



Overview of the Clinical Performance Measures (CPM) Project

Overview

The ESRD Clinical Performance Measures Project (CPM) is a national effort led by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), formerly the Health Care Financing Administration, and its eighteen ESRD Networks to assist dialysis providers to improve patient care and outcomes. Since 1994 the project has documented continued improvements, specifically in the areas of adequacy of dialysis and anemia management. In recent years measurements in vascular access, and nutrition have been added to those of dialysis adequacy and anemia. Additional quality indicators may yet be added in years to come.

A CPM is a method or instrument to estimate or monitor the extent to which the actions of a health care practitioner or provider conform to practice guidelines, medical review criteria, or standards of quality. CPM's can be used for a variety of purposes such as tools to facilitate quality improvement activities, tools to allow for comparison of the quality of care delivered in similar or different settings, and/or tools to identify issues or sites that warrant more in depth evaluation. The primary use of CPM's by the Networks will be to facilitate quality improvement among dialysis providers.

Annually, the Network collects data on specific ESRD CPM's. CMS working with the ESRD CPM Quality Improvement Committee (the committee is composed of both Network and renal community representatives) determine what CPM's to collect and what ESRD patient population(s) to target.

The purpose of collecting data annually on the CPMs are:

- To describe/analyze the processes (when able) and outcomes of care for the targeted patient population, both at a point in time and over time;
- To describe/analyze conformance to clinical practice guidelines both at a point in time and over time;
- To provide the facilities/providers with information to stimulate improvement of patient care processes and outcomes for the targeted patient population.

Sample Population

Randomly sampled adult and pediatric patients who utilize the dialysis modalities of in-center hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis are included in the study. One hundred percent of the pediatric hemodialysis patients aged 12-18 years are included in the sample. Likewise, CMS has required that a 100% sample of the Veterans Administration dialysis patients in this study.

Future Plans

It is possible that in the future the CPM process will become a paperless operation, be electronically submitted by the facilities, and include a sample of one hundred percent of the patients.