MEASURE INFORMATION FORM

Project Title:

Dialysis Facility Compare – Standardized Hospitalization Ratio

Project Overview:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has contracted with the University of Michigan Kidney Epidemiology and Cost Center (UM-KECC) to calculate and report quality measures for public reporting on Dialysis Facility Compare.. The contract name is ESRD Quality Measure Development, Maintenance, and Support. The contract number is HHSM-500-2013-13017I.

Date:

Information included is current beginning with the measures reported in the Quarterly Dialysis Facility Compare Preview Period for October 2016 Report.

Measure Name

Standardized Hospitalization Ratio for Admissions

Descriptive Information

Measure Name (Measure Title De.2.)
Standardized Hospitalization Ratio for Admissions

Measure Type De.1.
Outcome

Brief Description of Measure De.3.
The Standardized Hospitalization Ratios (SHR) for admissions is designed to reflect the number of hospital admissions for the patients at a dialysis facility, relative to the number of hospital admissions that would be expected based on overall national rates and the characteristics of the patients at that facility. Numerically, the SHR is calculated as the ratio of two numbers: the numerator ("observed") is the actual number of hospital admissions for the patients in a facility over a specified time period, and the denominator ("expected") is the number of hospital admissions that would have been expected for the same patients if they were in a facility conforming to the national norm.

If Paired or Grouped De.4.
N/A

Subject/Topic Areas De.5.
Renal : Renal
Renal : End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD)

Crosscutting Areas De 6.
N/A

Measure Specifications

Measure-specific Web Page S.1.
N/A

If This Is an eMeasure S.2a.
N/A

Data Dictionary, Code Table, or Value Sets S.2b.
Available in attached Excel or csv file

For Endorsement Maintenance S.3.
N/A

Numerator Statement S.4.

Number of inpatient hospital admissions among eligible patients at the facility during the reporting period.

Time Period for Data S.5.

At least one year.

Numerator Details S.6.

The numerator is calculated through use of Medicare claims data. When a claim is made for an inpatient hospitalization, the patient is identified and attributed to a dialysis facility following rules discussed below in the denominator details. The numerator is the count of all such hospitalizations over the reporting period

Denominator Statement S.7.

Number of hospital admissions that would be expected among eligible patients at the facility during the reporting period, given the patient mix at the facility.

Target Population Category S.8.

Populations at Risk: Populations at Risk

Denominator Details S.9.

Assignment of Patients to Facilities

UM-KECC's treatment history file provides a complete history of the status, location, and dialysis treatment modality of an ESRD patient from the date of the first ESRD service until the patient dies or the data collection cutoff date is reached. For each patient, a new record is created each time he/she changes facility or treatment modality. Each record represents a time period associated with a specific modality and dialysis facility. SIMS/CROWNWeb is the primary basis for placing patients at dialysis facilities and dialysis claims are used as an additional source. Information regarding first ESRD service date, death and transplant is obtained from additional sources including the CMS Medical Evidence Form (Form CMS-2728), transplant data from the Organ Procurement and Transplant Network (OPTN), the Death Notification Form (Form CMS-2746) and the Social Security Death Master File.

As patients can receive dialysis treatment at more than one facility in a given year, we assign each patient day to a facility (or no facility, in some cases) based on a set of conventions below, which largely align with those for the Standardized Mortality Ratio (SMR). We detail patient inclusion criteria, facility assignment and how to count days at risk, all of which are required for the risk adjustment model.

General Inclusion Criteria for Dialysis Patients

Though a patient's follow-up in the database can be incomplete during the first 90 days of ESRD therapy, we only include a patient's follow-up into the tabulations after that patient has received chronic renal replacement therapy for at least 90 days. Thus, hospitalizations, mortality and survival during the first 90 days of ESRD do not enter into the calculations. This minimum 90-day period also assures that most patients are eligible for Medicare, either as their primary or secondary insurer. It also excludes from analysis patients who die or recover during the first 90 days of ESRD.

In order to exclude patients who only received temporary dialysis therapy, we assigned patients to a facility only after they had been on dialysis there for the past 60 days. This 60 day period is used both for patients who started ESRD for the first time and for those who returned to dialysis after a transplant. That is, hospitalizations during the first 60 days of dialysis at a facility do not affect the SHR of that facility.

