PERFORMANCE MEASURES

AACVPR/ACCF/AHA 2010 Update: Performance Measures on Cardiac Rehabilitation for Referral to Cardiac Rehabilitation/Secondary Prevention Services

A Report of the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation and the American College of Cardiology Foundation/American Heart Association Task Force on Performance Measures (Writing Committee to Develop Clinical Performance Measures for Cardiac Rehabilitation)

Endorsed by the American College of Chest Physicians, the American College of Sports Medicine, the American Physical Therapy Association, the Canadian Association of Cardiac Rehabilitation, the Clinical Exercise Physiology Association, the European Association for Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation, the Inter-American Heart Foundation, the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists, the Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association, and the Society of Thoracic Surgeons

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Preamble

Over the past decade, there has been an increasing awareness that the quality of medical care delivered in the United States is variable. In its seminal document dedicated to characterizing deficiencies in delivering effective, timely, safe, equitable, efficient, and patient-centered medical care, the Institute of Medicine described a quality "chasm" (1). Recognition of the magnitude of the gap between the care that is delivered and the care that ought to be provided has

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stimulated interest in the development of measures of quality of care and the use of such measures for the purposes of quality improvement and accountability.

Consistent with this national focus on healthcare quality, the American College of Cardiology Foundation (ACCF) and the American Heart Association (AHA) have taken a leadership role in developing measures of the quality of care for cardiovascular disease (CVD) in several clinical areas (Table 1). The ACCF/AHA Task Force on Performance Measures was formed in February 2000 and was charged with identifying the clinical topics appropriate for the development of performance measures and assembling writing committees composed of clinical and methodological experts. When appropriate, these committees include representatives from other organizations with an interest in the clinical topic under consideration. The committees are informed about the methodology of performance measure development and are instructed to construct measures for use both prospectively and retrospectively, rely upon easily documented clinical criteria, and where appropriate, incorporate administrative data. The data elements required for the performance measures are linked to existing ACCF/AHA clinical data standards to encourage uniform measurements of cardiovascular care. The writing committees are also instructed to evaluate the extent to which existing nationally recognized performance measures conform to the attributes of performance measures described by the ACCF/AHA and to strive to create measures aligned with acceptable existing measures when this is feasible.

The initial measure sets published by the ACCF/AHA focused primarily on processes of medical care or actions taken by healthcare providers, such as the prescription of a medication for a condition. These process measures are founded on the strongest recommendations contained in the ACCF/AHA clinical practice guidelines, delineating actions taken by clinicians in the care of patients, such as the prescription of a particular drug for a specific condition. Specifically, the writing committees consider as candidates for measures those processes

Table 1. ACCF/AHA Performance Measure Sets

Topic	Original Publication Date	Partnering Organizations	Status
Chronic heart failure (2)	2005	ACC/AHA—Inpatient measures ACC/AHA/PCPI—Outpatient measures	Currently undergoing update Currently undergoing update
Chronic stable coronary artery disease (3)	2005	ACC/AHA/PCPI	Currently undergoing update
Hypertension (4)	2005	ACC/AHA/PCPI	Currently undergoing update
ST-elevation and non-ST-elevation myocardial infarction (5)	2006	ACC/AHA	Updated 2008 (6)
Cardiac rehabilitation (7)	2007	AACVPR/ACC/AHA	Updated 2010 (referral measures only
Atrial fibrillation (8)	2008	ACC/AHA/PCPI	
Primary prevention of cardiovascular disease (9)	2009	ACCF/AHA	
Peripheral artery disease	2010*	ACCF/AHA/ACR/SCAI/SIR/SVM/ SVN/SVS	Under development
Percutaneous coronary intervention	2011*	ACCF/AHA/SCAI/PCPI/NCQA	Under development

^{*}Planned publication date.

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