

Development and reliability assessment of a tool to assess community pharmacist ability to impact quality measures

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Background & Rationale

- The Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) is one of two tracks in the Quality Payment Program, which moves Medicare Part B providers to a performance-based system.¹
- The MIPS is a value-based model that ties payment to clinician performance scores across four categories, with the majority of the score based on a broad range of quality measures.
- Many measures are medication-related, yet **pharmacists** are not considered MIPS-eligible clinicians even though they can play an important role in helping clinicians **achieve** their performance objectives.
- Currently, there is no tool to assess pharmacist ability to impact quality measures.

Objective

- To develop and assess reliability of a tool to evaluate community pharmacist ability to **impact** quality measures.

Methods

- Multidisciplinary, healthcare subject matter experts were interviewed to determine criteria that evaluate community pharmacist ability to impact quality measures.
- The draft tool was then reviewed by researchers and subject matter experts in various healthcare professions to assess **face validity** and make refinements.
- Iterative, **interrater reliability** was assessed by two independent reviewers using a random 20% sample of the 2017 MIPS measure set.
- Absolute agreement** and **kappa statistics** were calculated, and the tool was refined based on the results.

- The tool was then applied to the full 2017 MIPS measure set by two reviewers, and interrater reliability was evaluated.

- Kappa statistics were interpreted using the following criteria²:

Kappa value	Interpretation
0.01 – 0.20	Slight agreement
0.21 – 0.40	Fair agreement
0.41 – 0.60	Moderate agreement
0.61 – 0.80	Substantial agreement
0.81 – 0.99	Almost perfect agreement

Results

- The quality measure impact tool-community pharmacy (QMIT-CP) is comprised of five criteria to assess quality measures for community pharmacist impact potential.
- All criteria utilized a dichotomous scale (0 vs 1).
- Summed scores were used to categorize pharmacist impact as “high” (4-5), “moderate” (2-3), or “low” (0-1).

The Quality Measure Impact Tool-Community Pharmacy (QMIT-CP) is a reliable tool to identify quality measures community pharmacists may impact.

Results continued

Table 1. QMIT-CP criteria

Criterion	Description
1	Measure describes medication/drug therapy or an ACIP-recommended adult immunization. Additionally, the medication/drug therapy mentioned is not a newly prescribed/initiated treatment within the measure.
2	Measure includes a medical condition that can be managed by medication use (e.g., treatment, symptom management). This criterion excludes all screenings, assessment, diagnostic testing, and imaging for medical conditions.
3	Measure focuses on treating patients in the outpatient setting.
4	Measure is designated as an outcome or intermediate outcome measure that can be impacted by a guideline-recommended medication or immunization. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note: If it is not an outcome or intermediate outcome measure, score as “0” and continue to criterion 5.
5	Measure data are readily available to the community pharmacy or can be reasonably extrapolated from existing data. This may include accessibility to measure data available within the medication dispensing data system, the medication therapy management (MTM) platform, or through point-of-care testing.

QMIT-CP: quality measure impact tool-community pharmacy

Table 2. QMIT-CP inter-rater reliability results

QMIT-CP Attribute	Kappa Statistic	Absolute Agreement
Medication or immunization	0.92	0.97
Condition managed by medication use	0.61	0.81
Treatment in the outpatient setting	0.69	0.85
Outcome impacted by medication use	0.79	0.94
Data available to pharmacist	0.86	0.96
QMIT-CP Score	0.77	0.83
Pharmacy Impact Category	0.84	0.91

QMIT-CP: quality measure impact tool-community pharmacy

Limitations

- Reliability results may not be generalizable to other users.
- Additional work is needed to evaluate the utility of the QMIT-CP to other quality measure sets (e.g., health system-level measures, Medicare Shared Savings Program).

Conclusions

- The QMIT-CP is a **reliable tool** to characterize quality measures that community pharmacists may impact.
- The QMIT-CP can be used to support innovative team-based care and **enhance value-based contracting**.
- Evaluating the relative magnitude of pharmacist impact on quality measures is warranted.

References
¹ MIPS Overview, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Available at: <https://qpp.cms.gov/mips/overview>
² Viera, A.J. and Garrett, J.M., 2005. Understanding interobserver agreement: the kappa statistic. *Fam med*, 37(5), pp.360-363

