

Documented assessment of palliative care needs among patients with progressive, life-limiting illness who were identified to benefit from palliative care (Primary Care)

Alternate Name*

Documented assessment of palliative care needs among patients with progressive, life-limiting illness who were identified to benefit from palliative care

INDICATOR DESCRIPTION

Description*

This indicator measures the proportion of patients with a progressive, lifelimiting illness who were identified to benefit from palliative care who subsequently have their palliative care needs assessed using a comprehensive and holistic assessment.

HQO Reporting tool/product

Quality Improvement Plans (QIPs)

Dimension*

Effective

Type*

Outcome

DEFINITION AND SOURCE INFORMATION

Unit of Measurement*

Proportion

Calculation Methods*

Numerator / Denominator

Numerator (short description i.e. not inclusions/exclusions)*

Number of patients specified in the denominator who have a comprehensive and holistic assessment of their palliative care needs documented in their EMR.

Denominator (short description i.e. not inclusions/exclusions)*

Number of patients with a progressive, life-limiting illness, who are identified and found to benefit from palliative care.

Adjustment (risk, age/sex standardization)- generalized

None

Data Source

Local data collection

Data provided to HQO by

Local data collection

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

Caveats and Limitations

Limitations of this measure include that the needs change over time, and needs may have been assessed in other settings. Assessment quality will not be captured, only completions.

Comments Summary

Identification does not mean a referral to a palliative care specialist. Instead, identification should prompt a comprehensive and holistic assessment to determine the patient's full range of needs. Who are these patients? • The patient population will likely include identifying patients with palliative care needs earlier than has been done in the past. • Newly diagnosed, serious and life-limiting conditions • Newly diagnosed cancer with significant risk of progression • End-stage organ failure(s) • Frailty • Dementia • Multiple medical conditions • Existing condition with a new development Step 1: Early Identification (the denominator): Ask yourself, what screening process is currently in place in our organization to identify patients earlier who may have progressive, life-limiting illnesses, and would benefit from palliative care? Early Identification: the Ontario Palliative Care Network's Palliative Care Toolkit lists tools for reference for Step 1. The Ontario Palliative Care Network's Tools to Support Earlier Identification for Palliative Care is a great resource to help when determining this denominator. Some tools used in Ontario include the adaptation of the UK Gold Standards Framework Prognostic Indicator Guidance for Ontario. Step 2: Assessment of palliative care needs (the numerator): Once yourself, what process is currently in place in our organization to do a comprehensive and holistic assessment of their needs? Needs assessment: The patient's current and future needs and preferences should be assessed across all domains of care. The Ontario Palliative Care Network's Palliative Care Toolkit outlines the process and suggested tools for Step 2. Health Quality Ontario's Palliative Care Quality Standard includes 13 Quality Statements. This indicator closely aligns with Quality Statement #1.

TAGS

TAGS*

Primary Care
Outcome
End-of-life / Palliative
Effective
Local data collection

PUBLISH

PUBLISH DATETIME*

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