What is NQF 59

National Quality Forum - Measure 59

The percentage of members 18-75 years of age with diabetes (type 1 and type 2) whose most recent HbA1c level during the measurement year was greater than 9.0% (poor control) or was missing a result, or if an HbA1c test was not done during the measurement year.

National Quality Forum (NQF)

A nonprofit, nonpartisan, public service organization committed to transforming health care. NQF reviews, endorses, and recommends use of standardized healthcare performance measures. Performance measures, also called quality measures, are essential tools used to evaluate how well healthcare services are being delivered.
Rationale for NQF 59

NQF 59 Description:

This measure assesses the percentage of patients in a specific age demographic who were diagnosed with type 1 or type 2 diabetes and who demonstrate poor blood sugar control with an HbA1c level higher than 9 percent.

What is Diabetes?

Diabetes mellitus (diabetes) is a group of diseases characterized by high blood glucose levels caused by the body’s inability to correctly produce or utilize the hormone insulin. It is recognized as a leading cause of death and disability in the U.S. and is highly underreported as a cause of death. Diabetes of either type may cause life-threatening, life-ending or life-altering complications, including poor blood sugar control. Studies have shown that improved glycemic control is correlated with a 40% decline in the development of associated microvascular complications (i.e., eye, kidney and nerve diseases) (ADA 2009). Clinical guidelines recommend regular HbA1c testing to facilitate the patient’s ability to improve and sustain acceptable levels (ADA 2009). This measure facilitates the prevention and long-term management of high blood sugar levels for patients diagnosed with diabetes.
What is in NQF 59

Numerator Statement:
Patients whose most recent HbA1c level is greater than 9.0% or is missing a result, or if an HbA1c test was not done during the measurement year.

Denominator Statement:
Patients 18-75 years of age by the end of the measurement year who had a diagnosis of diabetes (type 1 or type 2) during the measurement year or the year prior to the measurement year.

Note Exclusions:
1. Exclude patients with a diagnosis of polycystic ovaries who did not have a face-to-face encounter, in any setting, with a diagnosis of diabetes during the measurement year or the year prior to the measurement year. Diagnosis may occur at any time in the member’s history, but must have occurred by the end of the measurement year.
2. Exclude patients with gestational or steroid-induced diabetes who did not have a face-to-face encounter, in any setting, with a diagnosis of diabetes during the measurement year or the year prior to the measurement year. Diagnosis may occur during the measurement year or the year prior to the measurement year, but must have occurred by the end of the measurement year.
Quality Measures Tip
Understanding What is in a Measure

What is the Numerator/Denominator

**Denominator** - The first measure component is the denominator, which describes the eligible cases for a measure or the eligible patient population.

**Numerator** - The second component is the numerator describing the specific clinical action required by the measure for performance.

Calculating rate (dividing the numerator by the denominator) identifies the percentage of a defined patient population that was reported for the measure. For performance rate calculations, some patients may be excluded from the denominator based on medical, patient or system exclusions allowed by the measure.

The final rate calculation represents the eligible population that received a particular process of care or achieved a particular outcome.