Measure Information Form

Measure Set: Venous Thromboembolism (VTE)

Set Measure Set ID #: VTE-6

Performance Measure Name: Hospital Acquired Potentially-Preventable Venous Thromboembolism

Description: This measure assesses the number of patients diagnosed with confirmed VTE during hospitalization (not present at admission) who did not receive VTE prophylaxis between hospital admission and the day before the VTE diagnostic testing order date.

Rationale: The concept of “failure to prevent” has generated interest in national health policy organizations to identify evidence-based practice that will improve patient safety in the hospital setting (Wachter et al 2008). The incidence of preventable venous thromboembolism (VTE) among hospitalized patients is overwhelming, and contributes to extended hospital stays, and the rising cost of health care. Zhan 2003, states that “VTE was the second most common medical complication of postoperative patients, the second most common cause of excess length of stay, and the third most common cause of excess mortality and excess charges”. According to Arnold, D.M. (2001), preventable VTE is defined as “objectively diagnosed Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) or Pumonary Emboli (PE) that occurred in a setting in which thromboprophylaxis was indicated but was either administered inadequately or not administered at all.” In spite of formal guidelines, and recommendations for preventative care, pulmonary embolism is still the most common preventable cause of death among hospitalized patients (Wachter et al, 2008).

Type of Measure: Outcome

Improvement Noted As: A decrease in the rate

Numerator Statement: Patients who received no VTE prophylaxis prior to the VTE diagnostic test order date.

Included Populations: Not Applicable

Excluded Populations: None

Data Elements:
VTE Prophylaxis Status
Denominator Statement: Patients who developed confirmed VTE during hospitalization.

Included Populations:
Discharges with an ICD-9-CM Other Diagnosis Codes of VTE as defined in Appendix A, Table 7.03 or 7.04

Excluded Populations:
• Patients less than 18 years of age
• Patients who have a length of stay greater than 120 days
• Patients with Comfort Measures Only documented
• Patients enrolled in clinical trials
• Patients with ICD-9-CM Principal Diagnosis Code of VTE as defined in Appendix A, Table 7.03 or 7.04
• Patients with VTE Present at Admission
• Patients with reasons for not administering mechanical and pharmacologic prophylaxis
• Patients without VTE confirmed by diagnostic testing

Data Elements:
• Admission Date
• Birthdate
• Clinical Trial
• Comfort Measures Only
• Discharge Date
• ICD-9-CM Other Diagnosis Codes
• ICD-9-CM Principal Diagnosis Code
• VTE Confirmed
• VTE Diagnostic Test
• VTE Present at Admission

Risk Adjustment: No

Data Collection Approach: Retrospective data sources for required data elements include administrative data and medical records.

Data Accuracy: Variation may exist in the assignment of ICD-9-CM codes; therefore, coding practices may require evaluation to ensure consistency.

Measure Analysis Suggestions: In order to identify areas for improvement, hospitals may want to stratify the numerator cases by patient age, diagnosis, or service designation. Patients that developed a VTE during hospitalization (denominator) that received prophylaxis could be evaluated in a separate analysis to determine if appropriate prophylaxis (modality, start time, duration) was administered.

Sampling: No, please refer to the measure set specific sampling requirements and for additional information see the Population and Sampling Specifications.
Data Reported as: Aggregate rate generated from count data reported as a proportion.

Selected References:

- Goldhaber SZ, Dunn K, MacDougall RC. New onset of venous thromboembolism among hospitalized patients at Brigham and Women’s Hospital is caused more often by prophylaxis failure than by withholding treatment. *Chest* 2000;118:1680
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**Denominator:** Patients who developed confirmed VTE during hospitalization

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Run cases that are included in the VTE Initial Patient Population and pass the edits defined in the Transmission Data Processing Flow: Clinical through this measure.

