

The Joint Commission

Certification for Palliative Care Performance Measure

Source: www.jointcommission.org/measure_development_initiatives.aspx

The Joint Commission recently completed the process of developing a standardized performance measure set in support of its Advanced Certification Program for Palliative Care. All hospitals currently certified in the Advanced Palliative Care program, as well as those hospitals seeking initial certification, will be required to implement data collection for five new standardized measures effective with discharges on and after January 1, 2017.

Palliative care, which addresses a patient's physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs, also facilitates patient autonomy, access to information, and choice. The Joint Commission's Advanced Certification Program for Palliative Care recognizes hospital inpatient programs that demonstrate exceptional patient and family-centered care and optimize the quality of life for adult and pediatric patients with serious illness.

The PAL Measure Set Population (common to all PAL measures) is defined as all patients who have received a consultation with any member of the palliative care service team. "Consultation" indicates that the patient received a face to face encounter visit with any member of the palliative care core interdisciplinary team. The core interdisciplinary team is comprised of the following: Physician(s); Registered nurse(s) or advanced practice nurse(s); Chaplain(s) or, spiritual care professional(s); Social worker(s).

The Palliative Care measure set (PAL) is comprised of the following five measures:

- PAL-01 Pain Screening
Proportion of palliative care patients who were screened for pain during the palliative care initial encounter.
- PAL-02 Pain Assessment
Proportion of palliative care patients who screened positive for pain during the palliative care initial encounter and received a clinical assessment of pain, which included at least five of seven components, within one (1) day of screening.
- PAL-03 Dyspnea Screening
Proportion of palliative care patients who were screened for dyspnea during the palliative care initial encounter.
- PAL-04 Treatment Preferences and Goals of Care
Proportion of palliative care patients with medical record documentation of treatment preferences and goals of care.
- PAL-05 Treatment Preferences Discharge Document
Proportion of patients for whom a transition of care document containing information regarding goals of care and treatment preferences is completed and accompanies the patient to the next level of care at discharge.

Hospitals are required to collect monthly data points (numerator and denominator values) for all five standardized measures and report data quarterly to The Joint Commission via the extranet Certification Measure Information Process (CMIP).