Identifying Facility Treatment Histories for Each Patient

For each patient, we identify the dialysis provider at each point in time. Starting with day 91 after onset of ESRD, we attribute patients to facilities according to the following rules. A patient is attributed to a facility once the patient has been treated there for the past 60 days. When a patient transfers from one facility to another, the patient continues to be attributed to the original facility for 60 days and then is attributed to the destination facility. In particular, a patient is attributed to their current facility on day 91 of ESRD if that facility had treated him or her for the past 60 days. If on day 91, the facility had not treated a patient for the past 60 days, we wait until the patient reaches day 60 of continuous treatment at that facility before attributing the patient to that facility. When a patient is not treated in a single facility for a span of 60 days (for instance, if there were two switches within 60 days of each other), we do not attribute that patient to any facility. Patients are removed from facilities three days prior to transplant in order to exclude the transplant hospitalization. Patients who withdrew from dialysis or recovered renal function remain assigned to their treatment facility for 60 days after withdrawal or recovery.

If a period of one year passes with neither paid dialysis claims nor SIMS information to indicate that a patient was receiving dialysis treatment, we consider the patient lost to follow-up and do not include that patient in the analysis. If dialysis claims or other evidence of dialysis reappears, the patient is entered into analysis after 60 days of continuous therapy at a single facility.

Days at Risk for Medicare Dialysis Patients

After patient treatment histories are defined as described above, periods of follow-up in time since ESRD onset are created for each patient. In order to adjust for duration of ESRD appropriately, we define 6 time intervals with cut points at 6 months, 1 year, 2 years, 3 years and 5 years. A new time period begins each time the patient is determined to be at a different facility, or at the start of each calendar year or when crossing any of the above cut points.

Since hospitalization data tend not to be as complete as mortality data, we include only patients whose Medicare billing records should include all hospitalizations. To achieve this goal, we require that patients reach a certain level of Medicare-paid dialysis bills to be included in the hospitalization statistics, or that patients have Medicare-paid inpatient claims during the period. Specifically, months within a given dialysis patient-period are used for SHR calculation when they meet the criterion of being within two months after a month with either: (a) $900+ of Medicare-paid dialysis claims OR (b) at least one Medicare-paid inpatient claim. The intention of this criterion is to assure completeness of information on hospitalizations for all patients included in the analysis.

The number of days at risk in each of these patient-ESRD-facility-year time periods is used to calculate the expected number of hospital admissions for the patient during that period. The SHR for a facility is the ratio of the total number of observed hospitalizations to the total number of expected hospitalizations during all time periods at the facility. Based on a risk adjustment model for the overall national hospitalization rates, we compute the expected number of hospitalizations that would occur for each month that each patient is attributed to a given facility. The sum of all such expectations over patients and months yields the overall number of hospital admissions that would be expected given the specific patient mix and this forms the denominator of the measure.

The denominator of the SHR stems from a proportional rates model (Lawless and Nadeau, 1995; Lin et al., 2000; Kalbfleisch and Prentice, 2002). This is the recurrent event analog of the well-known proportional hazards or Cox model (Cox, 1972; Kalbfleisch and Prentice, 2002). To accommodate large-scale data, we adopt a model with piecewise constant baseline rates (e.g. Cook and Lawless, 2007) and the computational methodology developed in Liu, Schaubel and Kalbfleisch (2012).

Denominator Exclusions (NQF Includes "Exceptions" in the "Exclusion" Field) S.10.
None

Denominator Exclusion Details (NQF Includes "Exceptions" in the "Exclusion" Field) S.11.
N/A

Stratification Details/Variables S.12.
N/A

Risk Adjustment Type S.13.
Statistical risk model

Statistical Risk Model and Variables S.14.
The regression model used to compute a facility's "expected" number of hospitalizations for the SHR measure contains many factors thought to be associated with hospitalization rates. Specifically, the model adjusts for patient age, sex, diabetes as cause of ESRD, duration of ESRD, nursing home status, BMI at incidence, comorbidities at incidence, and calendar year. The stage 1 model allows the baseline hospitalization rates to vary between strata, which are defined by facilities, but assumes that the regression coefficients are the same across all strata; this approach is robust to possible differences between facilities in the patient mix being treated. In essence, it avoids a possible confounding between facility effects and patient covariates as can arise, for example, if patients with favorable values of the covariate tend to be treated at facilities with better treatment policies and outcomes. Thus, for example, if patients with diabetes as a cause of ESRD tended to be treated at better facilities, one would underestimate the effect of diabetes unless the model is adjusted for facility. In this model, this is done by stratification.

