

How to Build a Family of Measures for Improving Postpartum Care

Measuring progress is essential to successful quality improvement (QI) initiatives. There are three types of measures in quality improvement QI: outcome measures, process measures, and balancing measures. Taken together, these three measure types make up a family of measures. Below are suggestions for how to build a family of measures for a quality improvement project to improve postpartum care.

- Review the measures in the tables below for outcome, process, and balancing measures that may be used in your QI project. Adapt the measures as needed for your project. You may also want to use measures you are currently collecting, stratify existing measures, or develop your own measures.
- An ideal family of measures includes no more than seven measures. Consider starting with one measure in each category and adding additional measures over time.
- **Outcome measures:** Outcome measures capture what you are trying to accomplish and how you will know you've achieved improvement. *Recommendation: 1-2 measures.*
- **Process measures:** Process measures capture the incremental changes you are testing that will collectively improve your outcome measure(s). Your process measures should relate to your outcome and be calculated frequently (for example, monthly). *Recommendation: 3-4 measures.*
- **Balancing measures:** Balancing measures capture other consequences, both intended and unintended, that might result as part of your project. *Recommendation: 1 measure.*
- **A Note About Claims Lag:** Claims lag can be a concern when using data for improvement. It is acceptable to look at your quality measures before all the claims have been submitted; 1-2 months runout may be sufficient. For QI projects, you are looking for signs of progress, not perfection. You may test the impact of shorter claims run out by calculating the measure with 1-month runout, 2 months, 3 months, etc. This will help you better understand the impact of claims lag on your QI project measures. Note that measures for accountability, such as those needed to assess contract performance or for incentive payments, require more rigor and longer claims run out.

Improving Postpartum Care: Measurement Strategy

Outcome Measures	(Recommendation: 1-2 measures)	
Measure Name and Brief Description	Measure Specification Description	Data Source
<p>Prenatal and Postpartum Care: Postpartum care (PPC-AD Core Set measure)</p> <p>Percentage of deliveries that had a postpartum visit on or between 7 and 84 days after delivery</p>	<p>Numerator: Beneficiaries that had a postpartum visit on or between 7 and 84 days after delivery</p> <p>(Beneficiaries with postpartum visit on or between 7 and 84 days after delivery)</p> <hr/> <p>(Beneficiaries who had a live birth)</p> <p>Denominator: Beneficiaries who had a live birth</p> <p>Exclusions. Beneficiaries without continuous enrollment that includes 43 days prior to delivery through 60 days after delivery</p>	<p>Administrative data, medical records, claims</p>
<p>Beneficiaries with diabetes and/or hypertension with a postpartum care visit</p> <p>Percentage of deliveries to beneficiaries with diabetes and/or hypertension that had a postpartum visit within 3 weeks of delivery</p>	<p>Numerator: Beneficiaries with a diagnosis of diabetes and/or hypertension who had a postpartum care visit within 3 weeks after delivery</p> <p>(Beneficiaries with postpartum visit within 3 weeks after delivery)</p> <hr/> <p>(Beneficiaries with diabetes and/or hypertension who had a live birth)</p> <p>Denominator: Beneficiaries with diabetes and/or hypertension who had a live birth</p>	<p>Medical records, claims data</p>

Process Measures		(Recommendation: 3-4 measures)
Measure Name	Measure Specification Description	Data Source
Beneficiaries with diabetes and/or hypertension with postpartum admission to hospital	Numerator: Beneficiaries with a diagnosis of diabetes and/or hypertension who had a postpartum admission to a hospital within 60 days after delivery (Beneficiaries with a postpartum hospital admission within 60 days after delivery)	Medical records, claims data
	(Beneficiaries with diabetes and/or hypertension who had a live birth) Denominator: Beneficiaries with diabetes and/or hypertension who had a live birth	
Beneficiaries with diabetes and/or hypertension with emergency department visits	Numerator: Beneficiaries with diabetes and/or hypertension with one or more emergency department visits within 60 days after delivery (Beneficiaries with one or more emergency department visits within 60 days after delivery)	Medical records, claims data
	Beneficiaries with diabetes and/or hypertension who had a live birth) Denominator: Beneficiaries with diabetes and/or hypertension who had a live birth	
Postpartum beneficiaries with diabetes and/or hypertension that connect to case manager or care coordinator	Numerator: Beneficiaries with diabetes and/or hypertension who had a visit or phone call with case manager or coordinator during pregnancy or after delivery (Beneficiaries who had a visit or phone call with care coordinator or manager during pregnancy or after delivery)	Medical records, reports from case managers or care coordinators
	(Beneficiaries with diabetes and/or hypertension who had a live birth) Denominator: Beneficiaries with diabetes and/or hypertension who had a live birth	
Postpartum beneficiaries enrolled in care management or care coordination programs	Numerator: Beneficiaries enrolled in care management or care coordination who had postpartum visits on or between 7 and 84 days after delivery	Medical records, reports from case managers or care coordinators

Process Measures		(Recommendation: 3-4 measures)
Measure Name	Measure Specification Description	Data Source
who had postpartum visits on or between 7 and 84 days after delivery	(Beneficiaries enrolled in care management or care coordination with postpartum visits on or between 7 and 84 days after delivery)	
	(Beneficiaries enrolled in care management or care coordination who had a live birth) Denominator: Beneficiaries enrolled in care management or care coordination who had a live birth	

Balancing Measures		(Recommendation: 1 measure)
Measure Name	Measure Specification Description	Data Source
Postpartum Care Satisfaction	Postpartum beneficiaries' perceptions of postpartum experience	Survey; structured interviews

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