

◆Measure #111: Pneumonia Vaccination for Patients 65 Years and Older

DESCRIPTION:

Percentage of patients aged 65 years and older who have ever received a pneumococcal vaccine

INSTRUCTIONS:

This measure is to be reported a minimum of once per reporting period for patients seen during the reporting period. There is no diagnosis associated with this measure. Performance for this measure is not limited to the reporting period. This measure may be reported by clinicians who perform the quality actions described in the measure based on services provided and the measure-specific denominator coding.

This measure is reported using CPT Category II codes:

CPT E/M service codes and patient demographics (age, gender, etc.) are used to identify patients who are included in the measure's denominator. CPT Category II codes are used to report the numerator of the measure.

When reporting the measure, submit the listed CPT E/M service codes, and the appropriate CPT Category II code **OR** the CPT Category II code **with** the modifier. The modifiers allowed for this measure are: 1P- medical reasons, 8P- reasons not otherwise specified.

NUMERATOR:

Patients who have ever received a pneumococcal vaccination

Numerator Coding:

Pneumonia Vaccination Administered or Previously Received

CPT II 4040F: Pneumococcal vaccine administered or previously received

OR

Pneumonia Vaccination not Administered or Previously Received for Medical Reasons

Append a modifier (**1P**) to CPT Category II code **4040F** to report documented circumstances that appropriately exclude patients from the denominator.

- **1P:** Documentation of medical reason(s) for not administering or previously receiving pneumococcal vaccination

OR

Pneumonia Vaccination not Administered or Previously Received, Reason not Specified

Append a reporting modifier (**8P**) to CPT Category II code **4040F** to report circumstances when the action described in the numerator is not performed and the reason is not otherwise specified.

- **8P:** Pneumococcal vaccine was not administered or previously received, reason not otherwise specified

DENOMINATOR:

All patients 65 years and older

Denominator Coding:

A CPT E/M service code is required to identify patients for denominator inclusion.

CPT E/M Codes: 99201, 99202, 99203, 99204, 99205, 99211, 99212, 99213, 99214, 99215, 99218, 99219, 99220, 99241, 99242, 99243, 99244, 99245, 99324, 99325, 99326, 99327, 99328, 99334, 99335, 99336, 99337, 99341, 99342, 99343, 99344, 99345, 99347, 99348, 99349, 99350, 99356, 99357

RATIONALE:

The elderly have a much higher mortality from community-acquired pneumonia due to increased risk factors such as comorbidities, an increase in the number of medications taken and weaknesses or disease of lung tissue. Pneumonia accounts for an estimated 20 percent of nosocomial infections among the elderly, second only to urinary tract infections. The disease burden is large for older adults and the potential for prevention is high. (Ely, E., 1997)

Drugs such as penicillin were once effective in treating these infections; but the disease has become more resistant, making treatment of pneumococcal infections more difficult. This makes prevention of the disease through vaccination even more important. (CDC. National Immunization Program—*Pneumococcal Disease.*, 2005)

CLINICAL RECOMMENDATION STATEMENTS:

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force's *Guide to Clinical Preventive Services* recommends pneumococcal vaccine for all immunocompetent individuals who are 65 and older or otherwise at increased risk for pneumococcal disease. Routine revaccination is not recommended, but may be appropriate in immunocompetent individuals at high risk for morbidity and mortality from pneumococcal disease (e.g., persons \geq 75 years of age or with severe chronic disease) who were vaccinated more than five years previously. Medicare Part B fully covers the cost of the vaccine and its administration every five years. (United States Preventive Services Task Force, 1998) Pneumococcal infection is a common cause of illness and death in the elderly and persons with certain underlying conditions. In 1998, an estimated 3,400 adults aged \geq 65 years died as a result of invasive pneumococcal disease. Pneumococcal infection accounts for more deaths than any other vaccine-preventable bacterial disease. (CDC, 2002; Pneumococcal Pneumonia, NIAID Fact Sheet, December 2004.)

One of the *Healthy People 2010* objectives is to increase pneumococcal immunization levels for the non-institutionalized, high-risk populations to at least 90 percent (objective no. 14.29). While the percent of persons 65 years and older receiving the pneumococcal vaccine has increased, it still remains considerably below the *Health People 2010* objective. According to the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), which is used to track performance on year 2010 objectives, in 1998 only 46 percent of adults age 65 years and older report receiving the vaccine. The figure was 45 percent based on the 1997 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey. (National Center for Health Statistics., 2005; CDC, 1997)

A particular strength of this measure is that it provides an opportunity to compare performance against national, state and/or regional benchmarks, which are collected through nationally organized and administered surveys.

At the physician practice level where a patient survey may not be feasible, data collection on pneumonia vaccination status through chart abstraction is a viable option.