The patient characteristics included in the stage 1 model as covariates are:

- Age: We determine each patient's age for the birth date provided in the SIMS and REMIS databases and group patients into the following categories: 0-14 years old, 15-24 years old, 25-44 years old, 45-59 years old, 60-74 years old, or 75+ years old.
- Sex: We determine each patient's sex from his/her Medical Evidence Form (CMS-2728).
- Diabetes as cause of ESRD: We determine each patient's primary cause of ESRD from his/her CMS-2728.
- Duration of ESRD: We determine each patient's length of time on dialysis using the first service date from his/her CMS-2728, claims history (all claim types), the SIMS database and the SRTR database and categorize as 91 days-6 months, 6 months-1 year, 1-2 years, 2-3 years, 3-5 years, or 5+ years as of the period start date.
- Nursing home status: Using the Nursing Home Minimum Dataset, we determine if a patient was in a nursing home the previous year.
- BMI at incidence: We calculate each patient's BMI as the height and weight provided on his/her CMS 2728. BMI is included as a log-linear term.

- Comorbidities at incidence are determined using a selection of comorbidities reported on the CMS-2728 namely, alcohol dependence, atherosclerotic heart disease, cerebrovascular disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, congestive heart failure, diabetes (includes currently on insulin, on oral medications, without medications, and diabetic retinopathy), drug dependence, inability to ambulate, inability to transfer, malignant neoplasm, cancer, other cardiac disease, peripheral vascular disease, and tobacco use (current smoker). Each comorbidity is included as a separate covariate in the model.
- Calendar year
- Categorical indicator variables are included as covariates in the stage I model to account for records with missing values for cause of ESRD, comorbidities at incidence (missing CMS-2728), and BMI. These variables have a value of 1 if the patient is missing the corresponding variable and a value of 0 otherwise. Another categorical indicator variable is included as a covariate in the stage 1 model to flag records where the patient has at least one of the incident comorbidities listed earlier. This variable has a value of 1 if the patient has at least one of the comorbidities and a value of 0 otherwise.

Beside main effects, two-way interaction terms between age, sex and duration and cause of ESRD are also included:

- Diabetes as cause of ESRD*Duration of ESRD
- Diabetes as cause of ESRD*Sex
- Diabetes as cause of ESRD*Age
- Age*Sex

The denominator of the SHR stems from a proportional rates model (Lawless and Nadeau, 1995; Lin et al., 2000; Kalbfleisch and Prentice, 2002). This is the recurrent event analog of the well-known proportional hazards or Cox model (Cox, 1972; Kalbfleisch and Prentice, 2002). To accommodate large-scale data, we adopt a model with piecewise constant baseline rates (e.g. Cook and Lawless, 2007) and the computational methodology developed in Liu, Schaubel and Kalbfleisch (2012).

Detailed Risk Model Specifications S.15.

The denominator of the SHR stems from a proportional rates model (Lawless and Nadeau, 1995; Lin et al., 2000; Kalbfleisch and Prentice, 2002). This is the recurrent event analog of the well-known proportional hazards or Cox model (Cox, 1972; Kalbfleisch and Prentice, 2002). To accommodate large-scale data, we adopt a model with piecewise constant baseline rates (e.g. Cook and Lawless, 2007) and the computational methodology developed in Liu, Schaubel and Kalbfleisch (2012).

The modeling process has two stages. At stage I, a stratified model is fitted to the national data with piecewise-constant baseline rates and stratification by facility. Specifically, the model is of the following form

$$Pr(\text{hospital admission on day } t \text{ given covariates } X) = r_{0k}(t)\exp(\beta' X_{ik})$$

where X_{ik} is the vector of covariates for the i^{th} patient in the k^{th} facility and β is the vector of regression coefficients. Time t is measured from the start of ESRD. The baseline rate function $r_{0k}(t)$ is specific to the k^{th} facility, and is assumed to be a step function with break points at 6 months, 1 year, 2 years, 3 years and 5 years since the onset of dialysis. This model allows the baseline hospitalization rates to vary between strata (facilities), but assumes that the regression coefficients are the same across all strata; this approach is robust to possible differences between facilities in the patient mix

being treated. The stratification on facilities is important in this phase to avoid bias due to possible confounding between covariates and facility effects.

