



Measure Information

This document contains the information submitted by measure developers/stewards, but is organized according to NQF's measure evaluation criteria and process. The item numbers refer to those in the submission form but may be in a slightly different order here. In general, the item numbers also reference the related criteria (e.g., item 1b.1 relates to sub criterion 1b).

Brief Measure Information

NQF #: 0393

Corresponding Measures:

De.2. Measure Title: Hepatitis C: Confirmation of Hepatitis C Viremia

Co.1.1. Measure Steward: American Gastroenterological Association

De.3. Brief Description of Measure: Percentage of patients aged 18 years and older who are hepatitis C antibody positive seen for an initial evaluation for whom hepatitis C virus (HCV) RNA testing was ordered or previously performed

1b.1. Developer Rationale: A meta-analysis of 31 studies found a consistent overall estimate of 15 to 20 percent of people who become infected with acute Hepatitis C will clear the virus. The absence of confirmatory viral testing may then leave these 15 to 20 percent of patients with the mistaken belief that they have chronic Hepatitis C, subjecting these patients to unnecessary anxiety and other harms. The remaining viral positive patients could benefit from the additional counseling for their own and for transmission risk, as mentioned by SC members, namely avoiding alcohol, getting vaccinated, and providing counseling regarding transmission and remaining engaged in care. Thus, this test is critically important in differentiating whether or not people have resolved infection or are currently infected with HCV, regardless of whether antiviral treatment is contemplated.

S.4. Numerator Statement: Patients for whom HCV RNA testing was ordered or previously performed

S.6. Denominator Statement: Patients aged = 18 years on date of encounter

S.8. Denominator Exclusions: Medical Performance Exclusion: Documentation of medical reason(s) for not ordering or performing RNA testing for HCV (eg, limited life expectancy, patient not a candidate for therapy, other medical reasons) (3265F with 1P)

Patient Performance Exclusion: Documentation of patient reason(s) for not ordering or performing RNA testing for HCV (eg, patient declined, other patient reasons) (3265F with 2P)

De.1. Measure Type: Process

S.17. Data Source: Electronic Health Data, Electronic Health Records, Other, Registry Data

S.20. Level of Analysis: Clinician : Group/Practice, Clinician : Individual

IF Endorsement Maintenance – Original Endorsement Date: Jul 31, 2008 **Most Recent Endorsement Date:** Mar 05, 2013

IF this measure is included in a composite, NQF Composite#/title:

IF this measure is paired/grouped, NQF#/title:

De.4. IF PAIRED/GROUPED, what is the reason this measure must be reported with other measures to appropriately interpret results?

1. Evidence, Performance Gap, Priority – Importance to Measure and Report

Extent to which the specific measure focus is evidence-based, important to making significant gains in healthcare quality, and improving health outcomes for a specific high-priority (high-impact) aspect of healthcare where there is variation in or overall less-than-optimal performance. **Measures must be judged to meet all sub criteria to pass this criterion and be evaluated against the remaining criteria.**

1a. Evidence to Support the Measure Focus – See attached Evidence Submission Form

0393_Evidence_MSF5.0_Data.doc

1a.1 For Maintenance of Endorsement: Is there new evidence about the measure since the last update/submission?

Please update any changes in the evidence attachment in red. Do not remove any existing information. If there have been any changes to evidence, the Committee will consider the new evidence. If there is no new evidence, no updating of the evidence information is needed.

1b. Performance Gap

Demonstration of quality problems and opportunity for improvement, i.e., data demonstrating:

- considerable variation, or overall less-than-optimal performance, in the quality of care across providers; and/or
- Disparities in care across population groups.

1b.1. Briefly explain the rationale for this measure (e.g., how the measure will improve the quality of care, the benefits or improvements in quality envisioned by use of this measure)

IF a PRO-PM (e.g. HRQoL/functional status, symptom/burden, experience with care, health-related behaviors), provide evidence that the target population values the measured PRO and finds it meaningful. (Describe how and from whom their input was obtained.)

IF a COMPOSITE (e.g., combination of component measure scores, all-or-none, any-or-none), SKIP this question and provide rationale for composite in question 1c.3 on the composite tab.

