

Measure #154 (NQF: 0101): Falls: Risk Assessment – National Quality Strategy Domain: Patient Safety

2017 OPTIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL MEASURES:  
REGISTRY ONLY

MEASURE TYPE:  
Process

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 that had a risk assessment for falls completed within 12 months

INSTRUCTIONS:

This measure is to be reported a minimum of once per performance period for patients seen during the performance 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 eligible clinicians who perform the quality actions described in the measure based on the services provided and the measure-specific denominator coding.

**Measure Reporting:**

The listed denominator criteria is used to identify the intended patient population. The numerator options included in this specification are used to submit the quality actions allowed by 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 (history of falls is defined as 2 or more falls in the past year or any fall with injury in the past year). Documentation of patient reported history of falls is sufficient

Denominator Criteria (Eligible Cases):

Patients aged  $\geq 65$  years on date of encounter

AND

Patient encounter during the performance period (CPT or HCPCS): 92540, 92541, 92542, 92548, 97161, 97162, 97163, 97164, 97165, 97166, 97167, 97168, 99201, 99202, 99203, 99204, 99205, 99211, 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, G0402, G0438, G0439

AND

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: 1100F

AND NOT

DENOMINATOR EXCLUSIONS:

Hospice services for patient provided any time during the measurement period: G9718

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.

**Balance/gait Assessment** - Medical record must include documentation of observed transfer and walking or use of a standardized scale (e.g., Get Up & Go, Berg, Tinetti) or documentation of referral for assessment of balance/gait.

**Postural blood pressure** - Documentation of blood pressure values in supine and then standing positions.

**Vision Assessment** - Medical record must include documentation that patient is functioning well with vision or not functioning well with vision based on discussion with the patient or use of a standardized scale or assessment tool (e.g., Snellen) or documentation of referral for assessment of vision.

**Home fall hazards Assessment** - Medical record must include documentation of counseling on home falls hazards or documentation of inquiry of home fall hazards or referral for evaluation of home fall hazards.

**Medications Assessment** - Medical record must include documentation of whether the patient's current medications may or may not contribute to falls.

**Numerator Options:**

**OR**

*Performance Met:*

Falls risk assessment documented (3288F)

*Denominator Exception:*

Documentation of medical reason(s) for not completing a risk assessment for falls (i.e., patient is not ambulatory, bed ridden, immobile, confined to chair, wheelchair bound, dependent on helper pushing wheelchair, independent in wheelchair or minimal help in wheelchair (3288F *with* 1P)

**OR**

*Performance Not Met:*

Falls risk assessment not completed, reason not otherwise specified (3288F *with* 8P)

