

Quality Measures Specifications for PY 2013 and PY 2014 ESRD QIP Final Rule

November 1, 2011

Hemodialysis Adequacy – Urea Reduction Ratio (URR)

Measure Description

This measure reports the percentage of eligible Medicare in-center hemodialysis (HD) patients with a median urea reduction ratio (URR) of at least 65%.

Data Source

Medicare claims

Care Setting

Dialysis provider/facility

Measurement Duration

The measurement duration is 12 months. Patients with at least 4 months of eligible claims at the facility are included.

Improvement Notation

Better quality=Higher Proportion

Denominator

Number of eligible Medicare in-center hemodialysis patients at the facility during the measurement period (baseline or performance).

The denominator will include all in-center hemodialysis patients 18 years and older with ESRD for 183 days or longer, and whose last claim of the month for the patient at the facility indicates thrice-weekly in-center hemodialysis with a valid URR reading.

Denominator Exclusions

Claims are excluded if any of the following criteria are met:

- Patient is less than 18 years old as of the start of the claim, or
- Patient has fewer than 7 dialysis sessions per month (HCPCS modifier=G6), or
- Patient is in the first 182 days of ESRD as of the start of the claim, or
- Patient is on home hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis (PD) according to the claim, or
- Patient is on frequent hemodialysis (see below), or
- Patient has fewer than 4 months of eligible claims at a facility in the measurement period.

Frequent hemodialysis claims are identified for exclusions in three ways:

- If the claim covers 7 or fewer days, the claim must have had fewer than 4 sessions documented.
- If the claim covers more than 7 days, the claim must have had a rate of fewer than 4 sessions per week.
- The beginning date of the claim must not have occurred in a month during which the SIMS database recorded the patient's modality as frequent in-center hemodialysis (defined as 5 or more dialysis sessions per week).

Numerator

The number of eligible Medicare in-center hemodialysis patients with a median urea reduction ratio (URR) category greater than or equal to 65%.

Patients from the denominator are included in the numerator if the median of their monthly URR category indicates a value of at least 65%.