



Complete Summary

TITLE

Physical functional health status: mean change score in physical functional health status of patients receiving physical rehabilitation.

SOURCE(S)

Patient inquiry®: interactive health analysis® [CD-ROM]. Knoxville (TN): Focus On Therapeutic Outcomes, Inc. (FOTO®); 2003. 1 disc.

Brief Abstract

DESCRIPTION

This measure assesses physical functional health status of patients who received outpatient rehabilitation through the use of self-report health status questionnaires. Because the measures are taken at intake, during, and at discharge from rehabilitation, change in physical functional health status can be assessed. Measure results are available in Outcomes Profile Reports, which provide 1) information for clinicians to help direct and improve the care of their patients in real time during treatment, and 2) once treatments are complete a comparison of the clinician's or facility's outcomes and the National Aggregate in the FOTO® Database.

RATIONALE

Collection of outcomes following clinical treatment is now commonplace in rehabilitation. (Hart 2002) Clinicians use outcomes to track changes in their patients to assess if the patient is improving with a specific treatment, (Jette & Delitto 1997) if treatment needs to be changed or terminated, (Jette & Jette 1997) and if the patient needs to be referred to another clinician or service. (Jette & Jette 1997) Administrators use outcomes to compare their department's success with other similar departments, to market the department's services, to manage resources required to deliver their clinical services, and to manage their clinicians. (Marino 1997) Researchers analyze outcomes data for a variety of reasons including directing clinical education needs of providers, identifying clinical experts, etc. (Resnik & Hart 2003) The federal government has mandated the collection of outcomes for post-acute rehabilitation in skilled nursing facilities, nursing homes and in patient rehabilitation hospitals, and the government has directed the development of patient assessment instruments designed to collect outcomes. (Johnson 2001)

The process of outcomes management is evolving, and now many consider collection of functional status and health and well being the gold standard of

outcomes measurement. Patient self-report of health status instruments, which quantify the client's perception of their functional abilities and health and well-being in standardized terms, have been recommended as outcomes tools for effectiveness research studies in rehabilitation. Standardized functional health status measures facilitate assessment of quality and value of clinical care. (Hart 2001)

PRIMARY CLINICAL COMPONENT

Physical functional health status; physical rehabilitation

DENOMINATOR DESCRIPTION

All patients treated at a Focus On Therapeutic Outcomes (FOTO®) participating outpatient rehabilitation clinic for whom both admission and discharge self-report health status questionnaires were completed.

NUMERATOR DESCRIPTION

The mean of patients' change scores on the "Physical Functional Health Status Measure."

Evidence Supporting the Measure

PRIMARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Outcome

SECONDARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Patient Experience

EVIDENCE SUPPORTING THE MEASURE

One or more research studies published in a National Library of Medicine (NLM) indexed, peer-reviewed journal

Evidence Supporting Need for the Measure

NEED FOR THE MEASURE

Use of this measure to improve performance

EVIDENCE SUPPORTING NEED FOR THE MEASURE

Marino MJ. Outcomes management: a new paradigm for leadership. J Rehabil Outcomes Measure 1997; 1(3):58-62.

State of Use of the Measure

STATE OF USE

Current routine use

CURRENT USE

Accreditation
Collaborative inter-organizational quality improvement
Decision-making by consumers about health plan/provider choice
Decision-making by health plans about provider contracting
Internal quality improvement
Quality of care research

Application of Measure in its Current Use

CARE SETTING

Ambulatory Care
Ancillary Services
Hospitals
Managed Care Plans
Physician Group Practices/Clinics
Rehabilitation Centers

PROFESSIONALS RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH CARE

Allied Health Personnel
Occupational Therapists
Physical Therapists

LOWEST LEVEL OF HEALTH CARE DELIVERY ADDRESSED

Individual Clinicians

TARGET POPULATION AGE

Age greater than or equal to 14 years

TARGET POPULATION GENDER

Either male or female

STRATIFICATION BY VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Unspecified

INCIDENCE/PREVALENCE

Musculoskeletal impairments account for a larger percentage of conditions for which medical care is sought in the United States (U.S.), and a large proportion of the cost associated with this care is related to the disability caused by these impairments. In 1984, Cunningham and Kelsey reported the overall prevalence of musculoskeletal impairments using data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) I. In the U.S., 32.6% of persons between the ages of 25 and 74 years were affected by some type of physician-observed musculoskeletal impairment, and 29.7% of the population had self-reported musculoskeletal impairments. Impairments related to the spine had the highest prevalence. In the National Medical Care Utilization and Expenditure Survey (NMCUES), about 20% of the 1980 noninstitutionalized population reported having a musculoskeletal problem involving the back or joints that resulted in some type of disability or use of the health care system.

EVIDENCE FOR INCIDENCE/PREVALENCE

Jette DU, Jette AM. Physical therapy and health outcomes in patients with spinal impairments. *Phys Ther* 1996 Sep; 76(9):930-41; discussion 942-5. [PubMed](#)

ASSOCIATION WITH VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Unspecified

BURDEN OF ILLNESS

Unspecified

UTILIZATION

In the United States (U.S.), 10.9% of all medical office visits are primarily for musculoskeletal pathology or impairments, with 2% of all visits for back symptoms.

