AAO34: Dysphonia: Postoperative Laryngeal Examination

High Priority: No

**Percentage of patients age 18 years and older who were diagnosed with new onset dysphonia within 2 months after a thyroidectomy who received or were referred for a laryngeal examination to examine vocal fold/cord mobility, and, if abnormal vocal fold mobility is identified, receive a plan of care for voice rehabilitation.**

**Denominator:**
1. Patients 18 years and older diagnosed with new onset dysphonia within 2 months after a thyroidectomy.
2. Patients who received a laryngeal examination and identified with abnormal vocal fold mobility.

Dysphonia definition: Dysphonia is disorder characterized by harsh and raspy voice arising from or spreading to the larynx. For the purposes of this measure dysphonia is referring to a change or hoarseness in the patient’s voice.

**Denominator Exclusions:**
Exclude patients diagnosed with dysphonia or vocal fold paralysis prior to thyroidectomy and patients undergoing concurrent laryngectomy at the time of thyroidectomy.

**Denominator Exceptions:**
Patient refusal of laryngeal examination or plan of care for treatment.

**Numerator:**
1. Patients who received or were referred for a laryngeal examination to examine vocal fold/cord mobility. Laryngeal examination definition: examination by a qualified examiner utilizing flexible laryngoscopy, or stroboscopy to examine vocal fold/cord mobility.
2. Patients who received a plan of care for voice rehabilitation.

Plan of care for voice rehabilitation includes one of the following:
- Voice and/or swallowing therapy or referral for voice and/or swallowing therapy to a speech-language pathologist; or
- Surgical therapy, including but not limited to:
  - Injection laryngoplasty
  - Framework procedures – operations to improve vocal fold mobility
  - Reinnervation – operation to improve vocal fold position, or
- Medical therapy

**Measure Classifications:**
Measure Type: Process
National Quality Strategy (NQS) domain: Effective Clinical Care
Meaningful Measure Area: Appropriate Use of Healthcare
Calculation: 1st Performance Rate
  - Inverse Measure: No
  - Continuous Measure: No
  - Proportional Measure: Yes
  - Ratio Measure: No
  - Risk Adjusted: No

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QCDR Measure Flow for:

AAO34
Dysphonia: Postoperative Laryngeal Examination

**MEASURE DESCRIPTION**
Percentage of patients age 18 years and older who were diagnosed with new onset dysphonia within 2 months after a thyroidectomy who received or were referred for a laryngeal examination to examine vocal fold/cord mobility, and, if abnormal vocal fold mobility is identified, receive a plan of care for voice rehabilitation.

**INITIAL PATIENT POPULATION (IPP)**

- **Was the patient seen by an eligible provider in the calendar year?**
  - YES
  - **Was the patient age ≥ 18 years?**
    - YES
    - **Was a thyroidectomy procedure completed?**
      - YES
      - INCLUDED in IPP — Continue to Denominator
    - NO
  - NO
  - Patient NOT included in IPP

**DENOMINATOR**

- **Was the patient diagnosed with dysphonia or vocal fold paralysis prior to thyroidectomy?**
  - YES
  - **Denominator Exclusion**
  - NO
  - **Was the patient undergoing concurrent laryngectomy at the time of thyroidectomy?**
    - YES
    - **Patient not eligible for this measure**
    - NO
  - **Was the patient diagnosed with new onset dysphonia within 2 months of thyroidectomy?**
    - YES
    - **Was a laryngeal exam performed?**
      - YES
      - **Was a abnormal vocal fold mobility identified?**
        - YES
        - **Did the patient refuse laryngeal examination or plan of care for treatment?**
          - YES
          - **Denominator Exception**
          - NO
          - **INCLUDE in Denominator — Continue to Numerator**
        - NO
      - NO
    - NO
  - **Was a laryngeal exam performed?**
    - YES
    - **Measure NOT Met**
    - NO

**NUMERATOR**

- **Was a plan of care for voice rehabilitation given to the patient?**
  - YES
  - **Measure Met**
  - NO
  - **Measure NOT Met**