

Implementing a Quality Measure Performance Program for Medical Toxicology Patients

Anthony Pizon¹, Paul Wax², Sharan Campleman², Dana Karshenas², Jeffrey Brent³

¹ University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, PA, USA.

² American College of Medical Toxicology, Phoenix, AZ, USA.

³ University of Colorado School of Medicine, Denver, CO, USA

Background: The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has overseen the development of hundreds of quality measures by national medical societies directed at areas with perceived practice performance gaps. Given the absence of quality measures in medical toxicology (MT), the American College of Medical Toxicology (ACMT) developed a program specific for MT patients.

Hypothesis: ACMT can implement a quality performance improvement strategy for MT patients through voluntary reporting to the Toxic Investigators Consortium Registry (ToxIC).

Methods: Over an 18-month period in 2016–2017, ACMT developed nine quality measures that could be used to evaluate the care of a MT patient. In December 2017, CMS approved six of these performance measures on the following topics: opioid misuse screening, pregnancy testing, timely ECG assessment in drug ingestions, appropriate treatment of acetaminophen ingestions, assessment of suspected toxic alcohol exposures, and repeat assessment of salicylate concentrations in overdose patients. Beginning January 1, 2018, data on these performance measures was collected as part of the CMS-approved ToxIC Qualified Clinical Data Registry (QCDR), a new component of the ACMT ToxIC Registry.

Results: Thirty-two medical toxicologists from 11 ToxIC sites participated in the ToxIC QCDR during its first 6 months. Data was obtained on 467 cases that met criteria for opioid screening, 209 cases that met criteria for pregnancy testing, 294 cases that met criteria for EKG assessment, 49 that met criteria for treatment of acetaminophen ingestions, 11 that met criteria for toxic alcohol assessment, and 11 that met criteria for serial salicylate determinations. Performance rates varied from a low of 29.4% for the acetaminophen measure to a high of 84.6% for the salicylate measure.

Conclusion: Medical Toxicologists are now able to report on quality measures to evaluate the treatment of MT patients. Initial data collection will allow for valuable benchmarking of current practice.