A meta-analysis of 31 studies found a consistent overall estimate of 15 to 20 percent of people who become infected with acute Hepatitis C will clear the virus. The absence of confirmatory viral testing may then leave these 15 to 20 percent of patients with the mistaken belief that they have chronic Hepatitis C, subjecting these patients to unnecessary anxiety and other harms. The remaining viral positive patients could benefit from the additional counseling for their own and for transmission risk, as mentioned by SC members, namely avoiding alcohol, getting vaccinated, and providing counseling regarding transmission and remaining engaged in care. Thus, this test is critically important in differentiating whether or not people have resolved infection or are currently infected with HCV, regardless of whether antiviral treatment is contemplated.

1b.2. Provide performance scores on the measure as specified (current and over time) at the specified level of analysis. *(This is required for maintenance of endorsement. Include mean, std dev, min, max, interquartile range, scores by decile. Describe the data source including number of measured entities; number of patients; dates of data; if a sample, characteristics of the entities include.) This information also will be used to address the sub-criterion on improvement (4b) under Usability and Use.*

Evidence provided by the CDC, Boston Medical Center and the Cleveland VA Medical Center below shows that a substantial performance gap exists for this measure, illustrating that in practice, confirmatory testing after initial HCV antibody testing is NOT being done often enough to constitute "Standard of Care." Of 20,285 reports of HCV infection received by CDC from state/local surveillance programs in 2006-2007, a total of 10,834 (47.6%) reports had no positive result for HCV RNA.(1) CDC recently reviewed electronic health records of >1,652,055 adult patients seen from January 2006 through December 2010 at 4 integrated healthcare systems in Detroit, Michigan; Danville, Pennsylvania; Portland, Oregon; and Honolulu, Hawaii. Of 9,086 patients with a positive HCV antibody test, 3,428 (37.7%) had no documented follow-up HCV RNA testing in the electronic database.(2) A study conducted at Boston Medical Center of CMS-defined HCV quality indicators, comparing data from 2005-2007 to 2008-2011, revealed a decline in the confirmation of HCV viremia from 73% to 63%.(3)

Members of the Department of Medicine at Louis Stokes Cleveland Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Cleveland, OH found similar rates of testing in their study and included additional information in their conclusions related to implications. They looked at ~400 people who lacked HCV nucleic acid amplification technology (NAT) testing to characterize behaviors in response to patients who have a positive HCV antibody (ab) test but lack viral confirmatory testing. Below are their findings:

1. Thirty one percent of patients with a positive HCV ab test, never had that result acknowledged by a medical provider (HCV ordering or other provider), resulting in missed opportunities for follow-up liver care and Hepatitis C treatment.(4)
2. In 251 instances, the positive HCV ab test was acknowledged by the ordering provider, and despite the lack of viral NAT, these providers took actions that indicated they believed patients had chronic Hepatitis C.(4) These actions included addition of the ICD-9 diagnosis for chronic Hepatitis C to the patient's problem list, ordering serial liver function tests, ordering HAV/HBV vaccinations, etc. Interestingly, very few providers ordered confirmatory NAT in response to the positive HCV ab.
3. In the cases where HCV was entered into the patient's problem list in the EMR, this unconfirmed diagnosis was "perpetuated" by future medical providers that the patient saw in 85% of instances.(4)

While this data is not randomized, nor does it contain a control group, it highlights some of the misconceptions about HCV diagnosis amongst general medical providers and mental health providers that may order HCV ab tests as part of their practices. Unconfirmed diagnoses of HCV can lead to stigmatization, receipt of unnecessary medical interventions, and avoidance of important medical interventions (e.g., statin use). This may be even more impactful as the CDC's birth cohort screening recommendations trigger more screening.

1b.3. If no or limited performance data on the measure as specified is reported in 1b2, then provide a summary of data from the literature that indicates opportunity for improvement or overall less than optimal performance on the specific focus of measurement.

(1) Speers S, Kleven RM, Vonderwahl C, Bryant T, Daniloff E, Capizzi J, Poissant T, Roome A. Electronic matching of HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C surveillance registries in three states. Public Health Rep. 2011 May-Jun;126(3):344-8.

