Quality Measures for 2020: Immunizations in eCW 11e

The two immunizations included in the Prima CARE quality measures in 2020 are Pneumovax 23 and influenza.

**Pneumovax 23**

The pneumococcal polysaccharide 23-valent vaccine (PPSV23, or Pneumovax) is recommended for all adults over age 65, and for all adults of any age with certain health problems (like COPD, asthma, immunosuppression, current smokers, and more). But for CMS, only those aged 65 and older are tracked for this measure. Note that indications for Prevnar 13 changed in 2019 – this immunization is not included in our quality measure reporting requirements.

If the patient is 65 or older and never received a Pneumovax, provide the vaccine at their visit, or refer them to the Infusion Center or their pharmacy.

If you provide the vaccine during the visit, click on “Immunizations”, then “Add”
Search for the vaccine to be given – in this case, a Pneumovax 23. Click on the ellipsis next to the lot number box.

Choose the appropriate vaccine from those stored in your pharmaceutical grade refrigerator.

The entry form is populated with the lot number, expiration date, manufacturer, and route of administration if the vaccine has been set up properly in ECW. The user must choose the person administering the vaccine and the location it was administered. Check the box to indicate the VIS was given to the patient (required by law). Also, select “Not VFC Eligible” - VFC stands for vaccines for children – obviously, an adult is not VFC eligible. However, for reporting purposes this must be explicitly documented in the immunization screen. If your office does provide vaccines to children, more needs to be recorded, but this is beyond the scope of this document.
If the Pneumovax was given in the past, check the box “Vaccine given in the past” and enter the date the immunization was administered. I think adding a comment is helpful here – the more detail, the better. No other fields need to be completed when documenting the past administration of a vaccine.

Once you have completed this documentation – for either a Pneumovax given at the current visit, or given in the past – the quality measure is met. Note that patient refusal does not remove the patient from the quality measure.

**Influenza**

The influenza vaccine is indicated for all people over aged 6 months. Note that if the patient is not seen at all at Prima CARE between 10/1/20 and 3/31/21, they are NOT included in this measure. Be aware, however, that the reporting period for this measure ends on 12/31/20, so although it remains good medicine to administer flu shots early in 2021, we are actually penalized for not giving the flu shot in late 2020. The CDC does recommend flu shots be administered by the end of October, if possible.

Recording the administration of the influenza vaccine follows the same workflow described above.
Refusal of a Pneumovax does not exclude the patient from the measure, BUT refusal of an influenza immunization DOES exclude the patient from the measure. So for patients who decline a flu shot, document this as shown in the screen below:

Choose “Not Administered”, then click on the ellipsis next to the reason box. Choose a reason (usually “Patient decision”). The suppress date for the alert can be reset to 1 year in the future if desired – when the provider can try again to convince the patient to get a flu shot.

Refusal can also be recorded in the “Quality Measure Exclusion” folder.
Choose a reason for not administering the influenza vaccine – typically, the reason is because the patient declined to receive the vaccine.

Recording refusal in either the immunization screen OR the preventive medicine folder is adequate to remove the patient from the quality measure.

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January 29, 2020