

Measure #70: Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL): Baseline Flow Cytometry

DESCRIPTION:

Percentage of patients aged 18 years and older with a diagnosis of CLL who had baseline flow cytometry studies performed

INSTRUCTIONS:

This measure is to be reported a minimum of once per reporting period for patients seen during the reporting period, regardless of when the baseline flow cytometry studies are performed. It is anticipated that clinicians who provide services for patients with the diagnosis of chronic lymphocytic leukemia, not in remission, will submit this measure.

This measure is reported using CPT Category II codes:

ICD-9 diagnosis codes, CPT E/M service codes, and patient demographics (age, gender, etc.) are used to identify patients who are included in the measure's denominator. CPT Category II codes are used to report the numerator of the measure.

When reporting the measure, submit the listed ICD-9 diagnosis codes, CPT E/M service codes, and the appropriate CPT Category II code **OR** the CPT Category II code **with** the modifier. The modifiers allowed for this measure are: 1P- medical reasons, 2P- patient reasons, 3P- system reasons, 8P- reasons not otherwise specified.

NUMERATOR:

Patients who had baseline flow cytometry studies performed

Definition: Baseline flow cytometry studies refer to testing that is performed at time of diagnosis or prior to initiating treatment for that diagnosis. Treatment may include anti-neoplastic therapy.

Numerator Coding:

Baseline Flow Cytometry Studies Performed

CPT II 3170F: Flow cytometry studies performed at time of diagnosis or prior to initiating treatment

OR

Baseline Flow Cytometry Studies not Performed for Medical, Patient, or System Reasons

Append a modifier (**1P**, **2P**, or **3P**) to CPT Category II code **3170F** to report documented circumstances that appropriately exclude patients from the denominator.

- **1P:** Documentation of medical reason(s) for not performing baseline flow cytometry studies
- **2P:** Documentation of patient reason(s) for not performing baseline flow cytometry studies
- **3P:** Documentation of system reason(s) for not performing baseline flow cytometry studies

OR

Baseline Flow Cytometry Studies not Performed, Reason not Specified

Append a reporting modifier (8P) to CPT Category II code 3170F to report circumstances when the action described in the numerator is not performed and the reason is not otherwise specified.

- **8P:** Flow cytometry studies not performed at time of diagnosis or prior to initiating treatment, reason not otherwise specified

DENOMINATOR:

All patients aged 18 years and older with a diagnosis of CLL

Denominator Coding:

An ICD-9 diagnosis code for chronic lymphocytic leukemia, not in remission, and a CPT E/M service code are required to identify patients for denominator inclusion.

ICD-9 diagnosis code: 204.10

AND

CPT E/M service codes: 99201, 99202, 99203, 99204, 99205, 99212, 99213, 99214, 99215, 99241, 99242, 99243, 99244, 99245

RATIONALE:

Due to the distinct pattern of protein antigens expressed in CLL, flow cytometry should be performed in order to confirm the diagnosis, correctly characterize the pathological cells, and determine prognosis. In some instances, flow cytometry may also offer additional therapeutically relevant information.

CLINICAL RECOMMENDATION STATEMENTS:

As with all the lymphoid neoplasms, adequate hematopathologic review is essential to establish an accurate diagnosis of chronic lymphocytic leukemia and small lymphocytic lymphoma CLL/SLL. ...a combination of morphologic and flow cytometric studies may provide adequate information to provide a diagnosis. This is particularly true for the diagnosis of CLL. Flow cytometric studies performed on patients with leukemic cell burden include kappa/lambda to [assess] clonality... Distinguishing CLL/SLL from mantle cell lymphoma is essential (Category 2A Recommendation). (NCCN)