerator option)

Denominator Exclusion: G9929: Patient has transient or reversible cause of AF (e.g., pneumonia, hyperthyroidism, pregnancy, cardiac surgery)

OR

Denominator Exclusion: G9930: Patients who are receiving comfort care only

OR

Denominator Exclusion: G9931: Documentation of CHA₂DS₂-VAsC risk score of 0 or 1

OR

Warfarin or Another FDA-Approved Oral Anticoagulant that is Prescribed

(One quality-data code [G8967] is required on the claim form to submit this numerator option)

Performance Met: G8967: Warfarin OR another FDA-approved oral anticoagulant is prescribed

OR

Warfarin or Another FDA-Approved Anticoagulant that is Not Prescribed for Medical Reasons

(One quality-data code [G8968] is required on the claim form to submit this numerator option)

Denominator Exception: G8968:

Documentation of medical reason(s) for not prescribing warfarin OR another FDA-approved anticoagulant (e.g., atrial appendage device in place)

OR

Warfarin or Another FDA-Approved Anticoagulant Not Prescribed for Patient Reasons

(One quality-data code [G8969] is required on the claim form to submit this numerator option)

Denominator Exception: G8969:

Documentation of patient reason(s) for not prescribing warfarin OR another FDA-approved oral anticoagulant that is FDA approved for the prevention of thromboembolism (e.g., patient choice of having atrial appendage device placed)

OR

Warfarin or Another FDA-Approved Anticoagulant Not Prescribed for System Reasons

(One quality-data code [G9927] is required on the claim form to submit this numerator option)

Denominator Exception G9927:

Documentation of system reason(s) for not prescribing warfarin OR another FDA-approved anticoagulation due to patient being currently enrolled in a clinical trial related to AF/atrial flutter treatment

OR

Warfarin OR Another FDA-Approved Anticoagulant Not Prescribed, Reason not Given

(One quality-data code [G9928] is required on the claim form to submit this numerator option)

Performance Not Met: G9928:

Warfarin OR another FDA-approved anticoagulant not prescribed, reason not given

RATIONALE:

AF, whether paroxysmal, persistent, or permanent and whether symptomatic or silent, significantly increases the risk of thromboembolic ischemic stroke. Nonvalvular atrial fibrillation increases the risk of stroke 5 times, and AF in the setting of mitral stenosis increases the risk of stroke 20 times over that of patients in sinus rhythm.

Thromboembolism occurring with AF is associated with a greater risk of recurrent stroke, more severe disability, and mortality. Silent AF is also associated with ischemic stroke. The appropriate use of antithrombotic therapy and the control of other risk factors, including hypertension and hypercholesterolemia, substantially reduce stroke risk.

One meta-analysis has stratified ischemic stroke risk among patients with nonvalvular AF using the following point scoring systems: AF Investigators; CHA₂DS₂ (congestive heart failure, hypertension, age 75 years, diabetes mellitus, prior stroke or TIA or thromboembolism [doubled]), or CHA₂DS₂-VASc (congestive heart failure, hypertension, age 75 years [doubled], diabetes mellitus, prior stroke or TIA or thromboembolism [doubled], vascular disease, age 65 to 74 years, sex category).

When compared with the CHA₂DS₂ score, the CHA₂DS₂-VASc score for nonvalvular AF has a broader score range (0 to 9) and includes a larger number of risk factors (female sex, 65 to 74 years of age, and vascular disease).

The selection of an antithrombotic agent should be based on shared decision making that takes into account risk factors, cost, tolerability, patient preference, potential for drug interactions, and other clinical characteristics, including time in the INR therapeutic range if the patient has been on warfarin, irrespective of whether the AF pattern is paroxysmal, persistent, or permanent.

CLINICAL RECOMMENDATION STATEMENTS:

