AAO13: Bell’s Palsy: Inappropriate Use of Magnetic Resonance Imaging or Computed Tomography Scan (Inverse Measure)

High Priority: Yes; Appropriate Use

Percentage of patients age 16 years and older with a new onset diagnosis of Bell’s palsy within the past 3 months who had a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) or a computed tomography scan (CT) of the internal auditory canal, head, neck or brain ordered for the primary diagnosis of Bell’s palsy.

Denominator:
Patients age 16 years and older with a diagnosis of new onset Bell’s palsy within the past 3 months.

Denominator Exclusions:
None

Denominator Exceptions:
Medical reason for ordering an MRI or CT scan of the internal auditory canal, head, neck or brain for the primary diagnosis of Bell’s palsy including:

- Patient with diagnosis of Bell’s palsy more than 3 months prior to the date of the referral or performance of imaging with no signs of recovery.
- Patient with recurrent diagnosis of Bell’s palsy.
- Patient with paralysis limited to a specific branch, or branches, of the facial nerve.
- Patients with paralysis associated with other cranial nerve abnormalities, including olfactory nerve, glossopharyngeal nerve, vagus nerve, and hypoglossal nerve.
- Patient with other diagnosed neurological abnormalities, including simultaneous sudden hearing loss, tinnitus, and/or dizziness; stroke; tumor; seizures; extremity weakness; and/or extremity hypesthesia.

Numerator:
Patients with whom a MRI or CT scan of the internal auditory canal, head, neck, or brain was ordered for a primary diagnosis of Bell’s palsy.

Measure Classifications:
Measure Type: Process
National Quality Strategy (NQS) domain: Efficiency and Cost Reduction
Meaningful Measure Area: Appropriate Use of Healthcare
Calculation: 1st Performance Rate
Inverse Measure: Yes
Continuous Measure: No
Proportional Measure: Yes
Ratio Measure: No
Risk Adjusted: No

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MEASURE DESCRIPTION
Percentage of patients age 16 years and older with a diagnosis of Bell's palsy within the past 3 months who had a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) or a computed tomography scan (CT) of the internal auditory canal, head, neck or brain ordered for the primary diagnosis of Bell's palsy.

QCDR Measure Flow for:
AAO13 Bell’s Palsy: Inappropriate Use of Magnetic Resonance Imaging or Computed Tomography Scan (Inverse Measure)

INITIAL PATIENT POPULATION (IPP)

Was the patient seen by an eligible provider within the past 3 months?
YES

Was the patient ≥16 years old?
YES

INCLUDED in IPP — Continue to Denominator

NO

NO

Patient NOT included in IPP

DENOMINATOR

Was the patient diagnosed with new onset (non-recurrent) Bell’s palsy?
NO

NO

Patient not eligible for this measure

YES

Was there a medical reason that required an MRI or CT scan of the internal auditory canal, head, neck, or brain?*

YES

Denominator Exception

NO

INCLUDE in Denominator — Continue to Numerator

NUMERATOR

Was magnetic resonance imaging ordered?
NO

NO

Measure NOT Met

YES

Was a computed tomography scan ordered?
NO

YES

Measure Met

Was the MRI or CT scan completed within 3 months of the BP diagnosis?
NO

YES

Measure Met

*Denominator Exceptions:
MEDICAL REASONS FOR AN MRI OR CT SCAN
• Patient with diagnosis of Bell's palsy more than 3 months prior to the date of the referral or performance of imaging with no signs of recovery.
• Patient with recurrent diagnosis of Bell's palsy.
• Patient with paralysis limited to a specific branch, or branches, of the facial nerve.
• Patient with paralysis associated with other cranial nerve abnormalities, including olfactory nerve, glossopharyngeal nerve, vagus nerve, and hypoglossal nerve.
• Patient with other diagnosed neurological abnormalities, including simultaneous sudden hearing loss, tinnitus, and/or dizziness; stroke; tumor; seizures; extremity weakness; and/or extremity hypesthesia.