TOBACCO TREATMENT INPATIENT QUALITY MEASURES

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The Joint Commission has included a tobacco treatment measure set in their National Hospital Inpatient Quality Measures. CMS has not included in this measure set in their core measure program.
Tobacco use is the single greatest cause of disease in the USA and accounts for more than 435,000 deaths each year (CDC MMWR 2008: McGinnis 1993).

Smoking attributed health care expenditures are estimated at $96 billion per year in direct medical expenses and $97 billion in lost productivity (CDC 2007).
There is strong evidence that dependence interventions, if delivered in a timely and effective manner significantly reduce the user’s risk of suffering tobacco related diseases and improves outcomes for those already suffering from such diseases.

With this in mind, hospitalized patients must be screened within the first three days of admission for tobacco use within the past 30 days.

Cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, pipes and cigars are all considered tobacco use for this measure.
Hospitalized patients identified as tobacco product users within the past 30 days must be offered practical counseling. As always these patients may refuse such counseling. This refusal must be documented in the medical record.

These patients must be offered an FDA approved cessation medication within 3 days of hospital admission.

If there is a reason that a cessation medication is not received by the patient (refusal, allergy, current medical condition etc.) this must be documented in the medical record.
At discharge, patients identified as tobacco product users within the past 30 days should be referred for outpatient counseling. As always these patients may refuse such counseling. This refusal must be documented in the medical record.

At discharge, patients should be offered a prescription for a FDA approved cessation medication.

If there is a reason, such as patient refusal or allergy, that a cessation medication is not prescribed at discharge, this must be documented in the medical record.

TOBACCO USE TREATMENT OFFERED OR PROVIDED AT DISCHARGE
Discharged patients who are identified through the inpatient screening process as having used tobacco products within the past 30 days should be contacted between 15 and 30 days after hospital discharge to discuss their current tobacco use status.

Documentation of this follow-up assessment must include the identification of the person contacted, the contact date and the person’s tobacco use status including counseling, cessation medication and their progress toward quitting tobacco use.
Overall exclusions:
- Patients less than 18 years of age
- Patients who are cognitively impaired
- Patients with a hospital stay of less than or equal to 3 days.
- Patients with comfort measures only

For the follow-up assessment measures these patients are also excluded:
- Patients who are discharged to another hospital, health care facility or hospice
- Patients leaving AMA
- Patients who do not live in the USA
- Patients with out a phone or contact information
- Patients discharged to jail
- Patients who are readmitted within 15-30 days of discharge.

PATIENTS EXCLUDED FROM THIS MEASURE SET
TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. ONLY CIGARETTES AND CIGARS ARE CONSIDERED TOBACCO PRODUCTS FOR THE TOBACCO USE ASSESSMENT SCREENING.

   A. True
   B. False
TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

2. PATIENTS IDENTIFIED AS TOBACCO PRODUCT USERS SHOULD BE OFFERED ___________________ AND ___________________ WITHIN THREE DAYS AFTER ADMISSION.

A. Counseling and a FDA approved cessation medication
B. A blanket and a pass to smoke outside
C. A book to read and extra munchies since they cannot smoke in the hospital
TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

3. A FOLLOW UP CALL TO TOBACCO PRODUCT USE PATIENTS TO ASSESS THEIR TOBACCO USE STATUS AFTER DISCHARGE SHOULD BE CONDUCTED WITHIN _______________ DAYS OF DISCHARGE.

A. 10-20
B. 15-30
C. 5-30
THE END