1. In patients with AF, antithrombotic therapy should be individualized based on shared decision-making after discussion of the absolute and RRs of stroke and bleeding, and the patient's values and preferences. (Class I, Level of Evidence: C)
2. Selection of antithrombotic therapy should be based on the risk of thromboembolism irrespective of whether the AF pattern is paroxysmal, persistent, or permanent. (Class I, Level of Evidence: B)
3. In patients with nonvalvular AF, the CHA₂DS₂-VASc score is recommended for assessment of stroke risk. (Class I, Level of Evidence: B)
4. For patients with AF who have mechanical heart valves, warfarin is recommended and the target international normalized ratio (INR) intensity (2.0 to 3.0 or 2.5 to 3.5) should be based on the type and location of the prosthesis. (Class I, Level of Evidence: B)
5. For patients with nonvalvular AF with prior stroke, TIA, or a CHA₂DS₂-VASc score of 2 or greater, oral anticoagulants are recommended. Options include: warfarin (INR 2.0 to 3.0) (Class I, Level of Evidence: A), dabigatran (Class I, Level of Evidence: B), rivaroxaban (Class I, Level of Evidence: B), or apixaban. (Class I, Level of Evidence: B)
6. Among patients treated with warfarin, the INR should be determined at least weekly during initiation of antithrombotic therapy and at least monthly when anticoagulation (INR in range) is stable. (Class I, Level of Evidence: A)
7. For patients with nonvalvular AF unable to maintain a therapeutic INR level with warfarin, use of a direct thrombin or factor Xa inhibitor (dabigatran, rivaroxaban, or apixaban) is recommended. (Class I, Level of Evidence: C)
8. Re-evaluation of the need for and choice of antithrombotic therapy at periodic intervals is recommended to reassess stroke and bleeding risks. (Class I, Level of Evidence: C)
9. For patients with atrial flutter, antithrombotic therapy is recommended according to the same risk profile used for AF. (Class I, Level of Evidence: C)

