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| eMeasure Title | Disease-Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drug (DMARD) Therapy for Active Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) | | |
| eMeasure Identifier(Measure Authoring Tool) | 209 | eMeasure Version number | 0 |
| NQF Number | Not Applicable | GUID | f6a81f7e-8d14-44ed-99b0-52a931b0be30 |
| Measurement Period | January 1, 20xx through December 31, 20xx | | |
| Measure Steward | American College of Rheumatology | | |
| Measure Developer | American College of Rheumatology | | |
| Endorsed By | None | | |
| Description | If a patient has active rheumatoid arthritis, then the patient should be treated with a DMARD. | | |
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| Measure Scoring | Proportion | | |
| Measure Type | Process | | |
| Stratification | None | | |
| Risk Adjustment | None | | |
| Rate Aggregation | None | | |
| Rationale | Performance measures related to disease-modifying drugs (DMARDs) are the longest and most widely used rheumatoid arthritis (RA) measures in the U.S. health care system. The first DMARD quality indicator was proposed in 2005-2006 as part of the Arthritis Foundation’s Indicator set for RA (Maclean CH et al. Semin Arthritis Rheum. 2006 Feb;35 (4):211-37), and later incorporated into the American College of Rheumatology’s (ACR) Starter Set of Quality Indicators, which was approved by the ACR in 2006. The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) developed administrative claims-based measure specifications for this indicator, which was incorporated into the Health Effectiveness Data Information System (HEDIS), and also approved by the National Quality Forum (NQF) in 2005. Subsequently, under a contract from CMS, NCQA worked with the ACR and the American Medical Association’s Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement (AMA PCPI) to introduce the DMARD measure into the Physical Quality Reporting System (PQRS). The currently proposed measure extends the last decade of work on the DMARD measure by adding electronic specifications. The ACR has worked with NCQA to ensure that the content of the claims-based and electronically specified measures are harmonized. | | |
| Clinical Recommendation Statement | Early RA (disease duration \_6 months). In patients with early RA, the panel recommends the use of DMARD monotherapy both for low disease activity and for moderate or high disease activity with the absence of poor prognostic features (Figure 1; level of evidence A–C) (2012 RA guideline, page 631)  Established RA (disease duration \_6 months ormeeting the 1987 ACR RA classification criteria)  Initiating and switching among DMARDs.  If after 3 months of DMARD monotherapy (in patients without poor prognostic features), a patient deteriorates from low to moderate/high disease activity, then methotrexate, hydroxychloroquine, or leflunomide should be added (rectangle A of Figure 2; level of evidence A and B). If after 3 months of methotrexate or methotrexate/DMARD combination, a patient still has moderate or high disease activity, then add another non-methotrexate DMARD or switch to a different non-methotrexate DMARD (rectangle B of Figure 2; level of evidence B and C). (2012 RA guideline, page 631-632) | | |
| Improvement Notation | Higher score indicates better quality | | |
| Reference | Figure 1 & Recommendation 1 in 2012 ACR RA guideline (Singh et al. AC&R, 2012) | | |
| Definition | DMARD therapy includes:  Biologic Agents-  abatacept  adalimumab  anakinra  certolizumab  etanercept  golimumab  infliximab  rituximab  tocilizumab  Non-Biologic Agents-  azathioprine  cyclophosphamide  cyclosporine  gold  hydroxychloroquine  leflunomide  methotrexate  minocycline  penicillamine  sulfasalazine  Anti-inflammatory medications, including glucocorticoids do not meet the measure. | | |
| Guidance |  | | |
| Transmission Format | TBD | | |
| Initial Patient Population | Patient age 18 years and older with a diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis seen for two or more face-to-face encounters for RA with the same clinician during the measurement period | | |
| Denominator | Equals Initial Patient Population | | |
| Denominator Exclusions | Patients with a diagnosis of HIV or patients who are pregnant or patients with inactive RA | | |
| Numerator | Patient received a DMARD | | |
| Numerator Exclusions | Not Applicable | | |
| Denominator Exceptions | None | | |
| Measure Population | Not Applicable | | |
| Measure Observations | Not Applicable | | |
| Supplemental Data Elements | For every patient evaluated by this measure also identify payer, race, ethnicity and sex. | | |

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### [Population criteria](" \l "toc)

* **Initial Patient Population =**
  + AND:
    - AND: "Patient Characteristic Birthdate: birth date" >= 18 year(s) starts before start of "Measurement Period”
    - AND: Count >= 2 of:
      * OR: "Encounter, Performed: Office Visit (reason: ‘Rheumatoid Arthritis’)"
      * OR: “Encounter, Performed: Outpatient Consultation (reason: ‘Rheumatoid Arthritis’)”
      * OR: “Encounter, Performed: Face-to-Face Interaction (reason: ‘Rheumatoid Arthritis’)”
      * OR: "Encounter, Performed: Nursing Facility Visit (reason: ‘Rheumatoid Arthritis’)"
      * OR: "Encounter, Performed: Care Services in Long-Term Residential Facility (reason: ‘Rheumatoid Arthritis’)"
      * OR: "Encounter, Performed: Home Healthcare Services (reason: ‘Rheumatoid Arthritis’)"
      * during "Measurement Period"
* **Denominator =**
  + AND: "Initial Patient Population"
* **Denominator Exclusions =**
  + AND:
    - OR:
      * AND: "Diagnosis, Active: HIV" starts before or during “Measurement Period”
      * AND NOT: “Diagnosis, Active: HIV” ends before start of “Measurement Period”
    - OR:
      * AND: "Diagnosis, Active: Pregnancy" starts before or during "Measurement Period"
      * AND NOT: "Diagnosis, Active: Pregnancy" ends before start of "Measurement Period"
    - OR:
      * AND: "Diagnosis, Inactive: Rheumatoid Arthritis" starts before or during “Measurement Period”
      * AND NOT: “Diagnosis, Inactive: Rheumatoid Arthritis” ends before start of “Measurement Period”
* **Numerator =**
  + AND:
    - OR:
      * AND: "Medication, Active: Rheumatoid Arthritis DMARD Therapy" starts before or during “Measurement Period”
      * AND NOT: “Medication, Active: Rheumatoid Arthritis DMARD Therapy” ends before start of “Measurement Period”
    - OR:
      * AND: “Medication, Order: Rheumatoid Arthritis DMARD Therapy” starts before or during “Measurement Period”
      * AND NOT: “Medication, Order: Rheumatoid Arthritis DMARD Therapy” ends before start of “Measurement Period”
    - OR:
      * AND: “Medication, Administered: Rheumatoid Arthritis DMARD Therapy” during “Measurement Period”
* **Denominator Exceptions =**
  + None

### [Data criteria (QDM Data Elements)](" \l "toc)

* XXXX
* XXXX
* XXXX
* XXXX

### [Reporting Stratification](" \l "toc)

* None

### [Supplemental Data Elements](" \l "toc)

* "Patient Characteristic Ethnicity: Ethnicity" using "Ethnicity CDC Value Set (2.16.840.1.114222.4.11.837)"
* "Patient Characteristic Payer: Payer" using "Payer Source of Payment Typology Value Set (2.16.840.1.114222.4.11.3591)"
* "Patient Characteristic Race: Race" using "Race CDC Value Set (2.16.840.1.114222.4.11.836)"
* "Patient Characteristic Sex: ONC Administrative Sex" using "ONC Administrative Sex Administrative Sex Value Set (2.16.840.1.113762.1.4.1)"

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| Measure Set | NA |