

Explanations of Hospital Process of Care Measures

| Acute Myocardial Infarction | Brief Explanation |
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| AMI-1: Heart Attack Patients Given Aspirin at Arrival | Aspirin can help keep blood clots from forming and dissolve blood clots that can cause heart attacks. |
| AMI-2: Heart Attack Patients Given Aspirin at Discharge | Taking aspirin may help prevent further heart attacks. |
| AMI-3: Heart Attack Patients Given ACE Inhibitor or ARB for LVSD | ACE (angiotensin converting enzyme) inhibitors and ARBs (angiotensin receptor blockers) are medicines used to treat heart attacks, heart failure, or a decreased function of the heart. |
| AMI-4: Heart Attack Patients Given Smoking Cessation Advice/Counseling | Smoking is linked to heart attacks. Quitting may help prevent another heart attack. |
| AMI-5: Heart Attack Patients Given Beta-Blocker at Discharge | Beta-blockers are a type of medicine used to lower blood pressure, treat chest pain (angina) and heart failure, and to help prevent a heart attack. |
| AMI-6: Heart Attack Patients Given Beta-Blocker at Arrival | Beta-blockers are a type of medicine used to lower blood pressure, treat chest pain (angina) and heart failure, and to help prevent a heart attack. |
| AMI-7: Heart Attack Patients Given Fibrinolytic Therapy within 30 Minutes of Arrival | Blood clots can cause heart attacks. Doctors may give this medicine, or perform a procedure to open the blockage, and in some cases, may do both. |
| AMI-8a: Heart Attack Patients Given PCI within 90 Minutes of Arrival | The procedures called Percutaneous Coronary Interventions (PCI) are among those that are the most effective for opening blocked blood vessels that cause heart attacks. Doctors may perform PCI, or give medicine to open the blockage, and in some cases, may do both. |

| Child Asthma Care | Brief Explanation |
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| CAC-1a: Children (ages 2-17) Given Relievers While Hospitalized for Asthma | National guidelines recommend using reliever medication in the severe phase and gradually cutting down the dosage of medications to provide control of asthma symptoms. Relievers are medications that relax the bands of muscle surrounding the airways and are used to quickly make breathing easier. |
| CAC-2a: Children (ages 2-17) Given Systemic Corticosteroids While Hospitalized for Asthma | National guidelines recommend using systemic corticosteroid medication (oral and IV medication that reduces inflammation and controls symptoms) in the severe phase and gradually cutting down the dosage of medications to provide control of the asthma symptoms. Systemic corticosteroids are a type of medication that work in the body as a whole. Systemic corticosteroids help control allergic reactions and reduce inflammation. |
| CAC-3a: Children and Their Caregiver (s) Given a Home Management Plan of Care Document While Hospitalized for Asthma | The Home Management Plan of Care document includes arrangements for follow-up care. It will help children with asthma and their caregivers develop a plan to manage the child's asthma symptoms and to know when to take action. The plan of care should clearly tell the child and their caregiver when and how to use medication. |

| Heart Failure | Brief Explanation |
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| HF-1: Heart Failure Patients Given Discharge Instructions | The staff at the hospital should provide you with information to help you manage your heart failure symptoms when you are discharged. |
| HF-2: Heart Failure Patients Given LVSF Evaluation | An evaluation of the LVS function checks how the left chamber of the heart is pumping. |
| HF-3: Heart Failure Patients Given ACE Inhibitor or ARB for LVSD | ACE (angiotensin converting enzyme) inhibitors and ARBs (angiotensin receptor blockers) are medicines used to treat heart attacks, heart failure, or a decreased function of the heart. |
| HF-4: Heart Failure Patients Given Smoking Cessation Advice/Counseling | Smoking is linked to heart failure. Quitting may help improve your condition. |

| Pneumonia | Brief Explanation |
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| PN-1: Pneumonia Patients Given Oxygenation Assessment | Having enough oxygen in your blood is important to your health. |
| PN-2: Pneumonia Patients Given Pneumococcal Vaccination | A pneumonia (pneumococcal) shot can help prevent pneumonia in the future, even for patients who have been hospitalized for pneumonia. |
| PN-3a: Pneumonia Patients Whose Blood Culture Was Performed Within 24 Hours of Arrival for Transfers into ICU | A blood culture tells what kind of medicine will work best to treat your pneumonia. |
| PN-3b: Pneumonia Patients Whose Initial ER Blood Culture Was Performed Prior to Initial Antibiotic | A blood culture tells what kind of medicine will work best to treat your pneumonia. |
| PN-4: Pneumonia Patients Given Smoking Cessation Advice/Counseling | Smoking is linked to pneumonia. Quitting may help prevent you from getting pneumonia again. |
| PN-5c: Pneumonia Patients Given Initial Antibiotic Within 6 hours of Arrival | Timely use of antibiotics can improve the treatment of pneumonia caused by bacteria. |
| PN-6: Pneumonia Patients Given Most Appropriate Initial Antibiotic(s) | Antibiotics are medicines that treat infection, and each one is different. Hospitals should choose the antibiotics that best treat the infection type for each pneumonia patient. |
| PN-7: Pneumonia Patients Given Influenza Vaccination | An influenza shot can help prevent influenza in the future, even for patients who have been hospitalized for pneumonia. |

| Surgical Care Improvement Project (SCIP) | Brief Explanation |
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| SCIP-1: Surgery Patients Given Preventative Antibiotic(s) 1 Hour Before Incision | Getting an antibiotic within one hour before surgery reduces the risk of wound infections. This measure shows how often hospital staff make sure surgery patients get antibiotics at the right time. |
| SCIP-2: Surgery Patients Given Appropriate Preventative Antibiotic(s) for Surgery | Some antibiotics work better than others to prevent wound infections for certain types of surgery. This measure shows how often hospital staff make sure patients get the right kind of preventive antibiotic medication for their surgery. |
| SCIP-3: Surgery Patients Whose Preventative Antibiotic(s) are Stopped Within 24 Hours After Surgery | Taking preventive antibiotics for more than 24 hours after routine surgery is usually not necessary. This measure shows how often hospitals stopped giving antibiotics to surgery patients when they were no longer needed to prevent surgical infection. |
| SCIP-VTE-1: Surgery Patients Whose Doctors Ordered Treatments to Prevent Blood Clots | Certain types of surgery can increase patients' risk of having blood clots after surgery. For these types of surgery, this measure tells how often treatment to help prevent blood clots was ordered by the doctor. |
| SCIP-VTE-2: Surgery Given Treatments to Prevent Blood Clots within 24 Hours Prior to Surgery or 24 Hours Post-op | This measure tells how often patients having certain types of surgery received treatment to prevent blood clots in the period from 24 hours before surgery to 24 hours after surgery. |

Sources:

<http://www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov/staticpages/for-consumers/poc/explanations-of-measures.aspx>

<http://www.carechex.com/QualityIndicators.aspx>