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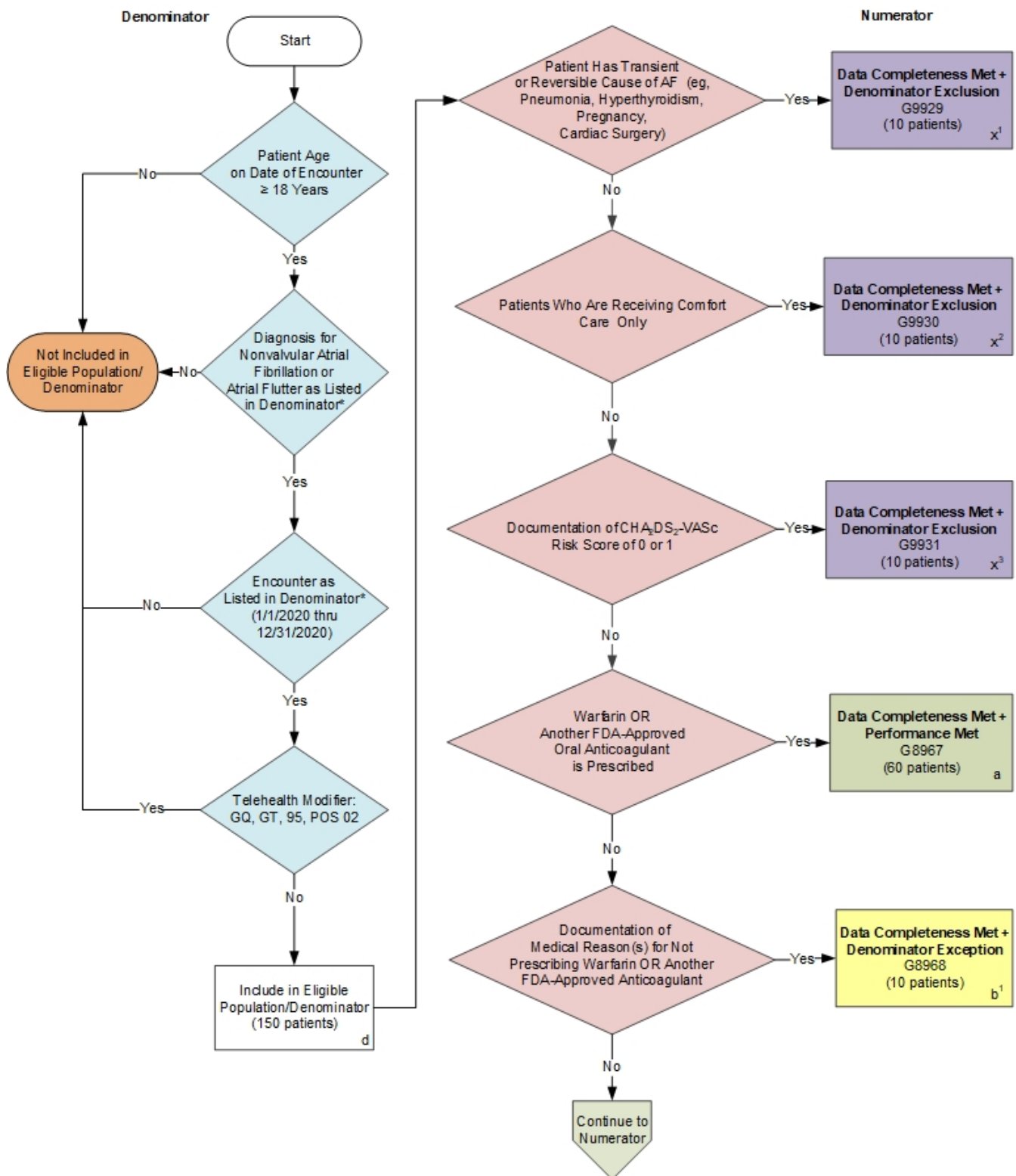
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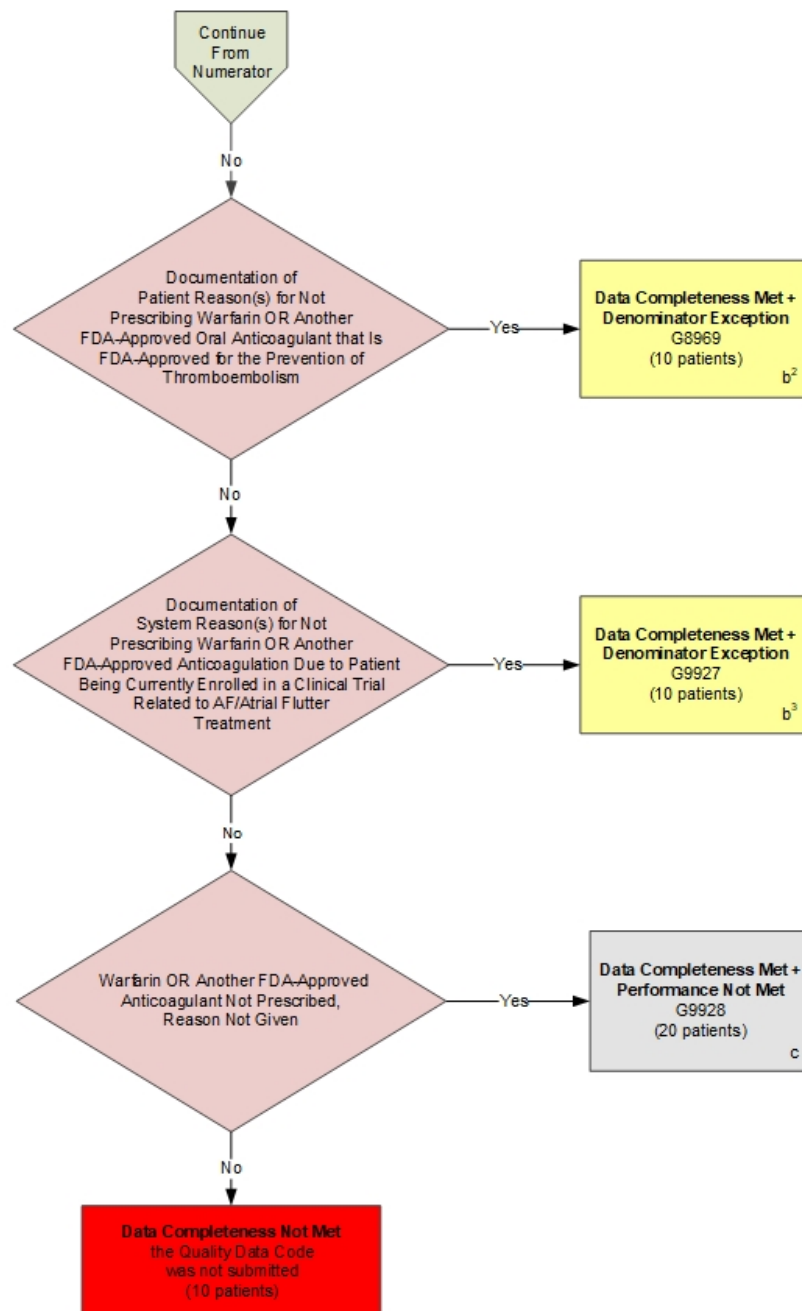
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**2020 Medicare Part B Claims Flow for Quality ID #326 NQF #1525:
Atrial Fibrillation and Atrial Flutter: Chronic Anticoagulation Therapy**

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





SAMPLE CALCULATIONS:

Data Completeness =

$$\frac{\text{Denominator Exclusion } (x^1 + x^2 + x^3 = 30 \text{ pts}) + \text{Performance Met } (a = 60 \text{ pts}) + \text{Denominator Exception } (b^1 + b^2 + b^3 = 30 \text{ pts}) + \text{Performance Not Met } (c = 20 \text{ pts})}{\text{Eligible Population / Denominator } (d = 150 \text{ pts})} = \frac{140 \text{ pts}}{150 \text{ pts}} = 93.33\%$$