(2) Moorman AC, Gordon SC, Rupp et al. Baseline Characteristics and Mortality Among People in Care for Chronic Viral Hepatitis: The Chronic Hepatitis Cohort Study. Clin Infect Dis. 2012 Oct 19. [Epub ahead of print].

(3) Sabrina A. Assoumou MD, Wei Huang MA, Benjamin P. Linas, MD MPH. [Poor] Quality of Hepatitis C care at an urban tertiary medical center. Study conducted at Boston Medical Center. Outcomes: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS)-defined HCV quality indicators introduced in 2008: HCV RNA testing, Genotype testing, Hep A & Hep B vaccinations. Poster presentation from the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) meeting, 2012.

(4) Yang Liu, BA, Renee H. Lawrence, PhD, Brook Watts, MD, Yngve Falck-Ytter, MD, Amy Hirsch, PharmD. Understanding the Care Gap and Missed Opportunities for Hepatitis C Confirmatory Viral testing. Poster presentation from the Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM) meeting, 2012.

1b.4. Provide disparities data from the measure as specified (current and over time) by population group, e.g., by race/ethnicity, gender, age, insurance status, socioeconomic status, and/or disability. (*This is required for maintenance of endorsement. Describe the data source including number of measured entities; number of patients; dates of data; if a sample, characteristics of the entities included.*) For measures that show high levels of performance, i.e., "topped out", disparities data may demonstrate an opportunity for improvement/gap in care for certain sub-populations. This information also will be used to address the sub-criterion on improvement (4b) under Usability and Use.

Although the continued prevalence of HCV is problematic in communities across America, inequalities in disease prevalence, treatment, and outcomes make it a particularly important minority health issue.(1) First, there are disparities in the prevalence of HCV infection, with African Americans being twice as likely to have ever been infected with HCV, and having a higher prevalence of chronic HCV infection compared with non-Hispanic white Americans.(2) Additionally, there are significant disparities in access to HCV care for racial and ethnic minorities.(3) Finally, African American and Hispanic patients with HCV infection, even once properly diagnosed, have less desirable treatment outcomes compared to white patients.(4) These trends are indicative of a growing healthcare crisis with regards to HCV that threatens minority communities for decades to come.(1)

1b.5. If no or limited data on disparities from the measure as specified is reported in 1b.4, then provide a summary of data from the literature that addresses disparities in care on the specific focus of measurement. Include citations. Not necessary if performance data provided in 1b.4

(1) Bryant Cameron Webb. The "Secret" epidemic: Disparities in Hepatitis C Incidence, Treatment, and Outcomes. Prepared for the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. October 2010.

(2) Alter MJ, Kruszon-Moran D, Nainan OV, et al. The prevalence of hepatitis C virus infection in the United States, 1988 through 1994. New England Journal of Medicine. 1999;341(8): 556-562.

(3) Trooskin SB, Navarro VJ, Winn RJ, et al. Hepatitis C risk assessment, testing and referral for treatment in urban primary care: Role of race and ethnicity. World J Gastro 2007;13:1074.

(4) Conjeevaram HS, Fried MW, Jeffers LJ, et al. Virahep-C study group. Peginterferon and ribavirin treatment in African American and Caucasian American patients with hepatitis C genotype 1. Gastroenterology. 2006 Aug; 131(2):470-7.

2. Reliability and Validity—Scientific Acceptability of Measure Properties

Extent to which the measure, as specified, produces consistent (reliable) and credible (valid) results about the quality of care when implemented. **Measures must be judged to meet the sub criteria for both reliability and validity to pass this criterion and be evaluated against the remaining criteria.**

2a.1. Specifications The measure is well defined and precisely specified so it can be implemented consistently within and across organizations and allows for comparability. eMeasures should be specified in the Health Quality Measures Format (HQMF) and the Quality Data Model (QDM).

