

Online UDS Trainings

Module 5– Methods and Guidance for Reporting Clinical Measures

Slide 1 - Welcome

Welcome to Module 5 of the Bureau of Primary Health Care's 2009 Uniform Data System training. This is the fifth in a series of 9 modules which describe the reporting requirements and step-by-step instructions for completing your 2009 UDS Report.

Slide 2 - Methods and Guidance for Reporting Clinical Performance Measures

This module provides step-by-step instructions for extracting information to report clinical performance measures using the universe or a random sample from the universe.

Slide 3 - Options for Reporting

All clinical performance measures can be reported using the universe of patients who meet the criteria, provided the health center has an electronic health record that includes all required information to accurately identify the universe of patients and all patients who meet the performance criteria.

As an alternative, some performance measures can be reported using a random sample of patients from the universe. Prenatal measures cannot be reported using a sample of patients but the other clinical performance measures including childhood immunizations, pap tests, controlled hypertension and controlled diabetes can be reported using a sample. For the purposes of the UDS a random sample of 70 records is required unless there are fewer than 70 patients in the universe; in which case, you must report on the entire universe. You will not get extra credit for reporting on a sample larger than 70, and in fact doing so is frowned upon. If you're not able to report on the entire universe, use a sample of exactly 70.

The BPHC has no preference for grantees reporting on the universe or a random sample. The decision will depend on your system capabilities.

Slide 4 - Reporting on the Universe

To report on the universe of patients for each of the clinical performance measures, you must have an electronic health record which enables you to identify the universe and all patients who meet the performance criteria. Depending on the measure, this means that you must have sufficient years of history and that all patients from all sites are included in the database. For example, the pap test measure requires 3 years of history to determine if the patient has had a pap test in the past three years. In addition, you must be able to identify exclusions such as women with a hysterectomy to be excluded from the universe for the pap test measure and diabetic patients with a diagnosis of gestational diabetes or steroid induced diabetes to be excluded for the diabetes measure.

Slide 5 - Reporting on a Sample

If you are not able to report on the universe, you will report on a random sample of 70 patients. A random sample means that every patient in the universe has an equal chance of being selected

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to be included in the sample. There are various methods of finding a sample. These methods are listed here and will be described in more detail later.

Slide 6 - Step 1 – Finding the Universe

The first step in reporting on the clinical performance measures is to identify the universe of patients. That means that you must be able to generate an unduplicated list of all patients who meet the criteria. Since you may not be able to identify patients with an exclusion up front, these patients will be included in the universe. If there are less than 70 patients in the universe, then you must report on all patients.

A complete unduplicated list of patients who meet the performance criteria includes all patients from all sites and all 330 funded programs. If you have patients from different programs on different systems, you must aggregate the list to create a single unduplicated list of patients. This is similar to the process you use to create a count of patients for Tables 3A, 3B and 4.

Slide 7 - Step 2 – Selecting Sample

The UDS uses a sample size of 70 records per clinical performance measure, again, there is no extra credit for using a larger sample size. There are two methods recommended to generate the random sample: 1) the random number generator and 2) the interval method.

The following slides describe each method.

Slide 8 - Method 1: Random # Generator

For method 1, the random number generator, use the public website: www.randomizer.org/form.htm to prepare a random list of numbers.

Slide 9 - Getting a Custom List of 70 Random Numbers

Complete the information requested on the website: the number of sets = 1; the number per set which is 70 and the range which is the total number in the universe. Thus if there are 1,765 patients in the universe the range is 1 to 1765. Choose “yes” for unique numbers and “least to greatest” for the sort order. Press “randomize now” to get a list of numbers which correspond with the line numbers on your list of patients in the universe.

Slide 10 - Replacement Charts

To generate a list of replacement charts, follow the same methodology for creating a set of random numbers but only request 5 numbers in the set. The resulting 5 numbers correspond with the line numbers from the same list of patients in the universe that is used to select the sample of 70. When pulling the original 70 charts, if one or more of the charts selected should be excluded (such as a women with a hysterectomy who should be excluded from the universe for the pap test), replace the record with one from the replacement list.

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Slide 11 - Method 2: Interval

The interval method is used to select every n th chart from the list of patients in the universe. To calculate the interval, divide the total number of patients in the universe by 70 records in the sample. For example, if there are 700 records in the universe and 70 in the sample, the interval is 10. Roll a die to identify what record in the list to start with. For example if you roll a 2, start with the second record on the list and pull every 10 records after that to generate 70 charts.

Slide 12 - Interval Method Example

This slide shows a sample with an interval of 3 which is counted off after starting with the 2nd record.

Slide 13 – Replacements

If one of the records selected in the random sample should be excluded from the universe because the patient should not be included (again, for example, a woman with a hysterectomy should not be given a pap test), substitute that record for the next one in the list. Return to the original interval for the remaining records.

Slide 14 - Extracting Information From the Record

If you are using a sample, it is not always necessary to pull the paper chart to obtain the information needed to evaluate performance. The following slides describe an easier way to abstract required information.

Slide 15 - Use of Data From Other Sources

If you have any information available electronically that can be easily obtained to determine whether a patient in the sample is in compliance with the performance measure, it can be used. If you have an electronic health record you can use it to obtain information even if it is not sufficient to report on the universe. For example, your electronic health record may only have one year of data. You can look up all of the patients in your sample to see if the required information is reported. If the information is available and you can document compliance with the performance measure, you are finished with that patient. You will only need to pull the paper charts for patients where information was not available in the electronic health record as a back up option. This is true for other electronic systems such as practice management systems, disease management systems (like PECs) or laboratory systems. You can also use logs if it is an easier method for pulling information. For childhood immunizations, it is also acceptable to use a state immunization registry to determine if the child is fully immunized. If the information is not available in the state registry, you can review the medical record as a back up. It is acceptable to use multiple sources to obtain needed information to evaluate compliance.

Slide 16 - Reviewing the Charts

Paper charts should be pulled as a last resort as they are more intensive to review than electronic sources. For those patients for whom sufficient information is not available in an electronic

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format, a paper chart must be pulled and reviewed. There are no requirements that all the charts be pulled at the same time or location or reviewed by the same person. You should use a procedure that works best for your health center.

To assist health centers with abstracting information from electronic and paper records, a set of data collection forms have been developed in Excel. Copies of these forms are available at the website www.bphcdata.net and through the helpline --1-866-UDS-HELP.

Slide 17 –Thank You

Thank you for viewing this module. If you are interested in learning more about the UDS reporting requirements and step-by-step instructions for completing the UDS tables, please be sure to visit the other modules available online.

Slide 18 – Module 5 Quiz/Survey

Now that you've viewed module 5, let's see how much you've learned! Please take a few moments to complete a short quiz. To access the quiz, click on the link on this slide. Your participation will help to show how well you understand the content of this module, and will help us to improve our training program for next year.