

Pain Assessment Prior to Initiation of Patient Therapy and Follow-Up

*This measure is to be reported for **each** qualifying visit occurring during the reporting period for all patients aged 18 years and older.*

Measure description

Percentage of patients aged 18 years and older with documentation of a pain assessment (if pain is present, including location, intensity and description) through discussion with the patient including the use of a standardized tool¹ on each visit prior to initiation of therapy AND documentation of a follow-up plan²

What will you need to report for each visit for patients aged 18 years and older for this measure?

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

- Whether or not you assessed for pain using a standardized tool prior to initiation of therapy AND documented a follow-up plan

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

There may be times when it is not appropriate to assess for pain prior to initiation of therapy, due to:

- Documented reasons (eg, patient refuses to participate; severe mental and/or physical incapacity; patient is in urgent or emergent situation and to delay treatment would jeopardize the patient's health status)

There may be times when it is not appropriate to document a follow-up plan, due to:

- Documented reasons (eg, absence of pain on assessment, diagnosis/condition/illness if not situationally related to pain)

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

¹A standardized tool is an assessment tool that has been appropriately normalized and validated for the population in which it is used. Examples of tools for pain assessment which address location and/or intensity and or/description, include, but are not limited to, Brief Pain Inventory (BPI), Faces Pain Scale (FPS), McGill Pain Questionnaire (MPQ), Multidimensional Pain Inventory (MPI), Neuropathic Pain Scale (NPS), Numeric Rating Scale (NRS), Oswestry Disability Index (ODI), Roland Morris Disability Questionnaire (RMDQ), Verbal Descriptor Scale (VDS), Verbal Numeric Scale (VNRS), Visual Analog Scale (VAS).

²Follow-up Plan — Proposed outline of treatment to be conducted as a result of pain assessment. Such follow-up must include a reassessment of pain and may include documentation of a future appointment, education, referral, notification or primary care provider, etc.