De.5. Subject/Topic Area (check all the areas that apply):

Infectious Diseases (ID), Liver : Viral Hepatitis

De.6. Non-Condition Specific(check all the areas that apply):

De.7. Target Population Category (Check all the populations for which the measure is specified and tested if any):

Elderly

S.1. Measure-specific Web Page (Provide a URL link to a web page specific for this measure that contains current detailed specifications including code lists, risk model details, and supplemental materials. Do not enter a URL linking to a home page or to general information.)

www.gastro.org

S.2a. If this is an eMeasure, HQMF specifications must be attached. Attach the zipped output from the eMeasure authoring tool (MAT) - if the MAT was not used, contact staff. (Use the specification fields in this online form for the plain-language description of the specifications)

This is not an eMeasure Attachment:

S.2b. Data Dictionary, Code Table, or Value Sets (and risk model codes and coefficients when applicable) must be attached. (Excel or csv file in the suggested format preferred - if not, contact staff)

No data dictionary Attachment:

S.3.1. For maintenance of endorsement: Are there changes to the specifications since the last updates/submission. If yes, update the specifications for S1-2 and S4-22 and explain reasons for the changes in S3.2.

S.3.2. For maintenance of endorsement, please briefly describe any important changes to the measure specifications since last measure update and explain the reasons.

S.4. Numerator Statement (Brief, narrative description of the measure focus or what is being measured about the target population, i.e., cases from the target population with the target process, condition, event, or outcome) DO NOT include the rationale for the measure.

IF an OUTCOME MEASURE, state the outcome being measured. Calculation of the risk-adjusted outcome should be described in the calculation algorithm (S.14).

Patients for whom HCV RNA testing was ordered or previously performed

S.5. Numerator Details (All information required to identify and calculate the cases from the target population with the target process, condition, event, or outcome such as definitions, time period for data collection, specific data collection items/responses, code/value sets – Note: lists of individual codes with descriptors that exceed 1 page should be provided in an Excel or csv file in required format at S.2b)

IF an OUTCOME MEASURE, describe how the observed outcome is identified/counted. Calculation of the risk-adjusted outcome should be described in the calculation algorithm (S.14).

Performance Met: Ribonucleic acid (RNA) testing for Hepatitis C viremia ordered or results documented (3265F)

Performance Not Met: RNA testing for HCV was not ordered or results not documented, reason not otherwise specified (3265F with 8P)

S.6. Denominator Statement (Brief, narrative description of the target population being measured)

Patients aged = 18 years on date of encounter

S.7. Denominator Details (All information required to identify and calculate the target population/denominator such as definitions, time period for data collection, specific data collection items/responses, code/value sets – Note: lists of individual codes with descriptors that exceed 1 page should be provided in an Excel or csv file in required format at S.2b.)

IF an OUTCOME MEASURE, describe how the target population is identified. Calculation of the risk-adjusted outcome should be described in the calculation algorithm (S.14).

Patients with a positive Hepatitis C antibody test: G9202

AND

Initial evaluation for condition (CPT II): 1119F

AND

Patient encounter during the reporting period (CPT): 99201, 99202, 99203, 99204, 99205, 99212, 99213, 99214, 99215

S.8. Denominator Exclusions (Brief narrative description of exclusions from the target population)

Medical Performance Exclusion: Documentation of medical reason(s) for not ordering or performing RNA testing for HCV (eg, limited life expectancy, patient not a candidate for therapy, other medical reasons) (3265F with 1P)

Patient Performance Exclusion: Documentation of patient reason(s) for not ordering or performing RNA testing for HCV (eg, patient declined, other patient reasons) (3265F with 2P)

S.9. Denominator Exclusion Details (All information required to identify and calculate exclusions from the denominator such as definitions, time period for data collection, specific data collection items/responses, code/value sets – Note: lists of individual codes with descriptors that exceed 1 page should be provided in an Excel or csv file in required format at S.2b.)

There must be a clear rationale to permit an exception for a medical or patient reason. Examples: limited life expectancy, patient not a candidate for therapy, patient declined.

S.10. Stratification Information (Provide all information required to stratify the measure results, if necessary, including the stratification variables, definitions, specific data collection items/responses, code/value sets, and the risk-model covariates and coefficients for the clinically-adjusted version of the measure when appropriate – Note: lists of individual codes with descriptors that exceed 1 page should be provided in an Excel or csv file in required format with at S.2b.)