EVIDENCE FOR UTILIZATION

Jette AM, Delitto A. Physical therapy treatment choices for musculoskeletal impairments. *Phys Ther* 1997 Feb; 77(2):145-54. [PubMed](#)

COSTS

The National Medical Care Utilization and Expenditure Survey (NMCUES) indicated that 13.3% of total charges for treatment of musculoskeletal conditions was attributed to care given by health care professionals other than physicians, including physical therapists. The cost of health care related to the treatment of musculoskeletal impairments accounted for 8% of total health care expenditures

in 1980, ranking third among health problems in terms of costs for civilian noninstitutionalized individuals.

EVIDENCE FOR COSTS

Jette DU, Jette AM. Physical therapy and health outcomes in patients with spinal impairments. Phys Ther 1996 Sep; 76(9): 930-41; discussion 942-5. [PubMed](#)

Institute of Medicine National Healthcare Quality Report Categories

IOM CARE NEED

Getting Better
Living with Illness
Staying Healthy

IOM DOMAIN

Effectiveness
Patient-centeredness

Data Collection for the Measure

CASE FINDING

Users of care only

DESCRIPTION OF CASE FINDING

All patients treated at a Focus On Therapeutic Outcomes (FOTO®) participating outpatient rehabilitation clinic.

DENOMINATOR SAMPLING FRAME

Patients associated with provider

DENOMINATOR (INDEX) EVENT

Therapeutic Intervention

DENOMINATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS

Inclusions

All patients with neuromusculoskeletal impairments treated at a Focus On Therapeutic Outcomes (FOTO®) participating outpatient rehabilitation clinic for whom both admission and discharge self-report health status questionnaires were completed.

Exclusions

Patient less than 14 years of age

Patients unable to communicate in English or Spanish, or patient does not have a translator/proxy who can communicate in English or Spanish

NUMERATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS

Inclusions

The mean of patients' change scores on the "Physical Functional Health Status Measure."

Exclusions

Unspecified

DENOMINATOR TIME WINDOW

Time window precedes index event

NUMERATOR TIME WINDOW

Episode of care

DATA SOURCE

Patient survey

LEVEL OF DETERMINATION OF QUALITY

Individual Case

OUTCOME TYPE

Functional Status

PRE-EXISTING INSTRUMENT USED

None

Computation of the Measure

SCORING

Weighted Score/Composite/Scale

INTERPRETATION OF SCORE

Better quality is associated with a higher score

ALLOWANCE FOR PATIENT FACTORS

Analysis by subgroup (stratification on patient factors)
Risk adjustment devised specifically for this measure/condition

DESCRIPTION OF ALLOWANCE FOR PATIENT FACTORS

Measure outcomes are risk-adjusted by care type, impairment type, severity, acuity, age, and surgical history.

Also, Focus On Therapeutic Outcomes (FOTO®) offers participants the option of adding custom reports to their standard outcomes profile. Some common sorts for these custom reports are by clinician, referral source, payment source, or International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) code.

STANDARD OF COMPARISON

External comparison at a point in time
External comparison of time trends
Internal time comparison

Evaluation of Measure Properties

EXTENT OF MEASURE TESTING

The Physical Functional Health Status (FHS) measure uses an ever expanding item bank of physical functioning items developed by cocalibrating existing health status questionnaires and new items using Item Response Theory mathematics. Original work described a 36 item bank (FHS-36) of physical functioning that used a set of hierarchically structured items representing a broad underlying construct applicable to patients in outpatient centers and postacute rehabilitation facilities. The hierarchical structure of the physical FHS-36 was clinically logical and had construct validity. Items fit together to define a single variable of physical functioning, which supported the measure's content validity and unidimensionality. Studies are ongoing to expand the item bank by adding more condition-specific items designed to increase measure precision while reducing respondent burden.

EVIDENCE FOR RELIABILITY/VALIDITY TESTING

Hart DL, Wright BD. Development of an index of physical functional health status in rehabilitation. Arch Phys Med Rehabil 2002 May; 83(5): 655-65. [PubMed](#)

Identifying Information

ORIGINAL TITLE

Physical functional health status (FHS-50) measure.

MEASURE COLLECTION

[Patient Inquiry® Software](#)

DEVELOPER

Focus On Therapeutic Outcomes, Inc.

ADAPTATION

Measure was not adapted from another source.

RELEASE DATE

2001 Jan

REVISION DATE

2003 Sep

MEASURE STATUS

This is the current release of the measure.

SOURCE(S)

Patient inquiry®: interactive health analysis® [CD-ROM]. Knoxville (TN): Focus On Therapeutic Outcomes, Inc. (FOTO®); 2003. 1 disc.

MEASURE AVAILABILITY

The individual measure, "Physical Functional Health Status (FHS-50) Measure," is available in the Patient Inquiry® software, which may be obtained by contacting Provider Relations at, Focus On Therapeutic Outcomes, Inc. (FOTO®) at 800-482-3686. You may also download a Patient Inquiry Demo from the [FOTO Web site](#).

NQMC STATUS

This NQMC summary was completed by ECRI on January 8, 2004. The information was verified by the measure developer on January 13, 2004.

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT

This NQMC summary is based on the original measure, which is subject to the measure developer's copyright restrictions.

For more information, contact FOTO, Inc., phone: 800-482-3686; e-mail: judyholder@fotoinc.com; Web site: <http://www.fotoinc.com>.

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