

Quality ID #387: Annual Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Screening for Patients who are Active Injection Drug Users

2025 COLLECTION TYPE: **MIPS CLINICAL QUALITY MEASURES (CQMS)**

MEASURE TYPE: Process

DESCRIPTION:

Percentage of patients, regardless of age, who are active injection drug users who received screening for HCV infection within the 12-month reporting period.

INSTRUCTIONS:

This measure is to be submitted a minimum of **once per performance period** for all patients, regardless of age, who are active injection drug users seen during the performance period. This measure may be submitted by Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) eligible clinicians who perform the quality actions described in the measure based on the services provided and the measure-specific denominator coding.

NOTE: Patient encounters for this measure conducted via telehealth (including but not limited to encounters coded with GQ, GT, POS 02, POS 10) are allowable. Please note that effective January 1, 2025, while a measure may be denoted as telehealth eligible, specific denominator codes within the encounter may no longer be eligible due to changes outlined in the CY 2024 PFS Final Rule List of Medicare Telehealth Services.

Measure Submission Type:

Measure data may be submitted by individual MIPS eligible clinicians, groups, or third-party intermediaries. The listed denominator criteria are used to identify the intended patient population. The numerator options included in this specification are used to submit the quality actions as allowed by the measure. The quality data codes listed do not need to be submitted by MIPS eligible clinicians, groups, or third-party intermediaries that utilize this modality for submissions; however, these codes may be submitted for those third-party intermediaries that utilize Medicare Part B claims data. For more information regarding Application Programming Interface (API), please refer to the Quality Payment Program (QPP) website.

DENOMINATOR:

All patients, regardless of age, who are seen twice for any visit or who had at least one preventive visit within the 12-month reporting period who are active injection drug users

Definition:

Active injection drug users – Those who have injected any drug(s) within the 12-month reporting period.

DENOMINATOR NOTE: *Signifies that this CPT Category I code is a non-covered service under the Medicare Part B Physician Fee Schedule (PFS). These non-covered services should be counted in the denominator population for MIPS CQMs.

Denominator Criteria (Eligible Cases):

Documentation of active injection drug use: G9518

AND

At least one preventive encounter during the performance period (CPT or HCPCS): 99381*, 99382*, 99383*, 99384*, 99385*, 99386*, 99387*, 99391*, 99392*, 99393*, 99394*, 99395*, 99396*, 99397*, G0438, G0439

OR

At least two patient encounters during the performance period (CPT): 98000, 98001, 98002, 98003, 98004, 98005, 98006, 98007, 98008, 98009, 98010, 98011, 98012, 98013, 98014, 98015, 98016, 99202, 99203, 99204,

99205, 99212, 99213, 99214, 99215, 99242*, 99243*, 99244*, 99245*, 99304, 99305, 99306, 99307, 99308, 99309, 99310, 99341, 99342, 99344, 99345, 99347, 99348, 99349, 99350

AND NOT

DENOMINATOR EXCLUSION:

Diagnosis for Chronic Hepatitis C (ICD-10-CM): B18.2

NUMERATOR:

Patients who received screening for HCV infection within the 12-month reporting period

Definition:

Screening for HCV infection – includes HCV antibody test or HCV RNA test.

NUMERATOR NOTE: Denominator Exception(s) are determined on the date of the most recent denominator eligible encounter.

Numerator Options:

Performance Met:

Patient received screening for HCV infection within the 12-month reporting period (**G9383**)

OR

Denominator Exception:

Documentation of medical reason(s) for not receiving annual screening for HCV infection (e.g., decompensated cirrhosis indicating advanced disease [i.e., ascites, esophageal variceal bleeding, hepatic encephalopathy], hepatocellular carcinoma, waitlist for organ transplant, limited life expectancy, other medical reasons) (**G9384**)

OR

Denominator Exception:

Documentation of patient reason(s) for not receiving annual screening for HCV infection (e.g., patient declined, other patient reasons) (**G9385**)

OR

Performance Not Met:

Screening for HCV infection not received within the 12-month reporting period, reason not given (**G9386**)

RATIONALE:

Of the estimated 3.5 million people living in the United States with the hepatitis C virus infection (HCV), only 50% have been tested for HCV and are aware of their status. Reported cases of HCV have increased (approximately 20% per year) between 2010-2016, which is only partially due to improved case detection and more likely due to rising rates of injection drug use. Additionally, only one third have been referred for HCV care and only 5.6% receive recommended treatment. Studies indicate that even among high-risk patients for whom screening is recommended, only 49-75% are aware of their infection status. In a recent analysis of data from a national health survey, 67.9% of persons ever infected with HCV reported an exposure risk, (e.g., injection drug use, having sexual contact with suspected/confirmed hepatitis C patient), 2 weeks to 6 months prior to symptom onset, and the remaining 32.1% reported no known exposure risk. Data from the CDC shows that of the 2016 case reports that had information about drug use, 68.6% reported the use of injection drugs. According to one study, 72% of persons with a history of injection-drug use who are infected with HCV remain unaware of their infection status. Current risk-based testing strategies have had limited success, as evidenced by the substantial number of HCV-infected persons who remain unaware of their infection. As a result, many do not receive needed care (e.g., education, counseling, and medical monitoring), and are not evaluated for treatment. HCV causes acute infection, which can be characterized by mild to severe illness but is usually asymptomatic. In approximately 75%-85% of persons, HCV persists as a chronic infection, placing infected persons at risk for liver cirrhosis, hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), and extrahepatic complications that develop over the decades following onset of infection.

Since 1998, routine HCV testing has been recommended by CDC for persons most likely to be infected with HCV. These recommendations were made on the basis of a known epidemiologic association between a risk factor and acquiring HCV infection, including injection drug use. It is estimated that most new cases of HCV infections are among young persons who

are white, live in non-urban areas and have a history of previously reported injection drug use. An epidemic has arisen that is a national priority for federal and state public health agencies. HCV testing is the first step toward improving health outcomes for persons who report injection drug use and are infected with HCV.

CLINICAL RECOMMENDATION STATEMENTS:

Verbatim from AASLD and IDSA Recommendations for Testing, Managing, and Treating Hepatitis C, September 2017:

Annual HCV testing is recommended for persons who inject drugs and for HIV-infected men who have unprotected sex with men. Periodic testing should be offered to other persons with ongoing risk factors for HCV exposure. (Rating: Class IIA, Level C) (AASLD/IDSA, 2017)

The USPSTF recommends screening for hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection in persons at high risk for infection. The USPSTF also recommends offering 1-time screening for HCV infection to adults born between 1945 and 1965. (Grade B recommendation) (USPSTF, 2013)

Assessment of Risk

The most important risk factor for HCV infection is past or current injection drug use. Another established risk factor for HCV infection is receipt of a blood transfusion before 1992. Because of the implementation of screening programs for donated blood, blood transfusions are no longer an important source of HCV infection. In contrast, 60% of new HCV infections occur in persons who report injection drug use within the past 6 months. Additional risk factors include long-term hemodialysis, being born to an HCV-infected mother, incarceration, intranasal drug use, getting an unregulated tattoo, and other percutaneous exposures (such as in health care workers or from having surgery before the implementation of universal precautions). Evidence on tattoos and other percutaneous exposures as risk factors for HCV infection is limited. The relative importance of these additional risk factors may differ on the basis of geographic location and other factors. (USPSTF, 2013)