We encourage the results of this measure to be stratified by race, ethnicity, gender, and primary language, and have included these variables as recommended data elements to be collected.

S.11. Risk Adjustment Type (Select type. Provide specifications for risk stratification in measure testing attachment)

No risk adjustment or risk stratification

If other:

S.12. Type of score:

Rate/proportion

If other:

S.13. Interpretation of Score (Classifies interpretation of score according to whether better quality is associated with a higher score, a lower score, a score falling within a defined interval, or a passing score)

Better quality = Higher score

S.14. Calculation Algorithm/Measure Logic (Diagram or describe the calculation of the measure score as an ordered sequence of steps including identifying the target population; exclusions; cases meeting the target process, condition, event, or outcome; time period for data, aggregating data; risk adjustment; etc.)

To calculate performance rates:

1) Find the patients who meet the initial patient population (ie, the general group of patients that a set of performance measures is designed to address).

2) From the patients within the initial patient population criteria, find the patients who qualify for the denominator (ie, the specific group of patients for inclusion in a specific performance measure based on defined criteria). Note: in some cases the initial patient

population and denominator are identical.

3) From the patients within the denominator, find the patients who qualify for the Numerator (ie, the group of patients in the denominator for whom a process or outcome of care occurs). Validate that the number of patients in the numerator is less than or equal to the number of patients in the denominator

4) From the patients who did not meet the numerator criteria, determine if the physician has documented that the patient meets any criteria for denominator when exceptions have been specified [for this measure: medical reason(s) patient reason(s)]. If the patient meets any exception criteria, they should be removed from the denominator for performance calculation. --Although the exception cases are removed from the denominator population for the performance calculation, the exception rate (ie, percentage with valid exceptions) should be calculated and reported along with performance rates to track variations in care and highlight possible areas of focus for QI.

If the patient does not meet the numerator and a valid exception is not present, this is performance not met.

S.15. Sampling (If measure is based on a sample, provide instructions for obtaining the sample and guidance on minimum sample size.)

IF a PRO-PM, identify whether (and how) proxy responses are allowed.

Not applicable. The measure does not require sampling or a survey.

S.16. Survey/Patient-reported data (If measure is based on a survey or instrument, provide instructions for data collection and guidance on minimum response rate.)

IF a PRO-PM, specify calculation of response rates to be reported with performance measure results.

S.17. Data Source (Check ONLY the sources for which the measure is SPECIFIED AND TESTED).

If other, please describe in S.18.

Electronic Health Data, Electronic Health Records, Other, Registry Data

S.18. Data Source or Collection Instrument (Identify the specific data source/data collection instrument (e.g. name of database, clinical registry, collection instrument, etc., and describe how data is collected.)

IF a PRO-PM, identify the specific PROM(s); and standard methods, modes, and languages of administration.

Not Applicable

S.19. Data Source or Collection Instrument (available at measure-specific Web page URL identified in S.1 OR in attached appendix at A.1)

S.20. Level of Analysis (Check ONLY the levels of analysis for which the measure is SPECIFIED AND TESTED)

Clinician : Group/Practice, Clinician : Individual

S.21. Care Setting (Check ONLY the settings for which the measure is SPECIFIED AND TESTED)

Other, Outpatient Services

If other: Hospital Outpatient Clinic

S.22. COMPOSITE Performance Measure - Additional Specifications (Use this section as needed for aggregation and weighting rules, or calculation of individual performance measures if not individually endorsed.)

2. Validity – See attached Measure Testing Submission Form

0393_MeasureTesting_MS5.0_Data.doc

2.1 For maintenance of endorsement

Reliability testing: If testing of reliability of the measure score was not presented in prior submission(s), has reliability testing of the measure score been conducted? If yes, please provide results in the Testing attachment. (Do not remove prior testing information – include date of new information in red.)

2.2 For maintenance of endorsement

Has additional empirical validity testing of the measure score been conducted? If yes, please provide results in the Testing attachment. (Do not remove prior testing information – include date of new information in red.)

