



QUALITY OF CARE AND OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

CARDIOLOGY PRACTICE IMPROVEMENT PATHWAY: HOW DO WE MEASURE QUALITY IN CARDIOVASCULAR CARE?

ACC Poster Contributions

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Background: As the U.S. healthcare system evolves from one based on volume to one based on value, practices need a mechanism to demonstrate commitment to quality improvement and achievement of quality thresholds. To allow our profession rather than external forces to influence the process, the American College of Cardiology (ACC) developed and piloted a cardiovascular (CV) practice performance assessment and recognition program.

Methods: CV practice performance was assessed using 10 structural, 10 professional and 16 clinical measures. Eleven practices (107 cardiologists), representing a variety of practice settings and sizes, completed the pilot. Patients were eligible for record review if they had coronary disease, hypertension, heart failure or atrial fibrillation/flutter. Clinical measures were obtained from chart review for patients with at least two office visits during the measurement period of 1/1/09-12/31/09.

Results: A total of 2560 patient records were reviewed. Process and outcome measures were included with a weight of 70% on clinical, 20% on structural and 10% on professional metrics. Pilot results are noted in the figure.

Conclusions: This pilot demonstrates the feasibility of CV practice performance assessment utilizing measures with scientific validity in a well-designed program aimed at promoting quality improvement. Future study is needed to determine criteria for various levels of practice recognition and the impact of performance feedback on practice improvement.

