

2024 Measure Set Review (MSR): Final Preliminary Assessment

The following information was sourced in June of 2024 from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Measures Inventory Tool (CMIT), the PQM Submission Tool and Repository (STAR), discussions with CMS program leads, and publicly available CMS datasets (see links below).

I. Measure Information

| CMIT ID | Title |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 00487-01-C-MIPS | Overuse of Imaging for the Evaluation of Primary Headache |
| Measure Steward | CMS Program |
| American Academy of Neurology | Merit-Based Incentive Payment System Program (MIPS) |

| Measure Overview | |
|---|--|
| <p>Rationale: Imaging headache patients absent specific risk factors for structural disease is not likely to change management or improve outcome. Those patients with a significant likelihood of structural disease requiring immediate attention are detected by clinical screens that have been validated in many settings. Many studies and clinical practice guidelines concur. This measure is intended to reduce the use of these unnecessary tests, reduce treatment costs, and improve patient safety by reducing the exposure to unnecessary radiation and testing.</p> | |
| <p>Description: Percentage of patients for whom imaging of the head (CT or MRI) is obtained for the evaluation of primary headache when clinical indications are not present.</p> | |
| <p>Numerator: Patients for whom imaging of the head (Computed Tomography [CT] or Magnetic Resonance Imaging [MRI]) is obtained for the evaluation of primary headache when clinical indications are not present.</p> | |
| <p>Exclusions: None.</p> | |
| <p>Denominator: All patients seen for evaluation of primary headache.</p> | |
| <p>Exclusions: Patients with clinical indications for imaging of the head:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head trauma: G2187 • New or change in headache above 50 years of age: G2188 • Abnormal neurologic exam: G2189 • Headache radiating to the neck: G2190 • Positional headaches: G2191 • Temporal headaches in patients over 55 years of age: G2192 • New onset headache in pre-school children or younger (<6 years of age): G2193 • New onset headache in pediatric patients with disabilities for which headache is a concern as inferred from behavior: G2194 • Occipital headache in children: G2195 • Thunderclap headache: G44.53 • Trigeminal pain: G50.0 • Persistent headaches: G44.52 | |
| <p>Measure type: Process</p> | <p>Measure is a composite: No</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| | Measure is digital and/or an eCQM: Yes (a MIPS CQM is considered a dQM). |
| Level(s) of analysis/measured entity: Clinician | Care setting: Ambulatory Care Settings |
| Risk adjustment and/or stratification: No. Process measures are not often risk adjusted. | Data source(s): Claims data, registries ¹ |
| Data collection method: Claims data or electronic health records (EHRs) ² | Reporting frequency: Visit ³ |
| All required data are collected as part of clinical workflow: Yes | Reporting overlap with similar/related measures: Minimal overlap with 00864-01-C-MSSP “Overuse of Diagnostic Imaging for Uncomplicated Headache.” |
| Does this measure fill a statutorily required category for the program? No | Is this measure included in upcoming rulemaking? No |

| Measure Status | |
|--|---|
| Current CBE Endorsement Status: Not Endorsed | CBE Endorsement History: None |

II. Measure Performance⁴

00487-01-C-MIPS Performance in MIPS 2020-2022

For this measure, the MSR evaluation and analysis team reviewed the following publicly available datasets at data.cms.gov: PY 2022 Clinician Public Reporting [Overall MIPS Performance](#) and the [Quality Payment Program Experience](#).

Figure 1 is a boxplot that shows the distribution of the performance over the past 3 years (where available). For each performance year, the dots indicate the lower 5th and upper 95th percentiles, and the vertical line is the range between these values (90% of the measure scores are between the dots). The box spans the lower 25th to the upper 75th percentile (50% of the measure scores are within the box). The horizontal line in the box indicates the median score, and the “+” indicates the average score. This plot can be used to assess overall trends in the score over time.

¹ Note from CMS program lead on MIPS CQMs: Data may be gathered from paper, electronic charts, or collected with the assistance of a third-party intermediary).

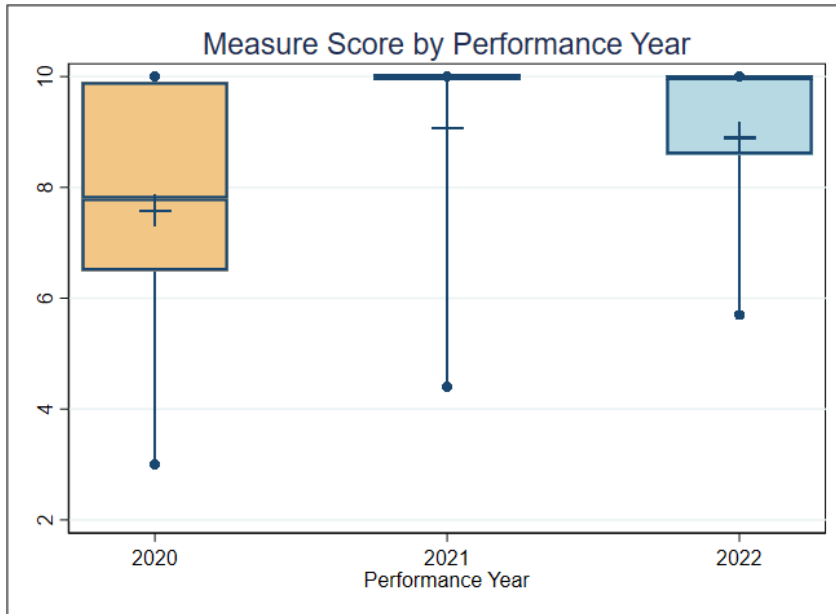
² Note from CMS program lead. Other data collection methods are available for use with MIPS CQMs depending on clinician/system workflow and who is collecting the data.

³ MIPS only allows reporting of data during the submission period January-March and ongoing reporting by episode, visit, or other defined frequency occurs during that period.

⁴ Analyses presented in this PA may differ slightly from those conducted by MIPS program analysts due to variation in analytic methods. Additional resources and information about MIPS scoring and benchmarks are available at [Quality Payment Program \(QPP\) \(cms.gov\)](https://www.cms.gov/QualityPaymentProgram).

Interpretation: In the plot below, the median score increased from about 6.5 in 2020 to 10 in 2021 and 2022. The lower 25th percentile and the upper 75th percentile are both 10 in 2021, so no boxes appear for that year. More entities had a score less than 10 in 2022 than did in 2021 as indicated by the visible box for the lower quartile for 2022. The range in performance across entities varied widely in 2020 but narrowed in 2021 and 2022.

Figure 1. Boxplot of Measure Score by Year



Importance Table

Interpretation of measure scores: This table shows the relative spread of the scores and can also be used to evaluate the impact of improving the score. For example, here, 5 of the 10 deciles have an average score of 10. Examining mean scores at the lower deciles show the relative change required to achieve a score of 10. For Decile 5 the score cannot be improved much, but the impact could be significant if the 10% of the entities in Decile 1 were to achieve a score of 10.

Table 1. Importance (Decile by measure score, 2022)

| Data Type | Overall | Min | Decile 1 | Decile 2 | Decile 3 | Decile 4 | Decile 5 | Decile 6 | Decile 7 | Decile 8 | Decile 9 | Decile 10 | Max |
|-----------------|-------------|------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-------|
| Mean Score (SD) | 8.89 (1.62) | 3.00 | 5.59 | 6.21 | 8.51 | 8.77 | 9.87 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Entities | 5,311 | 10 | 532 | 531 | 531 | 531 | 531 | 531 | 531 | 531 | 531 | 531 | 2,955 |