- ICD-9-CM Principal Diagnosis Code
  - On Table 7.03 or 7.04
  - Not on Table 7.03 or 7.04

- ICD-9-CM Other Diagnosis Codes
  - All missing or None on Table 7.03 or 7.04
  - At least one on Table 7.03 or 7.04

- VTE Present at Admission
  - = Y
  - = N

- Comfort Measures Only
  - = 1, 2, 3
  - = 4

- Clinical Trial
  - = Y
  - = N

- VTE Diagnostic Test
  - = N
  - = Y

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Specifications Manual for National Hospital Inpatient Quality Measures
Discharges 01-01-13 (1Q13) through 12-31-13 (4Q13)  VTE-6-4
VTE-6: Hospital Acquired Potentially-Preventable Venous Thromboembolism

**Numerator:** Patients who received no VTE prophylaxis prior to the VTE diagnostic test order date.

**Denominator:** Patients who developed confirmed VTE during hospitalization.

1. Start processing. Run cases that are included in the VTE Initial Patient Population and pass the edits defined in the Transmission Data Processing Flow: Clinical through this measure.

2. Check ICD-9-CM Principal Diagnosis Code
   a. If the ICD-9-CM Principal Diagnosis Code is on Table 7.03 or 7.04, the case will proceed to a Measure Category Assignment of B and will not be in the Measure Population. Stop processing.
   b. If the ICD-9-CM Principal Diagnosis Code is not on Table 7.03 or 7.04, continue processing and proceed to ICD-9-CM Other Diagnosis Code.

3. Check ICD-9-CM Other Diagnosis Codes
   a. If all ICD-9-CM Other Diagnosis Codes are missing or none of them on Table 7.03 or 7.04, the case will proceed to a Measure Category Assignment of B and will not be in the Measure Population. Stop processing.
   b. If at least one of the ICD-9-CM Other Diagnosis Codes is on Table 7.03 or 7.04, continue processing and proceed to VTE Present at Admission.

4. Check VTE Present at Admission
   a. If VTE Present at Admission is missing, the case will proceed to a Measure Category Assignment of X and will be rejected. Stop processing.
   b. If VTE Present at Admission equals Yes, the case will proceed to a Measure Category Assignment of B and will not be in the Measure Population. Stop processing.
   c. If VTE Present at Admission equals No, continue processing and proceed to Comfort Measures Only.

5. Check Comfort Measures Only
   a. If Comfort Measures Only is missing, the case will proceed to a Measure Category Assignment of X and will be rejected. Stop processing.
   b. If Comfort Measures Only equals 1, 2, or 3, the case will proceed to a Measure Category Assignment of B and will not be in the Measure Population. Stop processing.
   c. If Comfort Measures Only equals 4, continue processing and proceed to Clinical Trial.

6. Check Clinical Trial
a. If Clinical Trial is missing, the case will proceed to a Measure Category Assignment of X and will be rejected. Stop processing.
b. If Clinical Trial equals Yes, the case will proceed to a Measure Category Assignment of B and will not be in the Measure Population. Stop processing.
c. If Clinical Trial equals No, continue processing and proceed to VTE Diagnostic Test.

7. Check VTE Diagnostic Test
   a. If VTE Diagnostic Test is missing, the case will proceed to a Measure Category Assignment of X and will be rejected. Stop processing.
   b. If VTE Diagnostic Test equals No, the case will proceed to a Measure Category Assignment of B and will not be in the Measure Population. Stop processing.
   c. If VTE Diagnostic Test equals Yes, continue processing and proceed to VTE Confirmed.

8. Check VTE Confirmed
   a. If VTE Confirmed is missing, the case will proceed to a Measure Category Assignment of X and will be rejected. Stop processing.
   b. If VTE Confirmed equals No, the case will proceed to a Measure Category Assignment of B and will not be in the Measure Population. Stop processing.
   c. If VTE Confirmed equals Yes, continue processing and proceed to VTE Prophylaxis Status.

9. Check VTE Prophylaxis Status
   a. If VTE Prophylaxis Status is missing, the case will proceed to a Measure Category Assignment of X and will be rejected. Stop processing.
   b. If VTE Confirmed equals 3, the case will proceed to a Measure Category Assignment of B and will not be in the Measure Population. Stop processing.
   c. If VTE Prophylaxis Status equals 1, the case will proceed to a Measure Category Assignment of D and will be in the Measure Population. Stop processing.
   d. If VTE Prophylaxis Status equals 2, the case will proceed to a Measure Category Assignment of E and will be in the Numerator Population. Stop processing.