Measure #406: Appropriate Follow-up Imaging for Incidental Thyroid Nodules in Patients—National Quality Strategy Domain: Effective Clinical Care

2016 PQRS OPTIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL MEASURES:
CLAIMS, REGISTRY

DESCRIPTION:
Percentage of final reports for computed tomography (CT) or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) studies of the chest or neck or ultrasound of the neck for patients aged 18 years and older with no known thyroid disease with a thyroid nodule < 1.0 cm noted incidentally with follow-up imaging recommended

INSTRUCTIONS:
This measure is to be reported each time a patient undergoes a computed tomography or magnetic resonance imaging with an incidental thyroid nodule finding during the reporting period. There is no diagnosis associated with this measure. It is anticipated that clinicians who provide the professional component of diagnostic imaging studies for computed tomography or magnetic resonance imaging will submit this measure.

Measure Reporting via Claims:
CPT codes and patient demographics are used to identify patients who are included in the measure's denominator. Quality-data codes are used to report the numerator of the measure.

When reporting the measure via claims, submit the listed CPT codes, and the appropriate quality-data code. All measure-specific coding should be reported on the claim(s) representing the eligible encounter.

Measure Reporting via Registry:
CPT codes and patient demographics are used to identify patients who are included in the measure's denominator. The listed numerator options are used to report the numerator of the measure.

The quality-data codes listed do not need to be submitted for registry-based submissions; however, these codes may be submitted for those registries that utilize claims data.

DENOMINATOR:
All final reports for CT or MRI studies of the chest or neck or ultrasound of the neck for patients aged 18 and older with a thyroid nodule < 1.0 cm noted

DENOMINATOR NOTE: The intent of this measure is to ensure patients with incidental findings that are highly likely to be benign do not receive follow up imaging routinely.

Denominator Criteria (Eligible Cases):
Patients aged ≥ 18 years on date of encounter
AND
Patient encounter during the reporting period (CPT): 70490, 70491, 70492, 70540, 70542, 70543, 71250, 71260, 71270, 70498, 72125, 72126, 72127, 71550, 71551, 71552, 71554, 76536

NUMERATOR:
Final reports for CT or MRI of the chest or neck or ultrasound of the neck with follow-up imaging recommended for reports with a thyroid nodule < 1.0 cm noted

Numerator Instructions:
INVERSE MEASURE - A lower calculated performance rate for this measure indicates better clinical care or control. The "Performance Not Met" numerator option for this measure is the representation of the better clinical quality or control. Reporting that numerator option will produce a performance rate that trends closer
to 0%, as quality increases. For inverse measures a rate of 100% means all of the denominator eligible patients did not receive the appropriate care or were not in proper control, and therefore an inverse measure at 100% does not qualify for reporting purposes, however any reporting rate less than 100% does qualify.

**Numerator Quality-Data Coding Options for Reporting Satisfactorily:**

**Final Reports with Follow-Up Imaging Recommended**

*(Two G-codes [G9554 & G9552] are required on the claim form to submit this numerator option)*

**Performance Met: G9554:**

Final reports for CT or MRI of the chest or neck or ultrasound of the neck with follow-up imaging recommended

**AND**

G9552:

Incidental Thyroid Nodule < 1.0 cm noted in report

**OR**

**Documenting Medical Reason(s) for Recommending Follow-Up**

*(Two G-codes [G9555 & G9552] are required on the claim form to submit this numerator option)*

**Medical Performance Exclusion: G9555:**

Documentation of medical reason(s) for not including documentation that follow up imaging is not needed (e.g., patient has multiple endocrine neoplasia, patient has cervical lymphadenopathy, other medical reason(s))

**AND**

G9552:

Incidental Thyroid Nodule < 1.0 cm noted in report

**OR**

**Final Report without Incidental Finding**

**Other Performance Exclusion: G9557:**

Final reports for CT or MRI studies of the chest or neck or ultrasound of the neck without a thyroid nodule < 1.0 cm noted

**OR**

**Final Reports with Follow-Up Imaging not Recommended**

*(Two G-codes [G9556 & G9552] are required on the claim form to submit this numerator option)*

**Performance Not Met: G9556:**

Final reports for CT or MRI of the chest or neck or ultrasound of the neck with follow-up imaging not recommended

**AND**

G9552:

Incidental Thyroid Nodule < 1.0 cm noted in report

**RATIONALE:**

Thyroid nodules are common, with estimates of prevalence as high as 50%. Desser and Kamaya found that the majority of incidentally noted thyroid nodules were benign with approximately 5% being malignant. Due to the common nature of small thyroid nodules combined with the low malignancy

**CLINICAL RECOMMENDATION STATEMENTS:**

Nonpalpable nodules detected on US or other anatomic imaging studies are termed incidentally discovered nodules or "incidentalomas." Nonpalpable nodules have the same risk of malignancy as palpable nodules with the same size. Generally, only nodules >1 cm should be evaluated, since they have a greater potential to be clinically significant cancers. (ATA, 2009)
In patients <35 years with an ITN detected on CT, MRI, or extrathyroidal ultrasound, the Committee recommends further evaluation with dedicated thyroid ultrasound if the nodule is ≥1 cm and has no suspicious imaging features, and if the patient has normal life expectancy.

