



Complete Summary

TITLE

Hepatitis C: percent of patients with high risk factor for hepatitis C with testing (mental health cohort).

SOURCE(S)

Office of Quality and Performance (10Q). FY2002 VHA performance measurement system. Technical Manual. Washington (DC): Veterans Health Administration (VHA); 2002 Mar 8. 137 p.

Brief Abstract

DESCRIPTION

This measure assesses the percentage of mental health patients with a positive high risk factor for hepatitis C who were given a hepatitis C test.

RATIONALE

Hepatitis C is a major public health problem. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates nearly 4 million Americans are infected. Many are unaware they have been exposed. From a patient and public health perspective, all patients should be screened for high risk factors. If patients are at high risk for being exposed to Hepatitis C, then they should be tested and evaluated for possible drug therapy. Regardless of whether they elect to initiate drug therapy or are candidates for current treatments, they need to receive information about disease transmission, the benefits of avoiding hepatotoxins such as alcohol, and the current recommendations regarding vaccination against other types of viral hepatitis.

In addition to the benefit to individual patients, there is a collective concern among many Veterans Health Administration (VHA) stakeholders that hepatitis C is more prevalent among veterans than would be expected based on prevalence in the larger population. There is some data to support this concern, but final answers are not yet available. In the absence of firm evidence, which may take years to generate, prudent decisions must be made on best judgment and similar experience in analogous situations e.g., early human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) findings in the 1980's. VHA stakeholders, including veterans groups as well as Congressional committees have strongly endorsed the approach of universal screening with testing of those who have identified risk factors.

PRIMARY CLINICAL COMPONENT

Hepatitis C infection; testing

DENOMINATOR DESCRIPTION

The number of randomly selected patients who have a qualifying event with a Mental Health diagnosis and a positive risk factor for hepatitis C that are seen at least once in any clinic for any diagnosis during a 12-month period. Patients who have a life expectancy that does not lend itself to prevention screening are excluded.

NUMERATOR DESCRIPTION

The number of patients from the denominator who received a hepatitis C test

Evidence Supporting the Measure

PRIMARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Process

SECONDARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Not applicable

EVIDENCE SUPPORTING THE MEASURE

A clinical practice guideline or other peer-reviewed synthesis of the clinical evidence

Evidence Supporting Need for the Measure

NEED FOR THE MEASURE

Unspecified

State of Use of the Measure

STATE OF USE

Current routine use

CURRENT USE

External oversight/Veterans Health Administration
Internal quality improvement

Application of Measure in its Current Use

CARE SETTING

Ambulatory Care

PROFESSIONALS RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH CARE

Unspecified

LOWEST LEVEL OF HEALTH CARE DELIVERY ADDRESSED

Single Health Care Delivery Organizations

TARGET POPULATION AGE

Unspecified

TARGET POPULATION GENDER

Either male or female

STRATIFICATION BY VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

From the eligible universe, three groups will be selected, a) random mental health diagnosis, b) substance abuse diagnosis (excluding tobacco abuse), and c) post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) diagnosis.

Characteristics of the Primary Clinical Component

INCIDENCE/PREVALENCE

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates nearly 4 million Americans are infected with hepatitis C.

EVIDENCE FOR INCIDENCE/PREVALENCE

Hepatitis C testing and prevention counseling guidelines for VA health care practitioners. Washington (DC): Department of Veterans Affairs; 2001 Jun 12. 25 p.

ASSOCIATION WITH VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

There is a collective concern among many Veterans Health Administration (VHA) stakeholders that hepatitis C is more prevalent among veterans than would be expected based on prevalence in the larger population. There is some data to support this concern, but final answers are not yet available.

EVIDENCE FOR ASSOCIATION WITH VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Hepatitis C testing and prevention counseling guidelines for VA health care practitioners. Washington (DC): Department of Veterans Affairs; 2001 Jun 12. 25 p.