Performance Rate =

$$\frac{\text{Performance Met } (a = 60 \text{ pts})}{\text{Data Completeness Numerator } (140 \text{ pts}) - \text{Denominator Exclusion } (x^1 + x^2 + x^3 = 30 \text{ pts}) - \text{Denominator Exception } (b^1 + b^2 + b^3 = 30 \text{ pts})} = \frac{60 \text{ pts}}{80 \text{ pts}} = 75.00\%$$

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

NOTE: Submission Frequency: Patient-Process

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 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.

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**2020 Medicare Part B Claims Flow Narrative for Quality ID #326 NQF #1525:
Atrial Fibrillation and Atrial Flutter: Chronic Anticoagulation Therapy**

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

1. Start with Denominator
2. Check Patient Age:
 - a. If Patient Age on Date of Encounter is greater than or equal to 18 Years equals No, do not include in Eligible Population. Stop Processing.
 - b. If Patient Age on Date of Encounter is greater than or equal to 18 Years equals Yes, proceed to check Patient Diagnosis.
3. Check Patient Diagnosis:
 - a. If Diagnosis for Nonvalvular Atrial Fibrillation or Atrial Flutter as Listed in the Denominator equals No, do not include in Eligible Population. Stop Processing.
 - b. If Diagnosis for Nonvalvular Atrial Fibrillation or Atrial Flutter as Listed in the Denominator equals Yes, proceed to check Encounter Performed.
4. Check Encounter Performed:
 - a. If Encounter Performed as Listed in the Denominator equals No, do not include in Eligible Population. Stop Processing.
 - b. If Encounter as Listed in the Denominator equals Yes, proceed to check Telehealth Modifier.
5. Check Telehealth Modifier:
 - a. If Telehealth Modifier equals Yes, do not include in Eligible Population. Stop Processing.
 - b. If Telehealth Modifier equals No, include in Eligible Population.
6. 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 150 patients in the Sample Calculation.
7. Start Numerator
8. Check Patient Has Transient or Reversible Cause of AF (e.g., Pneumonia, Hyperthyroidism, Pregnancy, Cardiac Surgery):
 - a. If Patient Has Transient or Reversible Cause of AF (e.g., Pneumonia, Hyperthyroidism, Pregnancy, Cardiac Surgery) equals Yes, include in Data Completeness Met and Denominator Exclusion.
 - b. Data Completeness Met and Denominator Exclusion is represented in the Data Completeness and Performance Rate in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter x¹ equals 10 patients in the Sample Calculation.
 - c. If Patient Has Transient or Reversible Cause of AF (e.g., Pneumonia, Hyperthyroidism, Pregnancy, Cardiac Surgery) equals No, proceed to check Patients Who are Receiving Comfort Care Only
9. Check Patients Who are Receiving Comfort Care Only:
 - a. If Patients Who are Receiving Comfort Care Only equals Yes, include in Data Completeness Met and Denominator Exclusion.
 - b. Data Completeness Met and Denominator Exclusion is represented in the Data Completeness and

Performance Rate in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter x² equals 10 patients in the Sample Calculation.