2.3 For maintenance of endorsement

Risk adjustment: For outcome, resource use, cost, and some process measures, risk-adjustment that includes SDS factors is no longer prohibited during the SDS Trial Period (2015-2016). Please update sections 1.8, 2a2, 2b2, 2b4, and 2b6 in the Testing attachment and S.14 and S.15 in the online submission form in accordance with the requirements for the SDS Trial Period. NOTE: These sections must be updated even if SDS factors are not included in the risk-adjustment strategy. If yes, and your testing attachment does not have the additional questions for the SDS Trial please add these questions to your testing attachment:

What were the patient-level sociodemographic (SDS) variables that were available and analyzed in the data or sample used? For example, patient-reported data (e.g., income, education, language), proxy variables when SDS data are not collected from each patient (e.g. census tract), or patient community characteristics (e.g. percent vacant housing, crime rate).

Describe the conceptual/clinical and statistical methods and criteria used to select patient factors (clinical factors or sociodemographic factors) used in the statistical risk model or for stratification by risk (e.g., potential factors identified in the literature and/or expert panel; regression analysis; statistical significance of $p < 0.10$; correlation of x or higher; patient factors should be present at the start of care)

What were the statistical results of the analyses used to select risk factors?

Describe the analyses and interpretation resulting in the decision to select SDS factors (e.g. prevalence of the factor across measured entities, empirical association with the outcome, contribution of unique variation in the outcome, assessment of between-unit effects and within-unit effects)

3. Feasibility

Extent to which the specifications including measure logic, require data that are readily available or could be captured without undue burden and can be implemented for performance measurement.

3a. Byproduct of Care Processes

For clinical measures, the required data elements are routinely generated and used during care delivery (e.g., blood pressure, lab test, diagnosis, medication order).

3a.1. Data Elements Generated as Byproduct of Care Processes.

generated by and used by healthcare personnel during the provision of care, e.g., blood pressure, lab value, medical condition
If other:

3b. Electronic Sources

The required data elements are available in electronic health records or other electronic sources. If the required data are not in electronic health records or existing electronic sources, a credible, near-term path to electronic collection is specified.

3b.1. To what extent are the specified data elements available electronically in defined fields (i.e., data elements that are needed to compute the performance measure score are in defined, computer-readable fields) Update this field for **maintenance of endorsement**.

ALL data elements are in defined fields in electronic health records (EHRs)

3b.2. If ALL the data elements needed to compute the performance measure score are not from electronic sources, specify a credible, near-term path to electronic capture, OR provide a rationale for using other than electronic sources. For maintenance of endorsement, if this measure is not an eMeasure (eCQM), please describe any efforts to develop an eMeasure (eCQM).

3b.3. If this is an eMeasure, provide a summary of the feasibility assessment in an attached file or make available at a measure-

specific URL. Please also complete and attach the NQF Feasibility Score Card.

Attachment:

3c. Data Collection Strategy

Demonstration that the data collection strategy (e.g., source, timing, frequency, sampling, patient confidentiality, costs associated with fees/licensing of proprietary measures) can be implemented (e.g., already in operational use, or testing demonstrates that it is ready to put into operational use). For eMeasures, a feasibility assessment addresses the data elements and measure logic and demonstrates the eMeasure can be implemented or feasibility concerns can be adequately addressed.

3c.1. Required for maintenance of endorsement. Describe difficulties (as a result of testing and/or operational use of the measure) regarding data collection, availability of data, missing data, timing and frequency of data collection, sampling, patient confidentiality, time and cost of data collection, other feasibility/implementation issues.

IF a PRO-PM, consider implications for both individuals providing PRO data (patients, service recipients, respondents) and those whose performance is being measured.

This measure was found to be reliable and feasible for implementation.

3c.2. Describe any fees, licensing, or other requirements to use any aspect of the measure as specified (e.g., value/code set, risk model, programming code, algorithm).

4. Usability and Use

Extent to which potential audiences (e.g., consumers, purchasers, providers, policy makers) are using or could use performance results for both accountability and performance improvement to achieve the goal of high-quality, efficient healthcare for individuals or populations.

