PATIENT OUTCOME MEASURES

Comfortable Dying Measure: Comfort Within 48 Hours of Initial Assessment after Admission

Measure Specifications

Description: Percentage of patients who reported being uncomfortable because of pain at the initial assessment after admission to hospice services whose pain was brought to a comfortable level, as defined/reported by the patient, within 48 hours of the initial assessment.

Numerator: Number of patients who reported being uncomfortable because of pain who report pain was brought to a comfortable level within 48 hours of initial assessment after admission to hospice services.

Denominator: Number of patients who reported being uncomfortable because of pain at initial assessment after admission to hospice services.

Steps for Measure Administration:

1. At initial assessment after admission to hospice services, prior to beginning a clinical pain assessment, the nurse will ask the question: “Are you uncomfortable because of pain?”
2. If the patient responds “yes” and meets the eligibility criteria for the measure, the patient’s response is documented and the patient is included in the measure.
3. If the patient responds “no” the patient’s response is documented, and the patient is excluded from the measure.
4. The nurse proceeds with the clinical pain assessment, initiating intervention as clinically appropriate to improve management of patient’s pain, according to the policies and procedures for pain management established by the hospice.

5. From 48 to 72 hours after the initial assessment, the hospice will contact the patient and ask the question: “Was your pain brought to a comfortable level within 48 hours of the start of hospice care?” The patient’s response is documented.

6. If no patient response is obtained within 72 hours after the initial assessment, document the reason: a) patient no longer enrolled in hospice due to death; b) patient no longer enrolled in hospice due to discharge or revocation; c) patient unable to communicate due to deterioration in condition; d) follow-up not done within 72 hours; e) other reason with explanation.