



One of a series of tip sheets that look at key Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set measures

Use of spirometry testing in the assessment and diagnosis of COPD

This measure examines the percentage of patients 40 years of age and older with a new diagnosis of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease — or newly active COPD — who received appropriate spirometry testing to confirm the diagnosis.

- Patients who have a diagnosis of COPD during the 12-month window from July 1 of the prior year through June 30 of the current year — and with no evidence of a COPD diagnosis during encounters (or on claims) in the prior two years — are included in this measure.
- Evidence of appropriate testing is a spirometry test performed in the two years prior to or within six months of the earliest service date that occurs within the time period of July 1 through June 30. The following qualify for service dates within this time period:
 - Outpatient visit
 - Discharge date from inpatient stay, transfer or readmission
 - Emergency department visits and observation visits that result in an in-patient stay

Did you know?

- One out of 14 adults in the U.S. has airflow obstruction that qualifies for a diagnosis of COPD.
- Spirometry is considered to be widely underused in the clinical setting.
- Epidemiologic studies confirm that both late diagnosis and under-diagnosis of COPD are common problems. Wider use of spirometry could help with earlier diagnosis.
- There is an inverse correlation between use of spirometry and a patient's age. Yet there are no studies suggesting age alone should exclude patients with a new diagnosis of COPD from undergoing spirometry testing.

Exclusion: Members in hospice are also excluded.

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- Testing
 - Use spirometry in patients with new onset or exacerbation of symptoms of COPD in any setting to confirm diagnosis
 - Spirometry is particularly helpful in differentiating COPD from asthma.
- Coding
 - Emphysema and chronic bronchitis are included in the COPD “value set” for HEDIS purposes.
- COPD diagnosis codes

Description	ICD-10-CM diagnosis code
Chronic bronchitis	J41.0, J41.1, J41.8, J42
Emphysema	J43.0, J43.1, J43.2, J43.8, J43.9
COPD	J44.0, J44.1, J44.9

- Spirometry testing codes

Description	CPT code**
Spirometry	94010, 94014-94016, 94060, 94070, 94375, 94620

Tip:

Tracking spirometry testing is accomplished predominately through claims data. That’s why proper coding of spirometry testing and COPD diagnosis is critical.

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