129: Palliative Care Consultation More than 90 Days Before Death

What is this measure?

This measure will identify the proportion of patients who have a palliative care consultation more than 90 days before death.

What is palliative care?

- Palliative care is specialized medical care providing physical, emotional, and spiritual support for people living with chronic conditions or serious illness.
- Palliative care teams help people manage physical symptoms and emotional stressors and focus on patients' goals for care, values, and what's important to them.

Is palliative care the same as hospice?

- Both palliative care and hospice care are focused on the needs of the patient and quality of life.
- Palliative care focuses on maintaining the highest quality of life while managing treatment.
- Hospice care specifically focuses on the period closest to death.

What is included in this measure?

- <u>Numerator</u> = patients who have a palliative care consultation more than 90 days before death. There are no exclusions.
- <u>Denominator</u> = all patients who die from cancer or its treatment. There are no exclusions.
- MOQCLink Questions:
  - Did the patient have a palliative care consultation before death?
  - Response options: yes/no/unknown/referred but did not go (to consultation)
    - If yes, date of consultation _____ / unknown
  - The consult may be within or outside of the practice, via telehealth or in person.
  - There must be either a consultation note or documentation of a conversation between the referring doctor and the palliative care expert (telephone/email).
- The referring doctor does not need to be the oncologist.

What if we have challenges with access to palliative care?

Part of the goal of collecting this information is to understand access to and capacity of palliative care services across Michigan.

Where can abstractors find this information?

- Assessment, clinic, referral, chemotherapy teaching notes
- Flowsheet, consent form
- Search options available in some EMRs

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