**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)

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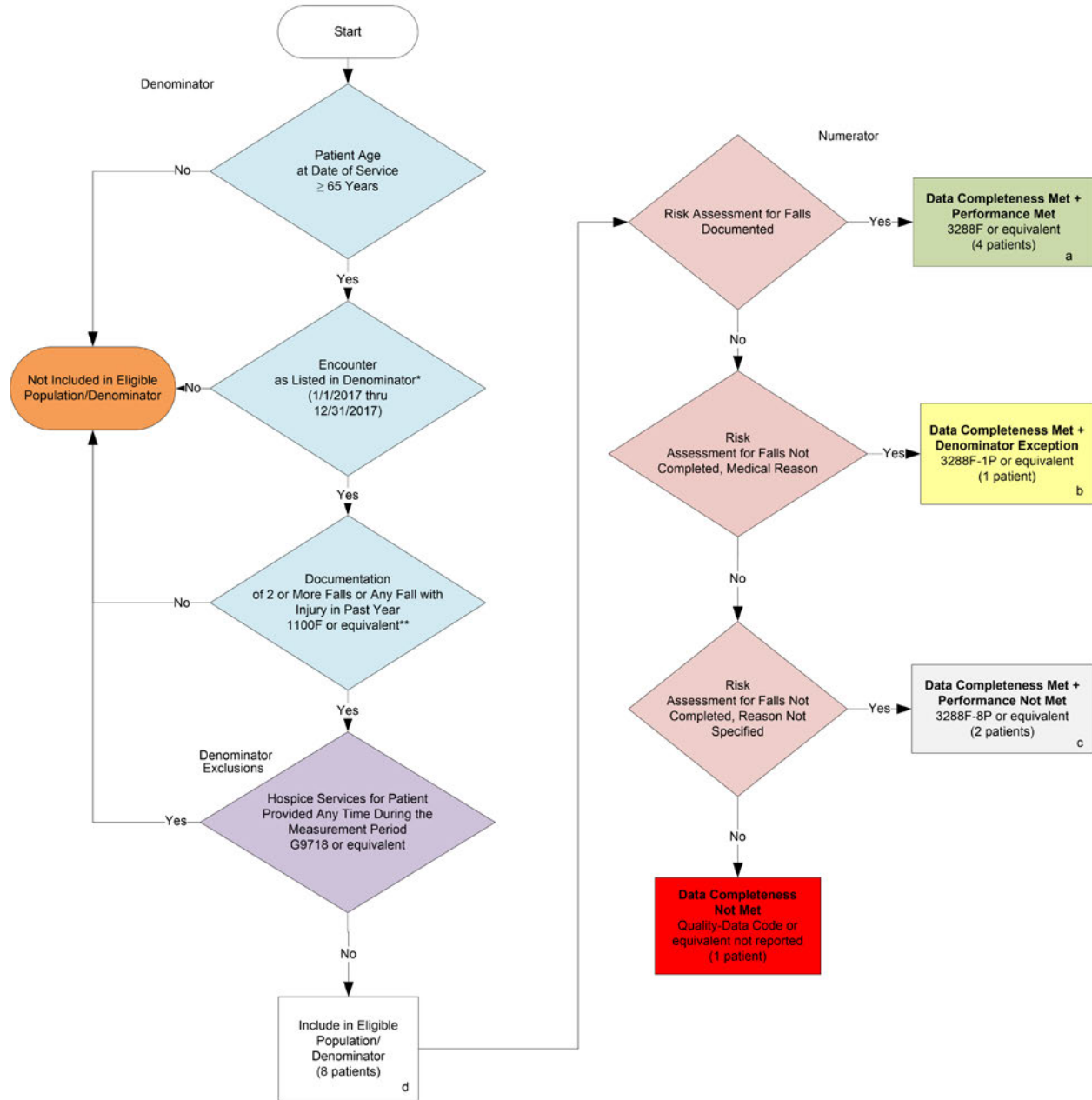
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## 2017 Registry Individual Measure Flow #154 NQF# 0101: Falls: Risk Assessment



\*See the posted Measure Specification for specific coding and instructions to report this measure. This measure flow is for registry-based reporting of the measure.  
NOTE: Reporting Frequency: Patient-process

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v1

**2017 Registry Individual Measure Flow  
#154 NQF# 0101: Falls: Risk Assessment**

**SAMPLE CALCULATIONS:**

**Data Completeness=**

$$\frac{\text{Performance Met (a=4 patients)} + \text{Denominator Exception (b=1 patient)} + \text{Performance Not Met (c=2 patients)}}{\text{Eligible Population / Denominator (d=8 patients)}} = \frac{7 \text{ patients}}{8 \text{ patients}} = 87.50\%$$

**Performance Rate=**

$$\frac{\text{Performance Met (a=4 patients)}}{\text{Data Completeness Numerator (7 patients) - Denominator Exception (b=1 patient)}} = \frac{4 \text{ patients}}{6 \text{ patients}} = 66.67\%$$

\*See the posted Measure Specification for specific coding and instructions to report this measure. This measure flow is for registry-based reporting of the measure.