In patients ≥35 years with an ITN detected on CT, MRI, or extrathyroidal ultrasound, the Committee recommends further evaluation with dedicated thyroid ultrasound if the nodule is ≥1.5 cm and has no suspicious imaging features, and if the patient has normal life expectancy. (ACR, 2014)

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2016 Claims Individual Measure Flow
PQRS #406: Appropriate Follow-up Imaging for Incidental Thyroid Nodules in Patients

Denominator

Start

Patient Age
at Date of Service
≥ 18 Years

No

Not Included in
Eligible Population/
Denominator

Yes

Encounter
as Listed in Denominator*
(1/1/2016 thru
12/31/2016)

No

Include in Eligible
Population/Denominator
(8 procedures)

Yes

Numerator

Final Reports for CT or
MRI of the Chest or Neck or
Ultrasound of the Neck with Follow-
Up Imaging Recommended AND
Incidental Thyroid Nodule
< 1.0 cm Noted in Report

No

Documentation of
Medical Reason(s) that Follow-
Up Imaging is Needed AND Incidental
Thyroid Nodule < 1.0 cm
Noted in Report

Yes

Reporting Met +
Performance Exclusion
G9554 AND G9552
(1 procedure)
b¹

No

Final Reports for CT or
MRI of the Chest or
Neck or Ultrasound of the Neck
Without a Thyroid Nodule
< 1.0 cm Noted

Yes

Reporting Met +
Performance Exclusion
G9557
(0 procedures)b²

No

Final Reports for CT or
MRI of the Chest or
Neck or Ultrasound of the Neck
Without Follow-Up Imaging Not
Recommended AND Incidental
Thyroid Nodule < 1.0 cm
Noted in Report

Reporting Not Met
Quality Data Code or
equivalent not reported
(1 procedure)

No

Reporting Rate=
Performance Met (a=4 procedures) + Performance Exclusion (b¹+b²=1 procedure) + Performance Not Met (c=2 procedures) = 7 procedures, = 87.50%
Eligible Population / Denominator (d=8 procedures) = 8 procedures

Performance Rate=
Performance Met (a=4 procedures)
Reporting Numerator (7 procedures) - Performance Exclusion (b¹+b²=1 procedures) = 4 procedures, = 66.66%

NOTE: Reporting Frequency: Procedure

*See the posted Measure Specification for specific coding and instructions to report this measure.
**A lower calculated performance rate for this measure indicates better clinical control and care.

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The measure diagrams were developed by CMS as a supplemental resource to be used in conjunction with the measure specifications. They should not be used alone or as a substitution for the measure specification.
2016 Registry Individual Measure Flow
PQRS #406: Appropriate Follow-up Imaging for Incidental Thyroid Nodules In Patients

Denominator

Start

Yes

Final Reports for CT or MRI of the Chest or Neck or Ultrasound of the Neck with Follow-Up Imaging Recommended

Yes

Reporting Met + Performance Met G9554 or equivalent (4 procedures) a

No

No

Yes

Reporting Met + Performance Exclusion G9554 or equivalent (1 procedures) b

No

No

Yes

Reporting Met + Performance Not Met G9556 or equivalent (2 procedures) c

Patient Age at Date of Service ≥ 18 Years

Encounter as Listed in Denominator* (1/1/2016 thru 12/31/2016)

Incidental Thyroid Nodule < 1.0 cm Noted in Report G9552 or equivalent

Yes

Not Included in Eligible Population/Denominator

Yes

Include in Eligible Population/Denominator (8 procedures) d

Numerator

Documentation of Medical Reason(s) That Follow-up Imaging is Needed

No

Yes

Final Reports for CT or MRI of the Chest or Neck or Ultrasound of the Neck with Follow-up Imaging Not Recommended

Yes

Reporting Not Met Quality-Data Code or equivalent not reported (1 procedure)

SAMPLE CALCULATIONS:

Reporting Rate:
Performance Met (a=4 Procedures) + Performance Exclusion (b=1 Procedure) + Performance Not Met (c=2 procedures) = 7 procedures = 87.50%
Eligible Population / Denominator (d=8 procedures) = 8 procedures

Performance Rate:
Performance Met (a=4 procedures) = 4 procedures = 66.66%
Reporting Numerator (7 procedures) - Performance Exclusion (b=1 procedures) = 6 procedures

*See the posted Measure Specification for specific coding and instructions to report this measure.
**A lower calculated performance rate for this measure indicates better clinical control and care.

