

This measures group is to be reported for patients aged 18 through 79 years with back pain receiving office or other outpatient services.

OR

*This measures group is to be reported **each time** a back surgical procedure is performed for patients aged 18 through 79 years.*

You will need to report G-code G8493 once to indicate your intent to report on the Back Pain Measures Group. Once you have reported the G-code, you should begin reporting using one of the patient sample methods listed below.

The intent of this measures group is to assess whether the clinician caring for a patient with back pain performs the assessment or advice described by each of the individual measures at the first visit with that clinician for that episode of back pain. A new episode of back pain has been defined as the patient having a four month period without having been seen or treated in the prior four months for back pain. The first visit after the four months without being seen or treated for back pain is considered the beginning of the new episode.

The following 2010 PQRI measures are included in the Back Pain Measures Group:

#148. Initial Visit

Measure Description

Percentage of patients aged 18 through 79 years with a diagnosis of back pain or undergoing back surgery who had back pain and function assessed during the initial visit to the clinician for the episode of back pain

#149. Physical Exam

Measure Description

Percentage of patients aged 18 through 79 years with a diagnosis of back pain or undergoing back surgery who received a physical examination at the initial visit to the clinician for the episode of back pain

#150. Advice for Normal Activities

Measure Description

Percentage of patients aged 18 through 79 years with a diagnosis of back pain or undergoing back surgery who received advice for normal activities at the initial visit to the clinician for the episode of back pain

#151. Advice Against Bed Rest

Measure Description

Percentage of patients aged 18 through 79 years with a diagnosis of back pain or undergoing back surgery who received advice against bed rest lasting four days or longer at the initial visit to the clinician for the episode of back pain

This measures group can be reported by one of the following patient sample methods:

- **30 Sample Method** — 30 unique patients meeting patient sample criteria for the measures group.
- **80% Patient Sample Method** — All patients meeting patient sample criteria for the measures group during the reporting period (either January 1 through December 31, 2010 OR July 1 through December 31, 2010). For the 12-month reporting period, a minimum of 15 patients must meet the measures group patient sample criteria to report satisfactorily. For the six-month reporting period, a minimum of 8 patients must meet the measures group patient sample criteria to report satisfactorily.

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