4a. Accountability and Transparency

Performance results are used in at least one accountability application within three years after initial endorsement and are publicly reported within six years after initial endorsement (or the data on performance results are available). If not in use at the time of initial endorsement, then a credible plan for implementation within the specified timeframes is provided.

4.1. Current and Planned Use

NQF-endorsed measures are expected to be used in at least one accountability application within 3 years and publicly reported within 6 years of initial endorsement in addition to performance improvement.

Specific Plan for Use	Current Use (for current use provide URL)
Public Reporting	
Quality Improvement (Internal to the specific organization)	

4a.1. For each CURRENT use, checked above (update for maintenance of endorsement), provide:

- Name of program and sponsor
- Purpose
- Geographic area and number and percentage of accountable entities and patients included
- Level of measurement and setting

4a.2. If not currently publicly reported OR used in at least one other accountability application (e.g., payment program, certification, licensing) what are the reasons? (e.g., Do policies or actions of the developer/steward or accountable entities restrict access to performance results or impede implementation?)

4a.3. If not currently publicly reported OR used in at least one other accountability application, provide a credible plan for implementation within the expected timeframes -- any accountability application within 3 years and publicly reported within 6

years of initial endorsement. *(Credible plan includes the specific program, purpose, intended audience, and timeline for implementing the measure within the specified timeframes. A plan for accountability applications addresses mechanisms for data aggregation and reporting.)*

Improvement

Progress toward achieving the goal of high-quality, efficient healthcare for individuals or populations is demonstrated. If not in use for performance improvement at the time of initial endorsement, then a credible rationale describes how the performance results could be used to further the goal of high-quality, efficient healthcare for individuals or populations.

4b. Refer to data provided in 1b but do not repeat here. Discuss any progress on improvement (trends in performance results, number and percentage of people receiving high-quality healthcare; Geographic area and number and percentage of accountable entities and patients included.)

If no improvement was demonstrated, what are the reasons? If not in use for performance improvement at the time of initial endorsement, provide a credible rationale that describes how the performance results could be used to further the goal of high-quality, efficient healthcare for individuals or populations.

4c. Unintended Consequences

The benefits of the performance measure in facilitating progress toward achieving high-quality, efficient healthcare for individuals or populations outweigh evidence of unintended negative consequences to individuals or populations (if such evidence exists).

4c.1. Please explain any unexpected findings (positive or negative) during implementation of this measure including unintended impacts on patients.

We are not aware of any unintended consequences related to this measurement.

4c.2. Please explain any unexpected benefits from implementation of this measure.

4d1.1. Describe how performance results, data, and assistance with interpretation have been provided to those being measured or other users during development or implementation.

How many and which types of measured entities and/or others were included? If only a sample of measured entities were included, describe the full population and how the sample was selected.

4d1.2. Describe the process(es) involved, including when/how often results were provided, what data were provided, what educational/explanatory efforts were made, etc.

4d2.1. Summarize the feedback on measure performance and implementation from the measured entities and others described in 4d.1.

Describe how feedback was obtained.

4d2.2. Summarize the feedback obtained from those being measured.

4d2.3. Summarize the feedback obtained from other users

4d.3. Describe how the feedback described in 4d.2 has been considered when developing or revising the measure specifications or implementation, including whether the measure was modified and why or why not.

5. Comparison to Related or Competing Measures

If a measure meets the above criteria and there are endorsed or new related measures (either the same measure focus or the same target population) or competing measures (both the same measure focus and the same target population), the measures are compared to address harmonization and/or selection of the best measure.

5. Relation to Other NQF-endorsed Measures

Are there related measures (conceptually, either same measure focus or target population) or competing measures (conceptually both the same measure focus and same target population)? If yes, list the NQF # and title of all related and/or competing measures.

Yes

5.1a. List of related or competing measures (selected from NQF-endorsed measures)

5.1b. If related or competing measures are not NQF endorsed please indicate measure title and steward.

5a. Harmonization of Related Measures

The measure specifications are harmonized with related measures;

OR

The differences in specifications are justified

5a.1. If this measure conceptually addresses EITHER the same measure focus OR the same target population as NQF-endorsed measure(s):

Are the measure specifications harmonized to the extent possible?