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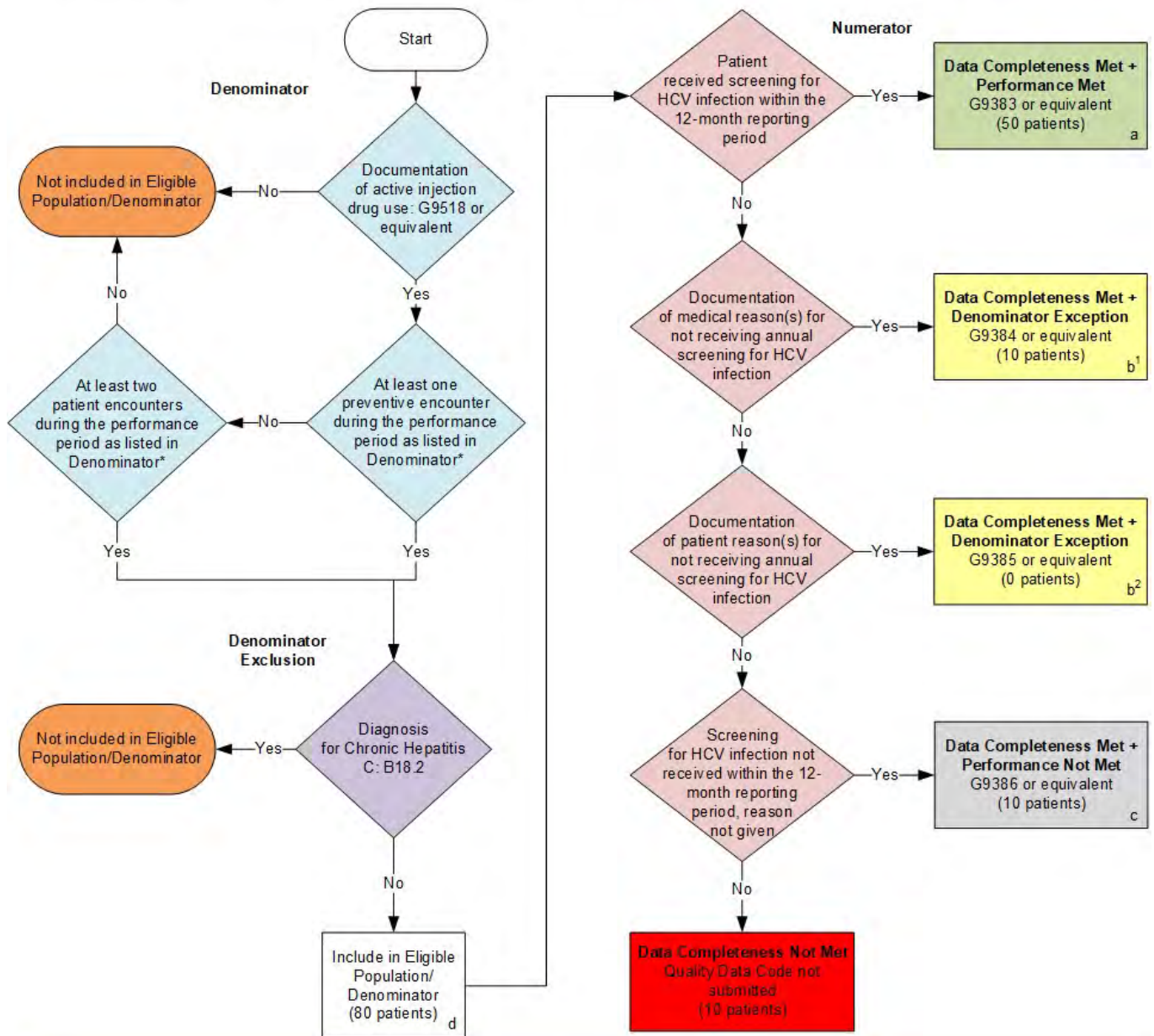
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2025 Clinical Quality Measure Flow for Quality ID #387: Annual Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Screening for Patients who are Active Injection Drug Users

Disclaimer: Refer to the measure specification for specific coding and instructions to submit this measure.



SAMPLE CALCULATIONS

Data Completeness =

$$\frac{\text{Performance Met (a=50 patients)} + \text{Denominator Exception (b}^1\text{+b}^2\text{=10 patients)} + \text{Performance Not Met (c=10 patients)}}{\text{Eligible Population / Denominator (d=80 patients)}} = \frac{70 \text{ patients}}{80 \text{ patients}} = 87.50 \%$$

Performance Rate =

$$\frac{\text{Performance Met (a=50 patients)}}{\text{Data Completeness Numerator (70 patients) - Denominator Exception (b}^1\text{+b}^2\text{=10 patients)}} = \frac{50 \text{ patients}}{60 \text{ patients}} = 83.33 \%$$

*See the posted measure specification for specific coding and instructions to submit this measure.
 NOTE: Submission Frequency: Patient-Process

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**2025 Clinical Quality Measure Flow Narrative for Quality ID #387:
Annual Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Screening for Patients who are Active Injection Drug Users**

Disclaimer: Refer to the measure specification for specific coding and instructions to submit this measure.

