

## ▲Measure #75: Prevention of Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia – Head Elevation

### DESCRIPTION:

Percentage of ICU patients aged 18 years and older who receive mechanical ventilation and who had an order on the first ventilator day for head of bed elevation (30-45 degrees)

### INSTRUCTIONS:

This measure is to be reported once for each episode of care for all critically ill patients seen during the reporting period. There is no diagnosis associated with this measure. An individual patient may have multiple ICU episodes during the same hospitalization. This measure should be reported for each new episode of care, even those that occur during the same hospitalization.

Situations that define an episode include the following:

- 1) The first instance 99291 is used (e.g., admission to the ICU or a new episode of critical care)
- 2) Upon readmission to the ICU from another unit (e.g., discharged to a step-down unit, then readmitted to ICU due to complications)
- 3) \*Upon reintubation or intubation any time following admission to the ICU

\*The following is an example: For the patient initially admitted to the ICU, not receiving ventilation, CPT II 4169F (see coding below) would be reported. There may be instances when a critically ill patient is not ventilated at the initial instance of 99291; if the patient's status changes during the episode, requiring ventilation, a second CPT II code (4168F) indicating that the patient is receiving ventilation should be reported; finally, if head of bed elevation is ordered, report CPT II code 4167F.

It is anticipated that clinicians who provide care in the ICU will submit this measure. Clinicians utilizing the critical care code in the emergency department will not be included in this measure.

### **This measure is reported using CPT Category II 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 CPT E/M service codes and the appropriate CPT Category II code(s) OR the CPT Category II code(s) with the modifier. The modifiers allowed for this measure are: 1P- medical reasons, 8P- reasons not otherwise specified.

### NUMERATOR:

Patients who had an order on the first ventilator day for head of bed elevation (30-45 degrees)

**NUMERATOR NOTE:** *The correct combination of numerator code(s) must be reported on the claim form in order to properly report this measure. The "correct combination" of codes may require the submission of multiple numerator codes.*

**Numerator Coding:**

**Order for Head of Bed Elevation (30-45 degrees) on First Ventilator Day**

*(Two CPT II codes [4167F & 4168F] are required on the claim form to submit this category)*

CPT II 4167F: Head of bed elevation (30-45 degrees) on first ventilator day ordered

**AND**

CPT II 4168F: Patient receiving care in the intensive care unit (ICU) and receiving mechanical ventilation, 24 hours or less

OR

**Head of Bed Elevation (30-45 Degrees) not Ordered on First Ventilator Day for Medical Reasons**

*(Two CPT II codes [4167F-1P & 4168F] are required on the claim form to submit this category)*

Append a modifier (1P) to CPT Category II code 4167F to report documented circumstances that appropriately exclude patients from the denominator.

- **4167F with 1P:** Documentation of medical reason(s) for not ordering head of bed elevation (30-45 degrees) on the first ventilator day

**AND**

CPT II 4168F: Patient receiving care in the intensive care unit (ICU) and receiving mechanical ventilation, 24 hours or less

OR

CPT II 4169F: Report if patient is not eligible for this measure because patient is not receiving ICU care or not receiving mechanical ventilation.

OR

**Head of Bed Elevation (30-45 Degrees) not Ordered on First Ventilator Day, Reason not Specified**

*(Two CPT II codes [4167F-8P & 4168F] are required on the claim form to submit this category)*

Append a reporting modifier (8P) to CPT Category II code 4167F to report circumstances when the action described in the numerator is not performed and the reason is not otherwise specified.

- **4167F with 8P:** Head of bed elevation (30-45 degrees) not ordered on first ventilator day, reason not otherwise specified

**AND**

CPT II 4168F: Patient receiving care in the intensive care unit (ICU) and receiving mechanical ventilation, 24 hours or less

**DENOMINATOR:**

All patients aged 18 years and older receiving care in the ICU who receive mechanical ventilation

**Definition:** For the purposes of this measure, mechanical ventilation may include pressure or volume preset ventilators for assisted or controlled breathing OR continuous positive airway pressure ventilation (CPAP).

**Denominator Coding:**

An E/M service code is required to identify patients for denominator inclusion.

**CPT E/M service code:** 99291\*

*\*Clinicians indicating the place of service as the emergency department will not be included in this measure.*

**RATIONALE:**

Mechanically ventilated patients are at high risk for aspiration pneumonia. Elevation of the head of the bed has been shown to reduce the risk of aspiration.

Existing hospital-level measures for this topic were consulted and, to the extent feasible, harmonization between physician- and hospital-level measurement was achieved.

**CLINICAL RECOMMENDATION STATEMENTS:**

Patients should be kept in the semi-recumbent position (30–45°) rather than supine to prevent aspiration, especially when receiving enteral feeding. (ATS/IDSA) (Level I)

In the absence of medical contraindication(s), elevate at an angle of 30-45 degrees the head of the bed of a patient at high risk for aspiration pneumonia (e.g., a person receiving mechanically assisted ventilation or who has an enteral tube in place). (CDC) (Category I)