**Measure #72 (NQF 0385): Colon Cancer: Chemotherapy for AJCC Stage III Colon Cancer Patients**
– National Quality Domain: Effective Clinical Care

**2015 PQRS Options for Individual Measures:**
Claims, Registry

**Description:**
Percentage of patients aged 18 through 80 years with AJCC Stage III colon cancer who are referred for adjuvant chemotherapy, prescribed adjuvant chemotherapy, or have previously received adjuvant chemotherapy within the 12-month reporting period

**Instructions:**
This measure is to be reported a minimum of once per reporting period for all patients with colon cancer seen during the reporting period. It is anticipated that clinicians who treat patients with colon cancer will submit this measure.

**Measure Reporting via Claims:**
ICD-9-CM/ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes, CPT codes, and patient demographics are used to identify patients who are included in the measure’s denominator. CPT Category II codes and quality-data codes are used to report the numerator of the measure.

When reporting the measure via claims, submit the listed ICD-9-CM/ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes, CPT codes, and the appropriate quality-data code AND/OR CPT Category II code OR the CPT Category II code with the modifier. The modifiers allowed for this measure are: 8P-reason not otherwise specified. All measure-specific coding should be reported on the claim(s) representing the eligible encounter.

**Measure Reporting via Registry:**
ICD-9-CM/ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes, 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 patients aged 18 through 80 years with AJCC Stage III colon cancer

**Denominator Criteria (Eligible Cases):**
Patients aged 18 through 80 years on date of encounter AND
Diagnosis for colon cancer (ICD-9-CM) [for use 1/1/2015-9/30/2015]: 153.0, 153.1, 153.2, 153.3, 153.4, 153.6, 153.7, 153.8, 153.9
Diagnosis for colon cancer (ICD-10-CM) [for use 10/01/2015-12/31/2015]: C18.0, C18.2, C18.3, C18.4, C18.5, C18.6, C18.7, C18.8, C18.9
AND
Patient encounter during the reporting period (CPT): 99201, 99202, 99203, 99204, 99205, 99212, 99213, 99214, 99215

**Numerator:**
Patients who are referred for chemotherapy, prescribed chemotherapy, or who have previously received adjuvant chemotherapy within the 12 month reporting period
Definitions:
Adjuvant Chemotherapy – According to current NCCN guidelines, the following therapies are recommended: 5-FU/LV/oxaliplatin (mFOLFOX6) as the standard of care (category 1); bolus 5-FU/LV/oxaliplatin (FLOX, category 1); capecitabine/oxaliplatin (CapeOx, category 1); or single agent capecitabine (category 2A) or 5-FU/LV (category 2A) in patients felt to be inappropriate for oxaliplatin therapy (NCCN, 2012). See clinical recommendation statement for cases where leucovorin is not available.

Prescribed – May include prescription ordered for the patient for adjuvant chemotherapy at one or more visits in the 12-month period OR patient already receiving adjuvant chemotherapy as documented in the current medication list.

NUMERATOR NOTE: The correct combination of numerator code(s) must be reported on the claim form in order to properly report this measure. The “correct combination” of codes may require the submission of multiple numerator codes.

Numerator Quality-Data Coding Options for Reporting Satisfactorily:
Adjuvant Chemotherapy Referred, Prescribed or Previously Received
(One quality-data code & one CPT II code [G8927 & 3388F] are required on the claim form to submit this numerator option)

Performance Met:
G8927: Adjuvant chemotherapy referred, prescribed or previously received for AJCC Stage III colon cancer

AND
CPT II 3388F: AJCC Colon Cancer Stage III, documented

OR
Adjuvant Chemotherapy not Referred, Prescribed or Previously Received for Documented Reasons
(One quality-data code & one CPT II code [G8928 & 3388F] are required on the claim form to submit this numerator option)

Other Performance Exclusion:
G8928: Adjuvant chemotherapy not prescribed or previously received for documented reasons (eg, medical co-morbidities, diagnosis date more than 5 years prior to the current visit date, patient’s diagnosis date is within 120 days of the end of the 12 month reporting period, patient’s cancer has metastasized, medical contraindication/allergy, poor performance status, other medical reasons, patient refusal, other patient reasons, patient is currently enrolled in a clinical trial that precludes prescription of chemotherapy, other system reasons)

AND
CPT II 3388F: AJCC Colon Cancer Stage III, documented

OR
If patient is not eligible for this measure because patient is not stage III colon cancer, report:
Patient not Stage III Colon Cancer
(One CPT II code [33xxF] is required on the claim form to submit this numerator option)

Other Performance Exclusion: CPT II 3382F: AJCC Colon Cancer Stage 0, documented

OR
Other Performance Exclusion: CPT II 3384F: AJCC Colon Cancer Stage I, documented

OR
Other Performance Exclusion: CPT II 3386F: AJCC Colon Cancer Stage II, documented
OR
Other Performance Exclusion: CPT II 3390F: AJCC Colon Cancer Stage IV, documented

OR

If patient is not eligible for this measure because cancer stage is not documented, report:
Cancer Stage not Documented
(One CPT II code [3382F-8P] is required on the claim form to submit this category)
Append a reporting modifier (8P) to CPT Category II code 3382F to report circumstances when the patient is not eligible for the measure.
Other Performance Exclusion: 3382F with 8P: No documentation of cancer stage

OR

Adjuvant Chemotherapy not Referred, Prescribed or Previously Received, Reason not Given
(One quality-data code & one CPT II code [G8929 & 3388F] are required on the claim form to submit this numerator option)
Report G8929 in circumstances when the action described in the numerator is not performed and the reason is not given.
Performance Not Met:
G8929: Adjuvant chemotherapy not prescribed or previously received, reason not given
AND
CPT II 3388F: AJCC Colon Cancer Stage III, documented

RATIONALE:
The receipt of adjuvant chemotherapy in AJCC Stage III colon cancer patients following primary surgical treatment is associated with a significant survival benefit.

CLINICAL RECOMMENDATION STATEMENTS:
For stage III patients (T1-4, N1-2, M0), the panel recommends 6 months of adjuvant chemotherapy following primary surgical treatment. The treatment options are: 5-FU/LV/oxaliplatin (mFOLFOX6) as the standard of care (category 1); bolus 5-FU/LV/oxaliplatin (FLOX, category 1), capecitabine/oxaliplatin (CapeOx, category 1); or single agent capecitabine (category 2A) or 5-FU/LV (category 2A) in patients felt to be inappropriate for oxaliplatin therapy. (NCCN, 2012)

There is currently a shortage of leucovorin in the United States. There are no specific data to guide management under these circumstances, and all proposed strategies are empiric. The panel recommends several possible options to help alleviate the problems associated with this shortage. One is the use of levo-leucovorin, which is commonly used in Europe. A dose of 200 mg/m² of levo–leucovorin is equivalent to 400 mg/m² of standard leucovorin. Another option is for practices or institutions to use lower doses of leucovorin for all doses in all patients, since the panel feels that lower doses are likely to be as efficacious as higher doses, based on several studies. Finally, if none of the above options are available, treatment without leucovorin would be reasonable. (NCCN, 2012)