At stage II, the relative risk estimates from the first stage are used to create offsets and an unstratified model is fitted to obtain estimates of an overall baseline rate function. That is, we estimate a common baseline rate of admissions, $r_0(t)$, across all facilities by considering the model

$$Pr(\text{hospital admission on day } t \text{ given covariates } X) = r_0(t)\, R_{ik,}$$

where $R_{ik} = \exp(\beta' X_{ik})$ is the estimated relative risk for patient i in facility k obtained from the stage I. In our computation, we assume the baseline to be a step function with 6 unknown parameters, $\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_6$, to estimate. These estimates are used to compute the expected number of admissions given a patient's characteristics.

Specifically, let t_{iks} represent the number of days that patient i from facility k is under observation in the s^{th} time interval with estimated rate α_s. The corresponding expected number of hospital admissions in the s^{th} interval for this patient is calculated as

$$E_{iks} = \alpha_s\, t_{iks}\, R_{ik} \ .$$

It should be noted that t_{iks} and hence E_{iks} can be 0 if patient i from facility k is never at risk during the s^{th} time interval. Summing the E_{iks} over all 6 intervals and all N_k patients in facility k gives

$$\text{Exp} = \sum_{i=1}^{N_k} \sum_{s=1}^{6} E_{iks} = \sum_{i=1}^{N_k} \sum_{s=1}^{6} \alpha_s t_{iks} R_{ik} \quad ,$$

which is the expected number of hospital admissions during follow-up at that facility.

Let Obs be the observed total number of hospital admissions at this facility. The SHR for hospital admissions is the ratio of the observed total admissions to this expected value, or SHR = Obs/Exp

Type of Score S.16.
Ratio

Interpretation of Score S.17.
Better quality = lower score

Calculation Algorithm/Measure Logic S.18.
See denominator details and risk adjustment instructions. Also, a flowchart is included in the appendix.

Calculation Algorithm/Measure Logic Diagram URL or Attachment S.19.
Available in attached appendix

Sampling S.20.
N/A

Survey/Patient-Reported Data S.21.
N/A

Missing Data S.22.
Patients with missing data are not excluded from the model. For the purposes of calculation, missing values for BMI are replaced with mean values for patients of similar age and identical race, sex, and cause of ESRD. Missing values for cause of ESRD are replaced with the other/unknown category. No patients were missing age, sex, or date of first ESRD treatment. Indicator variables identifying patients with missing values for cause of ESRD, comorbidities at incidence (missing CMS-2728), and BMI are also included as covariates in the model. For 2010-2013, 3% of the patients included in the SHR model calculation were missing BMI.

Data Source S.23.
Administrative claims
Electronic Clinical Data: Electronic Clinical Data
UM-KECC ESRD patient database

Data Source or Collection Instrument S.24.
Data are derived from an extensive national ESRD patient database, which is largely derived from the CMS Consolidated Renal Operations in a Web-enabled Network (CROWN), which includes Renal Management Information System (REMIS), the CMS Annual Facility Survey (Form CMS-2744), the CMS Medical Evidence Form (Form CMS-2728), and the Death Notification Form (Form CMS-2746); Medicare dialysis and hospital payment records; transplant data from the Organ Procurement and Transplant Network (OPTN), the Nursing Home Minimum Dataset; the Quality Improvement Evaluation System (QIES) Workbench, which includes data from the Certification and Survey Provider Enhanced Report System (CASPER); the Dialysis Facility Compare (DFC) and the Social Security Death Master File. The database is comprehensive for Medicare patients. Non-Medicare patients are included in all sources except for the Medicare payment records. CROWNWeb provides tracking by dialysis provider and treatment modality for non-Medicare patients. In calculating the SHR, Medicare inpatient claims that are adjacent or overlap with another claim are collapsed into one record. Specifically, if the admission date of an inpatient record is within one day of a following admission's discharge date, these adjacent inpatient records will be collapsed into one inpatient record that takes on the first admission's admission date and the following admission's discharge date. Similarly, if an inpatient record overlaps with another inpatient record, the two records are collapsed into one record where the earliest admission date between the two records becomes the new admission date and the latest discharge date between the two records becomes the new discharge date.
We also exclude admissions to a skilled nursing facility from our calculation of the SHR.

Data Source or Collection Instrument (Reference) S.25.
N/A

Level of Analysis S.26.
Facility

Care Setting S.27.
Dialysis Facility

Composite Performance Measure S.28.
N/A