NOTE: Reporting Frequency: Procedure

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2016 Claims Individual Measure Flow
PQRS #406: Appropriate Follow-up Imaging for Incidental Thyroid Nodules In Patients

Please refer to the specific section of the Measure Specification to identify the denominator and numerator information for use in reporting this Individual Measure.

1. Start with Denominator

2. Check Patient Age:
   a. If the Age is greater than or equal to 18 years of age on Date of Service and equals No during the measurement period, do not include in Eligible Patient Population. Stop Processing.
   b. If the Age is greater than or equal to 18 years of age on Date of Service and equals Yes during the measurement period, proceed to check Encounter.

3. Check Encounter Performed:
   a. If Encounter as Listed in the Denominator equals No, do not include in Eligible Patient Population. Stop Processing.
   b. If Encounter as Listed in the Denominator equals Yes, include in the Eligible population.

4. Denominator Population:
   a. Denominator population is all Eligible Patients in the denominator. Denominator is represented as Denominator in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter d equals 8 procedures in the sample calculation.

5. Start Numerator

6. Check Final Reports for CT or MRI of the Chest or Neck or Ultrasound of the Neck with Follow-Up Imaging Recommended AND Incidental Thyroid Nodule < 1.0 cm Noted in Report:
   a. If Final Reports for CT or MRI of the Chest or Neck or Ultrasound of the Neck with Follow-Up Imaging Recommended AND Incidental Thyroid Nodule < 1.0 cm Noted in Report equals Yes, include in Reporting Met and Performance Met.
   b. Reporting Met and Performance Met letter is represented in the Reporting Rate and Performance Rate in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter a equals 4 procedures in Sample Calculation.
   c. If Final Reports for CT or MRI of the Chest or Neck or Ultrasound of the Neck with Follow-Up Imaging Recommended AND Incidental Thyroid Nodule < 1.0 cm Noted in Report equals No, proceed to Documentation of Medical Reason(s) That Follow-up Imaging is Needed AND Incidental Thyroid Nodule < 1.0 cm Noted in Report.

7. Check Documentation of Medical Reason(s) That Follow-up Imaging is Needed AND Incidental Thyroid Nodule < 1.0 cm Noted in Report:
   a. If Documentation of Medical Reason(s) That Follow-up Imaging is Needed AND Incidental Thyroid Nodule < 1.0 cm Noted in Report equals Yes, include in Reporting Met and Performance Exclusion.
b. Reporting Met and Performance Exclusion letter is represented in the Reporting Rate and Performance Rate in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter b1 equals 1 procedure in the Sample Calculation.

c. If Documentation of Medical Reason(s) That Follow-up Imaging is Needed AND Incidental Thyroid Nodule < 1.0 cm Noted in Report equals No, proceed to Final Reports for CT or MRI of the Chest or Neck or Ultrasound of the Neck Without a Thyroid Nodule < 1.0 cm Noted.

8. Check Final Reports for CT or MRI of the Chest or Neck or Ultrasound of the Neck Without a Thyroid Nodule < 1.0 cm Noted:

a. If Final Reports for CT or MRI of the Chest or Neck or Ultrasound of the Neck Without a Thyroid Nodule < 1.0 cm Noted equals Yes, include in Reporting Met and Performance Exclusion.

b. Reporting Met and Performance Exclusion letter is represented in the Reporting Rate and Performance Rate in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter b2 equals 0 procedures in the Sample Calculation.

c. If Final Reports for CT or MRI of the Chest or Neck or Ultrasound of the Neck Without a Thyroid Nodule < 1.0 cm Noted equals No, proceed to Final Reports for CT or MRI of the Chest or Neck or Ultrasound of the Neck with Follow-up Imaging Not Recommended AND Incidental Thyroid Nodule < 1.0 cm Noted in Report.

