*Measure #154: Falls: Risk Assessment

2011 PHYSICIAN QUALITY REPORTING OPTIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL MEASURES:
CLAIMS, REGISTRY

This is a two-part measure which is paired with Measure #155: Falls: Plan of Care. If the falls risk assessment indicates the patient has documentation of two or more falls in the past year or any fall with injury in the past year (CPT II code 1100F is submitted), #155 *should* also be reported.

DESCRIPTION:
Percentage of patients aged 65 years and older with a history of falls who had a risk assessment for falls completed within 12 months

INSTRUCTIONS:
This measure is to be reported a minimum of once per reporting period for patients seen during the reporting period. There is no diagnosis associated with this measure. This measure is appropriate for use in all non-acute settings (excludes emergency departments and acute care hospitals). This measure may be reported by clinicians who perform the quality actions described in the measure based on the services provided and the measure-specific denominator coding.

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

When reporting the measure via claims, submit the listed CPT codes, and the appropriate CPT Category II codes OR the CPT Category II code(s) with the modifier. The modifiers allowed for this measure are: 1P- medical reasons, 8P- reason not otherwise specified. 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 numerator options as described in the quality-data codes 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 65 years and older who have a history of falls

Denominator Criteria (Eligible Cases):
Patients aged ≥ 65 years on date of encounter
AND

Patient encounter during the reporting period (CPT): 97001, 97002, 97003, 97004, 99201, 99202, 99203, 99204, 99205, 99212, 99213, 99214, 99215, 99304, 99305, 99306, 99307, 99308, 99309, 99310, 99324, 99325, 99326, 99327, 99328, 99334, 99335, 99336, 99337, 99341, 99342, 99343, 99344, 99345, 99347, 99348, 99349, 99350

NUMERATOR:
Patients who had a risk assessment for falls completed within 12 months

Numerator Instructions: All components do not need to be completed during one patient visit, but should be documented in the medical record as having been performed within the past 12 months.

Definitions:
Fall – A sudden, unintentional change in position causing an individual to land at a lower level, on an object, the floor, or the ground, other than as a consequence of sudden onset of paralysis, epileptic seizure, or overwhelming external force.
Risk Assessment – Comprised of balance/gait AND one or more of the following: postural blood pressure, vision, home fall hazards, and documentation on whether medications are a contributing factor or not to falls within the past 12 months.

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:
Risk Assessment for Falls Completed
(Two CPT II codes [3288F & 1100F] are required on the claim form to submit this numerator option)
CPT II 3288F: Falls risk assessment documented
AND
CPT II 1100F: Patient screened for future fall risk; documentation of two or more falls in the past year or any fall with injury in the past year

OR

Risk Assessment for Falls not Completed for Medical Reasons
(Two CPT II codes [3288F-1P & 1100F] are required on the claim form to submit this numerator option)
Append a modifier (1P) to CPT Category II code 3288F to report documented circumstances that appropriately exclude patients from the denominator.
3288F *with* 1P: Documentation of medical reason(s) for not completing a risk assessment for falls
AND
CPT II 1100F: Patient screened for future fall risk; documentation of two or more falls in the past year or any fall with injury in the past year

OR

If patient is not eligible for this measure because patient has documentation of no falls or only one fall without injury the past year, report:
Patient not at Risk for Falls
(One CPT II code [1101F] is required on the claim form to submit this numerator option)
CPT II 1101F: Patient screened for future fall risk; documentation of no falls in the past year or only one fall without injury in the past year

OR

If patient is not eligible for this measure because falls status is not documented, report:
Falls Status not Documented
(One CPT II code [1101F-8P] is required on the claim form to submit this numerator option)
Append a reporting modifier (8P) to CPT Category II code 1101F to report circumstances when the patient is not eligible for the measure.
1101F *with* 8P: No documentation of falls status

OR

Risk Assessment for Falls not Completed, Reason not Specified
(Two CPT II codes [3288F-8P & 1100F] are required on the claim form to submit this numerator option)
Append a reporting modifier (8P) to CPT Category II code 3288F to report circumstances when the action described in the numerator is not performed and the reason is not otherwise specified.
3288F *with* 8P: Falls risk assessment not completed, reason not otherwise specified
AND
CPT II 1100F: Patient screened for future fall risk; documentation of two or more falls in the past year or any fall with injury in the past year

RATIONALE:
Screening for specific medical conditions may direct the therapy. Although the clinical guidelines and supporting evidence calls for an evaluation of many factors, it was felt that for the purposes of measuring performance and facilitating implementation this initial measure must be limited in scope. For this reason, the work group defined an evaluation of balance and gait as a core component that must be completed on all patients with a history of falls as well as four additional evaluations – at least one of which must be completed within the 12 month period. Data elements required for the measure can be captured and the measure is actionable by the physician.

CLINICAL RECOMMENDATION STATEMENTS:
Older people who present for medical attention because of a fall, or report recurrent falls in the past year, or demonstrate abnormalities of gait and/or balance should be offered a multifactorial falls risk assessment. This assessment should be performed by a health care professional with appropriate skills and experience, normally in the setting of a specialist falls service. This assessment should be part of an individualized, multifactorial intervention. (NICE) (Grade C)
Multifactorial assessment may include the following:

- identification of falls history
- assessment of gait, balance and mobility, and muscle weakness

- assessment of osteoporosis risk
- assessment of the older person's perceived functional ability and fear relating to falling
- assessment of visual impairment
- assessment of cognitive impairment and neurological examination
- assessment of urinary incontinence
- assessment of home hazards
- cardiovascular examination and medication review (NICE) (Grade C)

A falls risk assessment should be performed for older persons who present for medical attention because of a fall, report recurrent falls in the past year, report difficulties in walking or balance or fear of falling, or demonstrate unsteadiness or difficulty performing a gait and balance test.

The falls risk evaluation should be performed by a clinician with appropriate skills and experience. [C]

A falls risk assessment is a clinical evaluation that should include the following, but are not limited to:

- a history of fall circumstances
- review of all medications and doses
- evaluation of gait and balance, mobility levels and lower extremity joint function
- examination of vision
- examination of neurological function, muscle strength, proprioception, reflexes, and tests of cortical, extrapyramidal, and cerebellar function
- cognitive evaluation
- screening for depression
- assessment of postural blood pressure
- assessment of heart rate and rhythm
- assessment of heart rate and rhythm, and blood pressure responses to carotid sinus stimulation if appropriate
- assessment of home environment

The falls risks assessment should be followed by direct intervention on the identified risk. [A] (AGS)