

Perioperative Temperature Management

*This measure is to be reported **each time** patients, regardless of age, undergo surgical or therapeutic procedures (not involving cardiopulmonary bypass) under general or neuraxial anesthesia of 60 minutes duration or longer during the reporting period. It is anticipated that clinicians who provide the listed anesthesia services as specified in the denominator coding will submit this measure.*

Measure description

Percentage of patients, regardless of age, undergoing surgical or therapeutic procedures under general or neuraxial anesthesia of 60 minutes duration or longer, except patients undergoing cardiopulmonary bypass, for whom *either* active warming was used intraoperatively for the purpose of maintaining normothermia, OR at least one body temperature equal to or greater than 36 degrees Centigrade (or 96.8 degrees Fahrenheit) was recorded within the 30 minutes immediately before or the 15 minutes immediately after anesthesia end time

What will you need to report for each patient undergoing surgical or therapeutic procedures under general or neuraxial anesthesia of 60 minutes duration or longer, except patients undergoing cardiopulmonary bypass for this measure?

If you select this measure for reporting, you will report:

- The duration of anesthesia time, as documented in the anesthesia record.
 - If the duration of anesthesia time is ≥ 60 minutes you will then also report
 - Whether or not you used active warming¹ intraoperatively OR that the patient had at least one body temperature equal to or greater than 36 degrees centigrade recorded within the designated timeframe.

What if this process or outcome of care is not appropriate for your patient?

There may be times when it is not appropriate to use active warming intraoperatively OR at least one body temperature equal to or greater than 36 degrees centigrade recorded within designated timeframe, due to:

- Medical reasons (ie, intentional hypothermia or not indicated due to anesthetic technique: peripheral nerve block without general anesthesia, OR monitored anesthesia care)

In these cases, you will need to indicate that the medical reason applies, and specify the reason on the worksheet and in the medical chart. The office/billing staff will then report a code with a modifier that represents these valid reasons (also called exclusions).

¹For purposes of this measure, "active warming" is limited to over-the-body active warming (e.g., forced air, warm-water garments, and resistive heating blankets).