

**Adult Smoking Cessation Advice/Counseling  
for AMI, HF, and Pneumonia  
Additional Measurements for Public Reporting  
Tools and Resources for Hospital Performance Measurement  
Improvement Activities**

**Fourteenth in a series of targeted quality improvement articles**

**March 25, 2005**

**Illinois Hospital Association**

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**Achieving the Standard of Care**

The medical community continues to education the public about the health risks associated with tobacco consumption for heart and lung disease. The adult smoking cessation advice and counseling measure examines the frequency of providing smoking cessation counseling for inpatients with the diagnoses of acute myocardial infarction (AMI), heart failure (HF) or pneumonia (PN) that have smoked cigarettes any time within the past year.

The Illinois Hospital Association (IHA) Comparative Performance Measurement Initiative shows Illinois hospitals in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2004 achieved with AMI patients 78.9% compliance, for HF patients 69.8% compliance, and for PN patients 62.7% compliance with the measure. (National and state comparative data will be released April 1, 2005 with the launch of Hospital Compare, the consumer-friendly display of hospital quality data at [www.HospitalCompare.hhs.gov](http://www.HospitalCompare.hhs.gov).) The goal of all hospitals is **100% compliance** with the Hospital Quality Alliance performance measures.

**The Heart, Lungs and Smoking**

The health risks associated with smoking have been recognized for decades. Smoking leads to adverse physiological changes to the heart and lungs of healthy persons. Patients with compromised heart and lungs, in particular patients with heart attack, heart failure or pneumonia are at particular increased risk of morbidity and mortality. Key features related to smoking and health include:

- Tobacco use is the single greatest cause of disease in the USA today
- Smoking accounts for 1 of every 5 deaths in the USA today
- Smoking is the important modifiable cause of premature death
- Hospitals stays provide and ideal opportunity for cessation counseling
- Patients who receive brief cessation counseling from their physicians are more likely to quit than patients who receive no counseling at all.

**Smoking Cessation Measurement Description**

*Smoking Cessation Advice/Counseling (AMI-4, HF-4, PN-4). Calculating the measure's Performance.* Adult smoking cessation advice and counseling measure is an aggregate rate generated from count date reported as a proportion. The measure calculation is identical for all three-measurement sets with few differences with excluded populations.

**For AMI...**

- Numerator includes AMI patients who receive smoking cessation advice or counseling during the hospital stay.
- Denominator includes AMI patients with a history of smoking cigarettes anytime during the year prior to hospital arrival.

Eligible patients have the Principle Diagnosis code of 410.1x. with the exception of a few documented exclusions (see CART 2.2 manual).

**For HF...**

- Numerator includes HF patients who receive smoking cessation advice or counseling during the hospital stay.
- Denominator includes HF patients with a history of smoking cigarettes anytime during the year prior to hospital arrival.

Eligible patients have Principle Diagnosis consistent with Heart failure (see CART 2.2 for eligible ICD codes) with the exception of a few documented exclusions and

- chart documentation left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) <40% or a narrative description of left ventricular function (LVF) consistent with moderate or severe systolic dysfunction.

**For PN...**

- Numerator includes PN patients who receive smoking cessation advice or counseling during the hospital stay.
- Denominator includes PN patients with a history of smoking cigarettes anytime during the year prior to hospital arrival.

Eligible patients have:

- a “working diagnosis” of pneumonia at admission and
- *Principle Diagnosis* code of Pneumonia or
- *Principal Diagnosis* code of Septicemia or Respiratory Failure and *Other Diagnosis* code of Pneumonia with the exception of a few documented exclusions (see CART 2.2 manual).

Adult smoking cessation counseling documentation would indicate the patient received one of the following; advice to stop smoking whether or not the patient is a current smoker, viewing smoking cessation video; brochures or handouts on smoking cessation, or smoking cessation aid such as Nicodern or Zyban.

The measure’s *technical specifications* are part of the CART Users Guide version 2.1 with information on discharges before July 1, 2004 and discharges occurring on July 1, 2004 or after. The most current version of the CART User’s Manual is 2.2; both are available on the QNetExchange website at: <http://qnetexchange.org/public/>, see the box “what’s new” upper right screen.

**Medicare Support for Smoking Cessation**

On March 22, 2005, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced coverage of smoking cessation services for certain Medicare patients. The new

counseling services target Medicare beneficiaries with smoking related illness including heart and lung disease and other conditions. For additional information, visit the Medicare website, enter “smoking cessation” into the search criteria or click on the direct link: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/media/press/release.asp?Counter=1395>.

*Frequently Asked Questions – MedQic - the Medicare Quality Improvement Community* website includes questions and answers for the measurement sets. FAQs often reflect the insights and concerns of hospital staff involved in clinical care and data collection. Use FAQs as your first source to answer clinical and data related questions. FAQs are also an important educational tool for novice and expert.

The FAQs are updated as new questions are submitted and answered. Go to: [www.medqic.org](http://www.medqic.org), select FAQs (bottom left menu bar). Two boxes are displayed. For Keyword box enter “smoking” or similarly related terms and the Topic box defaults to “all topics” however the user can limit the search for AMI, HF or PN. Responses include nearly 180 Q&As addressing issues about cigarettes and other smoking materials, eligible counseling interventions, and documentation regarding smoking history and counseling interventions.

Smoking cessation materials are available Medqic website, go to: [www.medqic.org](http://www.medqic.org), select Tools (right menu box), scroll down bottom and select “tool search”, and then enter “smoking”.

For additional information about Adult Smoking Cessation Advice/Counseling for AMI, HF, or PN; the Hospital Quality Alliance, or to comment on this series, please contact Tim Philipp, Director, Quality Improvement at [tphilipp@ihastaff.org](mailto:tphilipp@ihastaff.org).