5a.2. If the measure specifications are not completely harmonized, identify the differences, rationale, and impact on interpretability and data collection burden.

5b. Competing Measures

The measure is superior to competing measures (e.g., is a more valid or efficient way to measure);

OR

Multiple measures are justified.

5b.1. If this measure conceptually addresses both the same measure focus and the same target population as NQF-endorsed measure(s):

Describe why this measure is superior to competing measures (e.g., a more valid or efficient way to measure quality); OR provide a rationale for the additive value of endorsing an additional measure. (Provide analyses when possible.)

Appendix

A.1 Supplemental materials may be provided in an appendix. All supplemental materials (such as data collection instrument or methodology reports) should be organized in one file with a table of contents or bookmarks. If material pertains to a specific submission form number, that should be indicated. Requested information should be provided in the submission form and required attachments. There is no guarantee that supplemental materials will be reviewed.

Attachment:

Contact Information

Co.1 Measure Steward (Intellectual Property Owner): American Gastroenterological Association

Co.2 Point of Contact: David, Godzina, dgodzina@gastro.org, 301-272-1600-

Co.3 Measure Developer if different from Measure Steward: American Gastroenterological Association

Co.4 Point of Contact: David, Godzina, dgodzina@gastro.org, 301-272-1600-

Additional Information

Ad.1 Workgroup/Expert Panel involved in measure development

Provide a list of sponsoring organizations and workgroup/panel members' names and organizations. Describe the members' role in measure development.

Co-Chairs:

John B. Wong, MD (gastroenterology, hepatology, methodology)

John W. Ward, MD (internal medicine)

Work Group Members:

Joel V. Brill, MD (gastroenterology)

Roger Chou, MD (internal medicine, guideline experience)

Richard H. Davis, Jr., PA-C (physician assistant)

Yngve Falck-Ytter, MD, AGAF (gastroenterology/liver/hepatologist)

Troy Fiesinger, MD, FAAFP (family medicine)

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Barbara H. McGovern, MD (HIV and HCV co-infection)

Daniel B. Raymond (consumer/patient advocacy group)

Paola Ricci, MD (hepatology/gastroenterology)

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PCPI measures are developed through cross-specialty, multi-disciplinary work groups. All medical specialties and other health care professional disciplines participating in patient care for the clinical condition or topic under study are invited to participate as equal contributors to the measure development process. In addition, the PCPI strives to include on its work groups individuals representing the perspectives of patients, consumers, private health plans, and employers. This broad-based approach to measure development ensures buy-in on the measures from all stakeholders and minimizes bias toward any individual specialty or stakeholder group. All work groups have at least two co-chairs who have relevant clinical and/or measure development expertise and who are responsible for ensuring that consensus is achieved and that all perspectives are voiced.

Measure Developer/Steward Updates and Ongoing Maintenance

Ad.2 Year the measure was first released: 2006

Ad.3 Month and Year of most recent revision: 06, 2012

Ad.4 What is your frequency for review/update of this measure? See Ad.9.

Ad.5 When is the next scheduled review/update for this measure? 06, 2012

Ad.6 Copyright statement: The Measures are not clinical guidelines, do not establish a standard of medical care, and have not been tested for all potential applications.

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Ad.7 Disclaimers: In an integrated or non-integrated system, physicians should get "credit" if someone orders this test, regardless of who (or when in the case of say vaccination where the hepatologists may not stock vaccines but the primary care docs do). The specifications for this measure agree that a physician would get "credit" for ordering the test, because the specifications require that either the test is ordered or the results documented. So long as the primary care physician orders the test, the PCP would get credit for the measure. And alternatively, a PCP would not meet the measure if a HCV positive patient was referred to a specialist without at least ordering the viral load test - since that is the intent of the measure. The physician's order would be entered in an EHR and if test results were available they would also be entered in the EHR most likely under a "tests" section.

Ad.8 Additional Information/Comments: Coding/Specifications updates occur annually. The PCPI has a formal measurement review process that stipulates regular (usually on a three-year cycle, when feasible) review of the measures. The process can also be activated if there is a major change in scientific evidence, results from testing or other issues are noted that materially affect the integrity of the measure.