

Compliance with monitoring plans or policies

IDENTIFYING AND DEFINITIONAL ATTRIBUTES

SHORT NAME:	Compliance with monitoring plans and policies
DESCRIPTION:	The proportion of patients audited for whom physiological observations were measured and documented according to the specifications of the monitoring plan or policy
TYPE OF QUALITY MEASURE:	Process measure
RATIONALE:	<p>Clinicians can only recognise and respond to clinical deterioration if appropriate observations and assessments are measured with adequate frequency</p> <p>Physiological observations are often not measured with sufficient frequency to detect clinical deterioration and not all clinicians may have enough knowledge and experience to identify the assessments and observations needed to detect clinical deterioration</p> <p>Facilities need to ensure that all acute care areas are measuring appropriate physiological observations with adequate frequency</p>
DEFINITIONS:	<p>Admitted patient: any patient for whom the hospital accepts responsibility for the provision of inpatient care and/or treatment. Admission follows a clinical decision based upon specified criteria that a patient requires same day or overnight care or treatment</p> <p>Monitoring plan or policy: a document that outlines the physiological observations to be measured and the frequency of this measurement</p> <p>Observations correctly documented: set of observations documented within 30 minutes of the specified frequency outlined in the monitoring plan and/or policy</p> <p>Physiological observations: may include measures of respiratory rate, heart rate, blood pressure, temperature, oxygen saturation, level of consciousness and/or other observations specified in the monitoring plan</p> <p>Complete sets of observations: physiological observations recorded against a legible time entry that include all physiological observations specified in the monitoring plan</p>
COLLECTION AND USAGE ATTRIBUTES	
POPULATION:	Patients with specified physiological observations and the frequency for monitoring identified in their monitoring plan or to whom a general monitoring policy applies who have been admitted for 24 hours or more
COMPUTATION:	<p>Percentage of patients with complete observation sets documented according to the specified frequency</p> $\frac{\text{Numerator}}{\text{Denominator}} \times 100$
NUMERATOR:	Number of patients audited who have the correct number of complete sets of observations documented according to the monitoring plan and/or policy, over the 24 hours prior to the audit
DENOMINATOR:	Total number of patients audited

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COMMENTS

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A high percentage of patients with complete observation sets documented according to the specified frequency is desirable

Patients who have additional observations, or observations that are recorded more frequently than specified in the monitoring plan or policy should be included in the sample and noted to have their observations correctly documented

Data collection for this quality measure may be combined with data collection for 'Documentation of core observations'. There is an audit tool on the Commission's website for this purpose

It may be useful to audit a variety of clinical areas to examine whether there are differences in practice in different parts of the facility

Collecting data for this measure will require review of the patient's observation chart or other records where monitoring plans and physiological observations are documented

REFERENCES

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS:

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. National Consensus Statement: Essential Elements for Recognising and Responding to Clinical Deterioration. Sydney. ACSQHC, 2010

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Index. (Accessed 5 August 2011, at <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/327206>.)