- c. If Patients Who are Receiving Comfort Care Only equals No, proceed to check Documentation of CHA₂DS₂-VASc Risk Score of 0 or 1.
10. Check Documentation of CHA₂DS₂-VASc Risk Score of 0 or 1:
 - a. If Documentation of CHA₂DS₂-VASc Risk Score of 0 or 1 equals Yes, include in Data Completeness Met and Denominator Exclusion.
 - b. Data Completeness Met and Denominator Exclusion is represented in the Data Completeness and Performance Rate in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter x³ equals 10 patients in the Sample Calculation.
 - c. If Documentation of CHA₂DS₂-VASc Risk Score of 0 or 1 equals No, proceed to check Warfarin OR Another FDA-Approved Oral Anticoagulant is Prescribed.
 11. Check Warfarin OR Another FDA-Approved Oral Anticoagulant is Prescribed:
 - a. If Warfarin OR Another FDA-Approved Oral Anticoagulant is Prescribed equals Yes, include in Data Completeness Met and Performance Met.
 - b. Data Completeness Met and Performance Met is represented in the Data Completeness and Performance Rate in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter a equals 60 patients in the Sample Calculation.
 - c. If Warfarin OR Another FDA-Approved Oral Anticoagulant is Prescribed equals No, proceed to check Documentation of Medical Reason(s) for Not Prescribing Warfarin OR Another FDA-Approved Anticoagulant.
 12. Check Documentation of Medical Reason(s) for Not Prescribing Warfarin OR Another FDA-Approved Oral Anticoagulant:
 - a. If Documentation of Medical Reason(s) for Not Prescribing Warfarin OR Another FDA-Approved Anticoagulant equals Yes, include in Data Completeness Met and Denominator Exception.
 - b. Data Completeness Met and Denominator Exception is represented in the Data Completeness and Performance Rate in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter b¹ equals 10 patients in the Sample Calculation.
 - c. If Documentation of Medical Reason(s) for Not Prescribing Warfarin OR Another FDA-Approved Anticoagulant equals No, proceed to check Documentation of Patient Reason(s) for Not Prescribing Warfarin OR Another FDA-Approved Anticoagulant that is FDA-Approved for the Prevention of Thromboembolism.
 13. Check Documentation of Patient Reason(s) for Not Prescribing Warfarin OR Another FDA-Approved Oral Anticoagulant that is FDA-Approved for the Prevention of Thromboembolism:
 - a. If Documentation of Patient Reason(s) for Not Prescribing Warfarin OR Another FDA-Approved Oral Anticoagulant that is FDA-Approved for the Prevention of Thromboembolism equals Yes, include in the Data Completeness Met and Denominator Exception.
 - b. Data Completeness Met and Denominator Exception is represented in the Data Completeness and Performance Rate in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter b² equals 10 patients in the Sample Calculation.
 - c. If Documentation of Patient Reason(s) for Not Prescribing Warfarin OR Another FDA-Approved Oral Anticoagulant that is FDA-Approved for the Prevention of Thromboembolism equals No, proceed to Check Documentation of System Reason(s) for Not Prescribing Warfarin OR Another FDA-Approved Anticoagulation Due to Patient Being Currently Enrolled in a Clinical Trial Related to AF/Atrial Flutter

Treatment.

14. Check Documentation of System Reason(s) for Not Prescribing Warfarin OR Another FDA-Approved Anticoagulation Due to Patient Being Currently Enrolled in a Clinical Trial Related to AF/Atrial Flutter Treatment:
 - a. If Documentation of System Reason(s) for Not Prescribing Warfarin OR Another FDA-Approved Anticoagulation Due to Patient Being Currently Enrolled in a Clinical Trial Related to AF/Atrial Flutter Treatment equals Yes, include in the Data Completeness Met and Denominator Exception.
 - b. Data Completeness Met and Denominator Exception is represented in the Data Completeness and Performance Rate in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter b³ equals 10 patients in the Sample Calculation.
 - c. If Documentation of System Reason(s) for Not Prescribing Warfarin OR Another FDA-Approved Anticoagulation Due to Patient Being Currently Enrolled in a Clinical Trial Related to AF/Atrial Flutter Treatment equals No, proceed to check Warfarin OR Another FDA-Approved Anticoagulant Not Prescribed, Reason Not Given
15. Check Warfarin OR Another FDA-Approved Anticoagulant Not Prescribed, Reason Not Given:
 - a. If Warfarin OR Another FDA-Approved Anticoagulant Not Prescribed, Reason Not Given equals Yes, include in Data Completeness Met and Performance Not Met.
 - b. Data Completeness Met and Performance Not Met is represented in the Data Completeness in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter c equals 20 patients in the Sample Calculation.
 - c. If Warfarin OR Another FDA-Approved Anticoagulant Not Prescribed, Reason Not Given, proceed to Data Completeness Not Met.
16. 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=

$$\frac{\text{Denominator Exclusion } (x^1+x^2+x^3=30 \text{ pts}) + \text{Performance Met } (a=60 \text{ pts}) + \text{Denominator Exception } (b^1+b^2+b^3=30 \text{ pts}) + \text{Performance Not Met } (c=20 \text{ pts})}{\text{Eligible Population / Denominator } (d=150 \text{ pts})} = \frac{140 \text{ pts}}{150 \text{ pts}} = 93.33\%$$

Performance Rate=

$$\frac{\text{Performance Met } (a=60 \text{ pts})}{\text{Data Completeness Numerator } (140 \text{ pts}) - \text{Denominator Exclusion } (x^1+x^2+x^3=30 \text{ pts}) - \text{Denominator Exception } (b^1+b^2+b^3=30 \text{ pts})} = \frac{60 \text{ pts}}{80 \text{ pts}} = 75.00\%$$