

## PQA's Specialty Core Measure Set

### 1. Treatment of Chronic Hepatitis C: Completion of Therapy (HCV)

- Description: Percentage of individuals 18 years and older who initiated antiviral therapy during the measurement year for treatment of chronic hepatitis C, and who completed the minimum intended duration of therapy with no significant gap(s) in therapy.
- Hepatitis C Virus infection is the most common chronic blood borne infection in the United States, affecting an estimated 3 million Americans, and is the leading cause of liver transplantation in the US. Hepatitis C is often curable with the completion of antiviral therapy, but this comes with a high price tag. Patients now have access to therapies that are shorter duration and more tolerable than previous options, and importantly, offer a cure. To achieve a cure, however, patients must complete their therapy as prescribed.

### 2. Adherence to Non-Infused Disease Modifying Agents Used to Treat Multiple Sclerosis (PDC-MS)

- Description: Percentage of patients 18 years and older who met the PDC threshold of 80% during the measurement period for medications used to treat multiple sclerosis.
- The goal of disease-modifying therapy is to reduce the early clinical and sub-clinical disease activity that is thought to contribute to long-term disability. While there is no cure for MS, disease modifying agents clearly decrease the incidence of exacerbations and may slow disease progression. If the patient is non-adherent to their medications, the medication's effectiveness may be compromised.

### 3. Adherence to Antiretrovirals (PDC-ARV)

- Description: Percentage of patients 18 years and older who met the PDC threshold of 90% during the measurement period for three or more distinct antiretroviral drugs.
- High levels of treatment adherence in HIV have been shown to predict better viral suppression outcomes, whereas poor treatment adherence in HIV is associated not only with less effective viral suppression but also with drug resistance and reduced survival.

### 4. Adherence to Non-Infused Biologic Medications Used to Treat Rheumatoid Arthritis (PDC-RA)

- Description: Percentage of patients 18 years and older with rheumatoid arthritis who met the PDC threshold of 80% during the measurement period for biologic medications used to treat RA.
- Rheumatoid arthritis, affecting an estimated 1.3 million Americans, is a chronic and progressive disease that can reduce a person's health and quality of life. Biologic treatments are considerably more expensive than traditional oral treatments, but for many patients they offer improved efficacy, reduced disability, and improved quality of life. The full benefits of treatment can only be achieved when patients are adherent to their medication regimens, with higher adherence rates resulting in a reduction in health care expenditures and improvements in quality of life.

*PDC = Proportion of Days Covered*

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