9. Check Final Reports for CT or MRI of the Chest or Neck or Ultrasound of the Neck with Follow-up Imaging Not Recommended AND Incidental Thyroid Nodule < 1.0 cm Noted in Report:

a. If Final Reports for CT or MRI of the Chest or Neck or Ultrasound of the Neck with Follow-up Imaging Not Recommended AND Incidental Thyroid Nodule < 1.0 cm Noted in Report equals Yes, include in Reporting Met and Performance Not Met.

b. Reporting Met and Performance Not Met letter is represented in the Reporting Rate and Performance Rate in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter c equals 2 procedures in the Sample Calculation.

c. If Final Reports for CT or MRI of the Chest or Neck or Ultrasound of the Neck with Follow-up Imaging Not Recommended AND Incidental Thyroid Nodule < 1.0 cm Noted in Report equals No, proceed to Reporting Not Met

10. Check Reporting Not Met:

a. If Reporting Not Met equals No, Quality Data Code or equivalent not reported. 1 procedure has been subtracted from the reporting numerator in the sample calculation.

### SAMPLE CALCULATIONS:

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Reporting Rate=</th>
<th>Performance Met (a=4 procedures) + Performance Exclusion (b^1+b^2=1 procedure) + Performance Not Met (c=2 procedures) = 7 procedures</th>
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<td></td>
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| Performance Rate= | Performance Met (a=4 procedures) | = 4 procedures | = 66.66% |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Reporting Numerator (7 procedures) - Performance Exclusion (b^1+b^2=1 procedures) | = 6 procedures |
2016 Registry Individual Measure Flow

**PQRS #406: Appropriate Follow-up Imaging for Incidental Thyroid Nodules In Patients**

Please refer to the specific section of the Measure Specification to identify the denominator and numerator information for use in reporting this Individual Measure.

1. **Start with Denominator**

2. **Check Patient Age:**
   a. If the Age is greater than or equal to 18 years of age on Date of Service and equals No during the measurement period, do not include in Eligible Patient Population. Stop Processing.
   b. If the Age is greater than or equal to 18 years of age on Date of Service and equals Yes during the measurement period, proceed to check Encounter.

3. **Check Encounter Performed:**
   a. If Encounter as Listed in the Denominator equals No, do not include in Eligible Patient Population. Stop Processing.
   b. If Encounter as Listed in the Denominator equals Yes, proceed to check Incidental Thyroid Nodule < 1.0 cm Noted in Report.

4. **Check Incidental Thyroid Nodule < 1.0 cm Noted in Report:**
   a. If Incidental Thyroid Nodule < 1.0 cm Noted in Report equals No, do not include in Eligible Patient Population. Stop Processing.
   b. If Incidental Thyroid Nodule < 1.0 cm Noted in Report equals Yes, include in the Eligible population.

5. **Denominator Population:**
   a. Denominator population is all Eligible Patients in the denominator. Denominator is represented as Denominator in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter d equals 8 procedures in the sample calculation.

6. **Start Numerator**

7. **Check Final Reports for CT or MRI of the Chest or Neck or Ultrasound of the Neck with Follow-Up Imaging Recommended:**
   a. If Final Reports for CT or MRI of the Chest or Neck or Ultrasound of the Neck with Follow-Up Imaging Recommended equals Yes, include in Reporting Met and Performance Met.
   b. Reporting Met and Performance Met letter is represented in the Reporting Rate and Performance Rate in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter a equals 4 procedures in Sample Calculation.
   c. If Final Reports for CT or MRI of the Chest or Neck or Ultrasound of the Neck with Follow-Up Imaging Recommended equals No, proceed to Documentation of Medical Reason(s) That Follow-up Imaging is Needed.

8. **Check Documentation of Medical Reason(s) That Follow-up Imaging is Needed:**
a. If Documentation of Medical Reason(s) That Follow-up Imaging is Needed equals Yes, include in Reporting Met and Performance Exclusion.

b. Reporting Met and Performance Exclusion letter is represented in the Reporting Rate and Performance Rate in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter b equals 1 procedure in the Sample Calculation.

c. If Documentation of Medical Reason(s) That Follow-up Imaging is Needed equals No, proceed to Final Reports for CT or MRI of the Chest or Neck or Ultrasound of the Neck with Follow-up Imaging Not Recommended.

9. Check Final Reports for CT or MRI of the Chest or Neck or Ultrasound of the Neck with Follow-up Imaging Not Recommended:

a. If Final Reports for CT or MRI of the Chest or Neck or Ultrasound of the Neck with Follow-up Imaging Not Recommended equals Yes, include in Reporting Met and Performance Not Met.

b. Reporting Met and Performance Not Met letter is represented in the Reporting Rate and Performance Rate in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter c equals 2 procedures in the Sample Calculation.

c. If Final Reports for CT or MRI of the Chest or Neck or Ultrasound of the Neck with Follow-up Imaging Not Recommended equals No, proceed to Reporting Not Met

10. Check Reporting Not Met:

a. If Reporting Not Met equals No, Quality Data Code or equivalent not reported. 1 procedure has been subtracted from the reporting numerator in the sample calculation.

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