Physician-Level Oncology Measures

The demand for widely vetted, physician-level quality measures continues to grow. Recent legislation (The Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006) and programs from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) require measures developed through a multidisciplinary consensus process that includes an open public comment period. The American Medical Association (AMA)–convened Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement (PCPI) is the primary physician-led organization devoted to generating quality measures using a process that meets these criteria.

Broad-based physician-level measures are needed in oncology, and the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) has been active for many years in quality measure development (Table 1). To address this need, ASCO partnered with the American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology (ASTRO) and the AMA PCPI in March 2007 to develop oncology clinical performance measures.

Under the leadership of Patricia A. Ganz, MD, (ASCO co-chair), and James Hayman, MD, (ASTRO co-chair), an interdisciplinary group of more than 45 members convened to review candidate measures proposed by ASTRO and

ASCO. Several of the measures are derived from the ASCO/National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Quality Measures; developed in coordination with the NCCN for quality assessment at the group or institutions level; and from ASCO's Quality Oncology Practice Initiative. The Oncology Measures are listed in Table 2.

Many of the measures resulting from the AMA PCPI/ASTRO/ASCO workgroup are intended to replace the current oncology measures in the CMS Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI). For that reason, and to facilitate implementation in other settings, the measures are specified for data collection through the billing claims system. Codes were specified for these measures, including *International Classification of Diseases, ninth revision* and *Current Procedural Terminology* (Evaluation & Management Codes, Category I codes) to identify the appropriate population, and Category II codes to report the numerator for the measure.

About the AMA PCPI

The PCPI was established to take a leadership role in the development, testing, and maintenance of evidence-based

Table 1. ASCO-Developed Oncology Measures

Measures	Description	Source
NICCQ	61 breast and colorectal cancer measures, validated by Harvard University and RAND, implemented in a comprehensive study of almost 2,000 patients in five metropolitan areas	Malin JL, Schneider EC, Epstein AM, et al: Results of the National Initiative for Cancer Care Quality: How can we improve the quality of cancer care in the United States? J Clin Oncol 24:626-634, 2006
ASCO/NCCN quality measures	Developed in a partnership with the NCCN, the ASCO/NCCN Quality Measures were built upon the NICCQ quality measures and recommendations of the NCCN Breast Cancer, Colon Cancer, and Rectal Cancer Guidelines; the seven measures are intended to assess hospital or system-level performance	www.asco.org/qualitymeasures
QOPI	More than 50 measures implemented in a voluntary, oncologist-led quality improvement project; the process and structure measures assess quality in four cancer diagnoses and several domains of care	www.asco.org/qopi
AMA PCPI/ASTRO/ASCO oncology measures	Physician-level quality measures; nine appropriate for use in accountability programs, one for quality improvement; the measures are intended for use by oncologists or others managing the care of patients with cancer	To be published at www.asco.org and www.physicianconsortium.org

NOTE. Under the leadership of Patricia A. Ganz, MD (ASCO co-chair), and James Hayman, MD, (ASTRO co-chair), an interdisciplinary group of more than 45 members convened to review candidate measures proposed by ASTRO and ASCO. Several of the measures are derived from the ASCO/NCCN Quality Measures; developed in coordination with the NCCN for quality assessment at the group or institutions level; and from ASCO's Quality Oncology Practice Initiative. The Oncology Measures are listed in Table 2.

Abbreviations: ASCO, American Society of Clinical Oncology; NICCQ, National Initiative on Cancer Care Quality; ASTRO, American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology; NCCN, National Comprehensive Cancer Network; QOPI, Quality Oncology Practice Initiative; PCPI, Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement.

Table 2. AMA PCPI/ASTRO/ASCO Oncology Measures

Measure
Accountability
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cancer stage documented• Hormone therapy for stage IC-III, ER- or PR-positive breast cancer• Chemotherapy for stage III colon cancer patients• Plan for chemotherapy documented before chemotherapy administered• Radiation oncology treatment summary communicated• Normal tissue dose constraints specified• Pain intensity quantified• Plan of care for pain documented• Pathology report in chart prior to treatment
Quality improvement only
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medical oncology treatment summary documented and communicated• Pathology report in chart prior to treatment

NOTE. For a complete list of measures and specifications, see www.physicianconsortium.org/. Many of the measures resulting from the AMA PCPI/ASTRO/ASCO workgroup are intended to replace the current oncology measures in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Physician Quality Reporting Initiative. For that reason, and to facilitate implementation in other settings, the measures are specified for data collection through the billing claims system. Codes were specified for these measures, including *International Classification of Diseases, ninth revision* and *Current Procedural Terminology* (Evaluation & Management Codes, Category I codes) to identify the appropriate population, and Category II codes to report the numerator for the measure.

Abbreviations: AMA, American Medical Association; PCPI, Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement; ASTRO, American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology; ASCO, American Society of Clinical Oncology; ER, estrogen receptor; PR, progesterone receptor.

clinical performance measures and measurement resources for physicians. ASCO and ASTRO are members of the PCPI, along with more than 100 national medical specialty and state medical societies; the Council of Medical Specialty Societies; American Board of Medical Specialties and its member boards; experts in methodology and data collection; the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; and CMS.

PCPI develops performance measures through cross-specialty work groups focused on specific clinical conditions. Performance measures developed by PCPI and lead organizations are intended to be:

- based on established clinical recommendations;
- actionable; and
- feasible for data collection through existing data sources.

The Consortium seeks to specify measures for implementation using multiple data sources, including paper medical records, administrative data, and particular emphasis on electronic health record systems.

Next Steps for Oncology Measure Set

The AMA PCPI posted the oncology measures for public comment in August 2007. The full PCPI membership will vote on the proposed measure set in fall 2007, and the final set will be published online. The final oncology measure set will also be reviewed by the AQA in fall 2007. Measures supported by the AQA will be eligible for inclusion in the 2008 CMS PQRI program. Finally, the measures will be submitted to the National Quality Forum to seek endorsement as national consensus standards.

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