



Complete Summary

TITLE

Cholecystitis/cholelithiasis: laparoscopic cholecystectomy rate.

SOURCE(S)

AHRQ quality indicators. Guide to inpatient quality indicators: quality of care in hospitals -- volume, mortality, and utilization [revision 2]. Rockville (MD): Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ); 2003 Sep 4. Various p. (AHRQ Pub; no. 02-R0204).

Brief Abstract

DESCRIPTION

This measure assesses the number of laparoscopic cholecystectomies per 100 discharged patients with a cholecystectomy.

RATIONALE

Surgical removal of the gall bladder (cholecystectomy) performed with a laparoscope has been identified as an underused procedure. Laparoscopic cholecystectomy is associated with less morbidity in less severe cases. Higher rates represent better quality.

PRIMARY CLINICAL COMPONENT

Cholecystitis; cholelithiasis; laparoscopic cholecystectomy

DENOMINATOR DESCRIPTION

All discharges with any procedure code of cholecystectomy in any procedure field. Only discharges with uncomplicated cases (i.e. cholecystitis and/or cholelithiasis in any diagnosis field) are included. Patients with Major Diagnostic Category (MDC) 14 (pregnancy, childbirth, and puerperium), and MDC 15 (newborns and other neonates) are excluded.

NUMERATOR DESCRIPTION

Number of laparoscopic cholecystectomies in any procedure field

Evidence Supporting the Measure

PRIMARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Process

SECONDARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Not applicable

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

Wide variation in quality for the performance measured

EVIDENCE SUPPORTING NEED FOR THE MEASURE

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State of Use of the Measure

STATE OF USE

Current routine use

CURRENT USE

Internal quality improvement
Quality of care research

Application of Measure in its Current Use

CARE SETTING

Hospitals

PROFESSIONALS RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH CARE

Physicians

LOWEST LEVEL OF HEALTH CARE DELIVERY ADDRESSED

Single Health Care Delivery Organizations

TARGET POPULATION AGE

All age groups, excluding newborns and other neonates

TARGET POPULATION GENDER

Either male or female

STRATIFICATION BY VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Unspecified

Characteristics of the Primary Clinical Component

INCIDENCE/PREVALENCE

Cholecystectomy, surgical removal of the gall bladder, is now performed with a laparoscope in about 75 percent of uncomplicated cases.

EVIDENCE FOR INCIDENCE/PREVALENCE

A prospective analysis of 1518 laparoscopic cholecystectomies. The Southern Surgeons Club. N Engl J Med 1991 Apr 18;324(16):1073-8. [PubMed](#)

ASSOCIATION WITH VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Unspecified

BURDEN OF ILLNESS

Unspecified

UTILIZATION

Unspecified

COSTS

Unspecified

Institute of Medicine National Healthcare Quality Report Categories

IOM CARE NEED

Getting Better

IOM DOMAIN

Effectiveness

Data Collection for the Measure

CASE FINDING

Users of care only

DESCRIPTION OF CASE FINDING

All patients with uncomplicated cholecystitis and/or cholelithiasis discharged from the hospital, who had a cholecystectomy

DENOMINATOR SAMPLING FRAME

Patients associated with provider

DENOMINATOR (INDEX) EVENT

Clinical Condition
Institutionalization
Therapeutic Intervention

DENOMINATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS

Inclusions

All discharges with any procedure code of cholecystectomy in any procedure field. Only discharges with uncomplicated cases (i.e., cholecystitis and/or cholelithiasis in any diagnosis field) are included (see Appendix A of the original measure documentation for International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification [ICD-9-CM] codes)

Exclusions

Patients with Major Diagnostic Category (MDC) 14 (pregnancy, childbirth, and puerperium), and MDC 15 (newborns and other neonates) are excluded.

NUMERATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS

Inclusions

Number of laparoscopic cholecystectomies in any procedure field (see Appendix A of the original measure documentation for International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification [ICD-9-CM] codes)

Exclusions

Unspecified

DENOMINATOR TIME WINDOW

Time window is a single point in time

NUMERATOR TIME WINDOW

Institutionalization

DATA SOURCE

Administrative data

LEVEL OF DETERMINATION OF QUALITY

Not Individual Case

OUTCOME TYPE

Unspecified

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

Analysis by subgroup (stratification on patient factors)

DESCRIPTION OF ALLOWANCE FOR PATIENT FACTORS

Observed (raw) rates may be stratified by hospitals, age groups, race/ethnicity categories, sex, and payer categories.

Risk adjustment by age is recommended.

Application of multivariate signal extraction (MSX) to smooth risk adjusted rates is also recommended.

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

Each potential quality indicator was evaluated against the following six criteria, which were considered essential for determining the reliability and validity of a quality indicator: face validity, precision, minimum bias, construct validity, fosters real quality improvement, and application. The project team searched Medline for articles relating to each of these six areas of evaluation. Additionally, extensive empirical testing of all potential indicators was conducted using the 1995-97 Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) State Inpatient Databases (SID) and Nationwide Inpatient Sample (NIS) to determine precision, bias, and construct validity. Table 1 in the original measure documentation summarizes the results of the literature review and empirical evaluations on the Inpatient Quality Indicators. Refer to the original measure documentation for details.

EVIDENCE FOR RELIABILITY/VALIDITY TESTING

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Identifying Information

ORIGINAL TITLE

Laparoscopic cholecystectomy rate.

MEASURE COLLECTION

[Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality \(AHRQ\) Quality Indicators](#)

MEASURE SET NAME

[Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality \(AHRQ\) Inpatient Quality Indicators](#)

DEVELOPER

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

ADAPTATION

Laparoscopic cholecystectomy was included in the original Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project Quality Indicator (HCUP QI) set.

PARENT MEASURE

Laparoscopic cholecystectomy (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality)

RELEASE DATE

2002 Jun

REVISION DATE

2003 Sep

MEASURE STATUS

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

SOURCE(S)

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MEASURE AVAILABILITY

The individual measure, "Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy Rate," is published in "AHRQ Quality Indicators. Guide to Inpatient Quality Indicators: Quality of Care in Hospitals -- Volume, Mortality, and Utilization." This document is available in [Portable Document Format \(PDF\)](#) and a [zipped WordPerfect\(R\) file](#) from the [Quality Indicators](#) page at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Web site.

For more information, please contact the QI Support Team at support@qualityindicators.ahrq.gov.

COMPANION DOCUMENTS

The following are available:

- "AHRQ Inpatient Quality Indicators Software (Version 2.1 Revision 2)" (Rockville, [MD]: AHRQ, 2003 Sept 4) and its accompanying documentation can be downloaded from the [Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality \(AHRQ\) Web site](#). (The software is available in SPSS- and SAS-compatible formats.)
- Guidance for using the AHRQ quality indicators for hospital-level public reporting or payment. Rockville (MD): Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; 2004 Aug. 24 p. This document is available from the [AHRQ Web site](#).
- "AHRQ Inpatient Quality Indicators - Interpretative Guide" (Irving [TX]: Dallas-Fort Worth Hospital Council Data Initiative; 2002 Aug 1. 9 p.) is available. This guide helps you to understand and interpret the results derived

from the application of the Inpatient Quality Indicators software to your own data and is available from the [AHRQ Web site](#).

- "Refinement of the HCUP Quality Indicators" (Rockville [MD]: AHRQ, 2001 May. Various pagings. [Technical review; no. 4]; AHRQ Publication No. 01-0035) is available. This document was prepared by the UCSF-Stanford Evidence-based Practice Center for AHRQ and can be downloaded from the [AHRQ Web site](#).

NQMC STATUS

This NQMC summary was completed by ECRI on December 4, 2002. The information was verified by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality on December 26, 2002. This NQMC summary was updated by ECRI on April 7, 2004.

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