

Measure specifications may be modified based on recommendations issued by the National Quality Forum

Quality of Care Measure

AMI-5: Beta Blocker Prescribed at Discharge

Description: Acute myocardial infarction (AMI) patients without beta blocker contraindications who are prescribed a beta blocker at hospital discharge.

Type of Measure: CMS Core
JCAHO Core

Rationale: The use of beta blockers for patients who have suffered an acute myocardial infarction can reduce mortality and morbidity. Studies have demonstrated that the use of beta blockers are associated with about a 20% reduction in this risk (Yusuf, 1985). National guidelines strongly recommend long-term beta blocker therapy for the secondary prevention of subsequent cardiovascular events in patients discharged after AMI (Braunwald, 2000 and Ryan, 1999). Despite these recommendations, beta blockers remain underutilized in older patients discharged after AMI (Jencks, 2000).

Denominator Statement: AMI patients without beta blocker contraindications.

Included Populations: All discharges regardless of payer with a principal diagnosis of AMI (ICD-9-CM codes 410.01, 410.11, 410.21, 410.31, 410.41, 410.51, 410.61, 410.71, 410.81, 410.91)

Excluded Populations:

- Patients less than 18 years of age
- Patients transferred to another acute care hospital
- Patients who expired
- Patients who left against medical advice
- Patients discharged to hospice
- Patients with one or more of the following beta blocker contraindications/reasons for not prescribing a beta blocker documented in the medical record:
 - Beta blocker allergy;
 - Bradycardia (heart rate less than 60 bpm) on day of discharge or day prior to discharge while not on a beta blocker;
 - Second or third degree heart block on ECG on arrival or during hospital stay and does not have a pacemaker;
 - Systolic blood pressure less than 90 mm Hg on day of discharge or day prior to discharge while not on a beta blocker; or

- Other reasons documented by a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant for not prescribing a beta blocker at discharge

Numerator Statement: AMI patients who are prescribed a beta blocker at hospital discharge.

Selected References:

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- Jencks SJ, Cuerdon T, Burwen DR, Fleming B, Houck PM, Kussmaul AE, Nilasena DS, Ordin DL, Arday DR. Quality of Medical Care Delivered to Medicare Beneficiaries: A Profile at State and National Levels. *JAMA*. 2000;284:1670-1676.
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- Yusuf S, Peto R, Lewis J, Collins R, Sleight P. Beta blockade during and after myocardial infarction: an overview of the randomized trials. *Prog Cardiovasc Dis*. 1985;27:335-71.