NOTE: Reporting Frequency: Patient-process

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v1

**2017 Registry Individual Measure Flow**  
**#154 NQF #0101: Falls: Risk Assessment**

Please refer to the specific section of the Measure Specification to identify the denominator and numerator information for use in reporting this Individual Measure. This measure flow is for registry-based reporting.

1. Start with Denominator
2. Check Patient Age:
  - a. If the Age is greater than or equal to 65 years of age on Date of Service and equals No during the measurement period, do not include in Eligible Patient Population. Stop Processing.
  - b. If the Age is greater than or equal to 65 years of age on Date of Service and equals Yes during the measurement period, proceed to check Encounter Performed
3. Check Encounter Performed:
  - a. If Encounter as Listed in the Denominator equals No, do not include in Eligible Patient Population. Stop Processing.
  - b. If Encounter as Listed in the Denominator equals Yes, include in the Eligible population.
4. Check Documentation of Two or More Falls or Any Fall with Injury in the Past Year:
  - a. If Documentation of Two or More Falls or Any Fall with Injury in the Past Year equals No, do not include in Eligible Patient Population. Stop Processing.
  - b. If Documentation of Two or More Falls or Any Fall with Injury in the Past Year equals Yes, proceed to check Hospice Services Provided Any Time During the Measurement Period
5. Check Hospice Services Provided Any Time During the Measurement Period:
  - a. If Hospice Services Provided Any Time During the Measurement Period equals No, include in eligible population.
  - b. If Hospice Services Provided Any Time During the Measurement Period equals Yes, do not include in Eligible Patient Population. Stop Processing.
6. Denominator Population:
  - a. Denominator population is all Eligible Patients in the denominator. Denominator is represented as Denominator in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter d equals 8 patients in the sample calculation.
7. Start Numerator
8. Check Risk Assessment for Falls Documented:
  - a. If Risk Assessment for Falls Documented equals Yes, include in Data Completeness Met and Performance Met.
  - b. Data Completeness Met and Performance Met is represented as Data Completeness and Performance Rate in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter a equals 4 patients in Sample Calculation.

- c. If Risk Assessment for Falls documented equals No, proceed to Risk Assessment for Falls Not Completed, Medical Reason.
9. Check Risk Assessment for Falls Not Completed, Medical Reason:
- a. If Risk Assessment for Falls Not Completed, Medical Reason equals Yes, include in Data Completeness Met and Denominator Exception.
  - b. Data Completeness Met and Denominator Exception is represented as Data Completeness and Performance Rate in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter b equals 1 patient in Sample Calculation.
  - c. If Risk Assessment for Falls documented equals No, proceed to Risk Assessment for Falls Not Completed, Reason Not Specified.
10. Check Risk Assessment for Falls Not Completed, Reason Not Specified:
- a. If Risk Assessment for Falls Not Completed, Reason Not Specified equals Yes, include in the Data Completeness Met and Performance Not Met.
  - b. Data Completeness Met and Performance Not Met is represented as Data Completeness in the Sample Calculation listed at the end of this document. Letter c equals 2 patients in the Sample Calculation.
  - c. If Risk Assessment for Falls Not Completed, Reason Not Specified equals No, proceed to Data Completeness Not Met.
11. Check Data Completeness Not Met:
- a. If Data Completeness Not Met equals No, Quality Data Code or equivalent not reported. 1 patient has been subtracted from the Data Completeness numerator in the sample calculation.

**SAMPLE CALCULATIONS:**

**Data Completeness=**

$$\frac{\text{Performance Met (a=4 patients) + Denominator Exception (b=1 patient) + Performance Not Met (c=2 patients)}}{\text{Eligible Population / Denominator (d=8 patients)}} = \frac{7 \text{ patients}}{8 \text{ patients}} = 87.50\%$$

**Performance Rate=**

$$\frac{\text{Performance Met (a=4 patients)}}{\text{Data Completeness Numerator (7 patients) - Denominator Exception (b=1 patient)}} = \frac{4 \text{ patients}}{6 \text{ patients}} = 66.67\%$$