1. Start with Denominator
2. Check *Documentation of active injection drug use*:
 - a. If *Documentation of active injection drug use* equals No, do not include in *Eligible Population/Denominator*. Stop processing.
 - b. If *Documentation of active injection drug use* equals Yes, proceed to check *At least one preventive encounter during the performance period as listed in Denominator**.
3. Check *At least one preventive encounter during the performance period as listed in Denominator**:
 - a. If *At least one preventive encounter during the performance period as listed in Denominator** equals No, proceed to check *At least two patient encounters during the performance period as listed in Denominator**.
 - b. If *At least one preventive encounter during the performance period as listed in Denominator** equals Yes, proceed to check *Diagnosis for Chronic Hepatitis C*:
4. Check *At least two patient encounters during the performance period as listed in Denominator**:
 - a. If *At least two patient encounters during the performance period as listed in Denominator** equals No, do not include in *Eligible Population/Denominator*. Stop processing.
 - b. If *At least two patient encounters during the performance period as listed in Denominator** equals Yes, proceed to check *Diagnosis for Chronic Hepatitis C*.
5. Check *Diagnosis for Chronic Hepatitis C*:
 - a. If *Diagnosis for Chronic Hepatitis C* equals Yes, do not include in *Eligible Population/Denominator*. Stop processing.
 - b. If *Diagnosis for Chronic Hepatitis C* equals No, include in *Eligible Population/Denominator*.
6. Denominator Population:
 - Denominator Population is all Eligible Patients in the Denominator. Denominator is represented as Denominator in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter d equals 80 patients in the Sample Calculation.
7. Start Numerator
8. Check *Patient received screening for HCV infection within the 12-month reporting period*:
 - a. If *Patient received screening for HCV infection within the 12-month reporting period* equals Yes, include in *Data Completeness Met and Performance Met*.
 - *Data Completeness Met and Performance Met* letter is represented in the Data Completeness and Performance Rate in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter a equals 50 patients in the Sample Calculation.

- b. If *Patient received screening for HCV infection within the 12-month reporting period* equals No, proceed to check *Documentation of medical reason(s) for not receiving annual screening for HCV infection*.
9. Check *Documentation of medical reason(s) for not receiving annual screening for HCV infection*:
- a. If *Documentation of medical reason(s) for not receiving annual screening for HCV infection* equals Yes, include in *Data Completeness Met and Denominator Exception*.
- *Data Completeness Met and Denominator Exception* letter is represented in the Data Completeness and Performance Rate in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter b¹ equals 10 patients in the Sample Calculation.
- b. If *Documentation of medical reason(s) for not receiving annual screening for HCV infection* equals No, proceed to check *Documentation of patient reason(s) for not receiving annual screening for HCV infection*.
10. Check *Documentation of patient reason(s) for not receiving annual screening for HCV infection*:
- a. If *Documentation of patient reason(s) for not receiving annual screening for HCV infection* equals Yes, include in *Data Completeness Met and Denominator Exception*.
- *Data Completeness Met and Denominator Exception* letter is represented in the Data Completeness and Performance Rate in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter b² equals 0 patients in the Sample Calculation.
- b. If *Documentation of patient reason(s) for not receiving annual screening for HCV infection* equals No, proceed to check *Screening for HCV infection not received within the 12-month reporting period, reason not given*.
11. Check *Screening for HCV infection not received within the 12-month reporting period, reason not given*:
- a. If *Screening for HCV infection not received within the 12-month reporting period, reason not given* equals Yes, include in *Data Completeness Met and Performance Not Met*.
- *Data Completeness Met and Performance Not Met* letter is represented in the Data Completeness in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter c equals 10 patients in Sample Calculation.
- b. If *Screening for HCV infection not received within the 12-month reporting period, reason not given* equals No, proceed to check *Data Completeness Not Met*.
12. Check *Data Completeness Not Met*:
- If *Data Completeness Not Met*, the Quality Data Code or equivalent was not submitted. 10 patients have been subtracted from the Data Completeness Numerator in the Sample Calculation.

Sample Calculations

Data Completeness equals Performance Met (a equals 50 patients) plus Denominator Exception (b¹ plus b² equals 10 patients) plus Performance Not Met (c equals 10 patients) divided by Eligible Population/Denominator (d equals 80 patients). All equals 70 patients divided by 80 patients. All equals 87.50 percent.

Performance Rate equals Performance Met (a equals 50 patients) divided by Data Completeness Numerator (70 patients) minus Denominator Exception (b¹ plus b² equals 10 patients). All equals 50 patients divided by 60 patients. All equals 83.33 percent.

*See the posted measure specification for specific coding and instructions to submit this measure.

NOTE: Submission Frequency: Patient-Process

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