

## ▲Measure #86: Consideration for Antiviral Therapy in HCV Patients

### DESCRIPTION:

Percentage of patients aged 18 years and older with a diagnosis of chronic hepatitis C who were considered for peginterferon and ribavirin therapy within the 12-month reporting period

### INSTRUCTIONS:

This measure is to be reported a minimum of once per reporting period for patients with a diagnosis of chronic hepatitis C seen during the reporting period. This measure may be reported by clinicians who perform the quality actions described in the measure based on the services provided and the measure-specific denominator coding.

### **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 reporting modifier allowed for this measure is: 8P- reasons not otherwise specified. There are no allowable performance exclusions for this measure.

### NUMERATOR:

Patients who were considered for peginterferon and ribavirin therapy within the 12 month reporting period

#### Numerator Coding:

#### **Peginterferon and Ribavirin Therapy Considered or Prescribed**

CPT II 4152F: Documentation that combination peginterferon and ribavirin therapy considered

#### OR

CPT II 4153F: Combination peginterferon and ribavirin therapy prescribed

OR

#### **Peginterferon and Ribavirin Therapy not Considered or Prescribed, Reason not Specified**

Append a reporting modifier (**8P**) to CPT Category II code **4152F** to report circumstances when the action described in the numerator is not performed and the reason is not otherwise specified.

- **8P:** Combination peginterferon and ribavirin therapy was not considered or prescribed, reason not otherwise specified

**DENOMINATOR:**

All patients aged 18 years and older with a diagnosis of chronic hepatitis C

**Denominator Coding:**

An ICD-9 diagnosis code for chronic hepatitis C and a CPT E/M service code are required to identify patients for denominator inclusion.

**ICD-9 diagnosis codes:** 070.54

**AND**

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

**RATIONALE:**

Assure that antiviral therapy is considered for all patients with confirmed Hepatitis C.

The current standard of care for the treatment of previously untreated patients with chronic hepatitis C is combination pegylated interferon (PEG-IFN) alfa by subcutaneous injection once a week and oral ribavirin daily. For patients with contraindications to ribavirin but who have indications for antiviral therapy, PEG-IFN represents the best available treatment. (AGA)

Current contraindications to therapy include decompensated cirrhosis, pregnancy, uncontrolled depression or severe mental illness, active substance abuse in the absence of concurrent participation in a drug treatment program, advanced cardiac or pulmonary disease, severe cytopenias, poorly controlled diabetes, retinopathy, seizure disorders, immunosuppressive treatment, autoimmune diseases, or other inadequately controlled comorbid conditions.(AGA)

**CLINICAL RECOMMENDATION STATEMENTS:**

The treatment of choice is peginterferon plus ribavirin (Grade I). (AASLD)

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Combination therapy results in better treatment responses than monotherapy, but the highest response rates have been achieved with pegylated interferon in combination with ribavirin. (NIH)