BURDEN OF ILLNESS

Unspecified

UTILIZATION

Unspecified

COSTS

Unspecified

Institute of Medicine National Healthcare Quality Report Categories

IOM CARE NEED

Staying Healthy

IOM DOMAIN

Effectiveness

Data Collection for the Measure

CASE FINDING

Users of care only

DESCRIPTION OF CASE FINDING

All patients not already reviewed during the 12-month period who visited any clinic and had a qualifying event with a Mental Health diagnosis (see "Denominator Inclusions/Exclusions" field)

DENOMINATOR (INDEX) EVENT

Encounter

DENOMINATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS

Inclusions

- Have a qualifying event with a mental health diagnosis.* A qualifying event could be either:

- A mental health diagnosis on at least two separate outpatient clinic visits, or
- One inpatient admission (with a primary or secondary mental health diagnosis) anywhere within the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) within the six months prior to the study interval review period

AND

- Seen at the facility in any clinic for any diagnosis during the review period

*See the original measure documentation for a list of mental health diagnosis International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes used in sample selection.

Exclusions

Any of the following exclude the patient from screening for this prevention measure:

- Documented diagnosis of cancer of the esophagus, liver, or pancreas
- Enrolled in a Veterans Healthcare Administration (VHA) or community-based Hospice program
- Documented in the Medical Record a life expectancy less than 6 months

NUMERATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS

Inclusions

Hepatitis C test: any one of the following:

- Anti-Hepatitis C Virus antibody (AB) (enzyme immunoassay [EIA] or enzyme linked immunosorbant assay [ELISA]) or recombinant immunoblot assay (RIBA)
- Hepatitis C virus (HCV) ribonucleic acid (RNA) Qualitative (reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction [RT-PCR]) or (branched deoxyribonucleic acid [bDNA])
- HCV RNA Quantitative (RT-PCR) or (bDNA)
- Documented patient tested elsewhere; specific test not known

Exclusions

Unspecified

DENOMINATOR TIME WINDOW

Time window precedes index event

NUMERATOR TIME WINDOW

Fixed time period

DATA SOURCE

Medical record

LEVEL OF DETERMINATION OF QUALITY

Individual Case

PRE-EXISTING INSTRUMENT USED

Unspecified

Computation of the Measure

SCORING

Rate

INTERPRETATION OF SCORE

Better quality is associated with a higher score

ALLOWANCE FOR PATIENT FACTORS

Unspecified

STANDARD OF COMPARISON

Internal time comparison
Prescriptive standard

PRESCRIPTIVE STANDARD

Fiscal year (FY) 2002 target hepatitis C testing:

- Fully Successful: 55%
- Exceptional: 63%

EVIDENCE FOR PRESCRIPTIVE STANDARD

Office of Quality and Performance (10Q). FY2002 VHA performance measurement system. Technical Manual. Washington (DC): Veterans Health Administration (VHA); 2002 Mar 8. 137 p.

Evaluation of Measure Properties

EXTENT OF MEASURE TESTING

Unspecified

Identifying Information

ORIGINAL TITLE

Hepatitis C-testing (mental health).

MEASURE COLLECTION

[Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2002: Veterans Health Administration \(VHA\) Performance Measurement System](#)

MEASURE SET NAME

[Preventive Care](#)

DEVELOPER

Veterans Health Administration

ADAPTATION

Measure was not adapted from another source.

RELEASE DATE

2001 Nov

REVISION DATE

2002 Mar

MEASURE STATUS

Please note: This measure has been updated. The National Quality Measures Clearinghouse is working to update this summary.

SOURCE(S)

Office of Quality and Performance (10Q). FY2002 VHA performance measurement system. Technical Manual. Washington (DC): Veterans Health Administration (VHA); 2002 Mar 8. 137 p.

MEASURE AVAILABILITY

The individual measure, "Hepatitis C-Testing (Mental Health)," is published in "FY 2002 VHA Performance Measurement System: Technical Manual."

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NQMC STATUS

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