

How do the Measures Relate to My Health?

As a consumer, the more you know about your health and the care that you are receiving, the more you can participate in important decisions with your doctor and achieve the best overall health for you. The information below will help you understand the care that is connected to the measures reported in CheckPoint. For additional information about your health, contact your doctor or other health care resources.

Health Care Associated Infections

- **Central Line Infections – (CLABSI)**

A central line is a narrow tube inserted by a doctor into a large vein of a patient's neck or chest to give important medical treatment. When not put in correctly or kept clean, central lines can be an easy way for germs to enter the body and cause serious infections in the blood. These infections are mostly preventable when the physicians and hospital staff follow strict protocols when they put the line in and when they take care of the line. Central line infections are reported as a ratio which compares each hospital to other similar hospitals in the nation. Ratios less than one mean the hospital had fewer infections than expected, when compared to similar hospitals. Ratios greater than one mean the hospital had more infections than expected.

- **Catheter Associated Urinary Tract Infections – (CAUTI)**

A urinary catheter is a drainage tube that is inserted into a patient's urinary bladder through the urethra and is left in place to collect urine while a patient is unable to use the bathroom. When not put in correctly or kept clean, or if left in place for long periods of time, catheters can become an easy way for germs to enter the body and cause serious infections in the urinary tract. These infections are called Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTIs), and they can cause additional illness. CAUTIs are mostly preventable when healthcare providers use strict protocols when they put in and care for the catheter. It is also important to remove a catheter as soon as it is no longer needed.

- **Surgical Site Infections – (SSI)**

A surgical operative procedure is one that is performed on a patient in an operating room where a surgeon makes at least one incision through the skin or mucous membrane to give important medical treatment. When not conducted in a sterile environment and following sterile procedures, a surgical site can become an easy way for germs to enter the body and cause serious infections in a patient, which can affect the skin, tissues under the skin, organs, or implanted material. These infections are called Surgical Site Infections (SSIs). SSIs are mostly preventable when healthcare providers use proper procedures to maintain a sterile environment in the operating room and give patients an antibiotic right before surgery to reduce the chance of an infection. Infections are reported for colon surgery and abdominal hysterectomy, which are two procedures that have a higher risk of infection.

Mortality

- **Heart Attack**

This is a measure of Medicare patients that died from any cause within 30 days of a hospital admission for a heart attack, regardless of whether the patient died while still in the hospital or after leaving the hospital.

- **Heart Failure**

This is a measure of Medicare patients that died from any cause within 30 days of a hospital admission for heart failure, regardless of whether the patient died while still in the hospital or after leaving the hospital.

- **Pneumonia**

This is a measure of Medicare patients that died from any cause within 30 days of a hospital admission for pneumonia, regardless of whether the patient died while still in the hospital or after leaving the hospital.

Patient Experience of Care Survey (HCAHPS)

The Patient Experience of Care (HCAHPS) survey results reflect the patient's perception of care received during a recent hospitalization. These perceptions are collected by sending surveys to patients after they leave the hospital. This information allows consumers to make fair and objective comparisons between hospitals and of individual hospitals to state and national benchmarks.

Readmissions

The readmission measures indicate patients that had to return to a hospital, for any reason, within 30 days of leaving. In some cases patients need to go back to a hospital for the same problem and sometimes it is for a different problem that is unrelated to their first hospital stay. Hospital staff can help prevent readmissions by making sure patients get the proper care while in the hospital and helping the patient understand what they need to do when they go home. When a patient leaves the hospital it is important to take all of their medications, in the way they are supposed to be taken and to have good plans for follow-up care with their physician and other caregivers.

- **Heart Attack**

This measure reflects Medicare patients who had a recent hospital stay for a heart attack and had to back to a hospital within 30 days of leaving.

- **Heart Failure**

This measure reflects Medicare patients who had a recent hospital stay for heart failure and had to back to a hospital within 30 days of leaving.

- **Pneumonia**

This measure reflects Medicare patients who had a recent hospital stay for pneumonia and had to back to a hospital within 30 days of leaving.