

CPIA Project #7

Care That Counts: Vascular Assessment of Patients with Leg Ulcers in My Practice

CATEGORY – IA_PM_10 Population Management

Participation in a QCDR which must include use of QCDR data for quality improvement.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY

The purpose of this activity is to assess whether you are performing vascular assessment of your patients with leg ulcers as indicated. Clinical practice guidelines from the Wound Healing Society recommend that all patients with non-healing leg ulcers undergo arterial vascular assessment, yet published data from the USWR show that there is a serious gap in practice with only about 10% of leg ulcer patients undergoing a vascular assessment even when seen by wound experts. The prevalence of vascular disease among patients with leg ulcers is high. Approximately one third of patients with DFUs have peripheral arterial disease (PAD) and PAD contributes to the likelihood of amputation. About 25% of patients with venous ulcers have PAD. The optimal way to perform a non-invasive vascular assessment has been the topic of extensive investigation. A variety of methods can be appropriate including hand held Ankle Brachial Index (ABI), arterial Doppler assessment, transcutaneous oximetry, and skin perfusion pressure.

Based on the clinical-practice guidelines for diabetic foot management jointly sponsored by the Society for Vascular Surgery and the American Podiatric Medical Association¹, those at high risk (foot ulcer history, previous abnormal vascular examination, intervention for vascular disease, known cardiovascular disease) should have an annual vascular examination of the lower extremities and feet.

WHAT TOOLS YOU NEED TO PERFORM THIS CPIA

Download the eQM for CDR #10 from the USWR website and install it into your certified EHR, and report the data through the USWR QCDR.

WEIGHT

Medium (10 points)

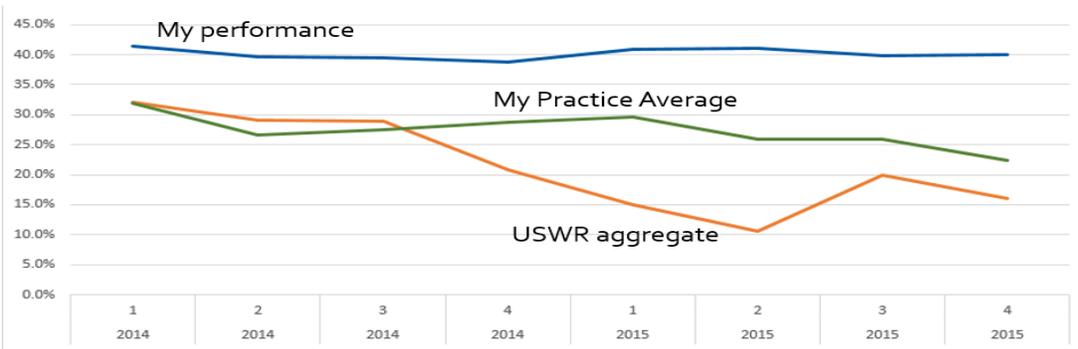
WHAT THE REGISTRY PROVIDES

- 1) Access to a report you may run at any time listing your patients > 18 with active lower extremity ulcers of any type who have NOT undergone vascular assessment so that you may prioritize these patients for assessment and thus improve the quality of your practice.

- 2) Access to a report you may run at any time listing the percentage of patients with active lower extremity ulcers who have undergone vascular assessment.
- 3) Your performance in comparison to the USWR aggregate.

| USWR 10 | Effective Clinical Care | Process | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------|----------------|
| Vascular Assessment of Patients with Chronic Leg Ulcers | | | | | | |
| For MD from 1/1/2016 - 7/9/2016 | | | | | | |
| CQM Number | Initial Population | Numerator | Denominator Exclusion | Denominator | Percentage | USWR Benchmark |
| USWR 10 | 111 | 26 | 0 | 111 | 23.4% | 43.6% |
| Patient Unit Number | Patient Name | Last Vascular Screening | Performance Met | Performance Not Met | | |
| | | 12/23/2014 | 0 | 1 | | |
| | | 10/13/2015 | 1 | 0 | | |
| | | 6/6/2016 | 1 | 0 | | |
| | | | 0 | 1 | | |
| | | | 0 | 1 | | |
| | | | 0 | 1 | | |
| | | | 0 | 1 | | |

% of Patients with Leg Ulcers Undergoing a Vascular Assessment by Quarter



YOUR ACTIVITY

- 1) Evaluate whether you are providing vascular assessment appropriately to your patients with leg ulcers at the benchmark rate.
- 2) Review the names of the patients with leg ulcers who have not been provided with vascular assessment, and discuss with your staff how you improve the quality of care you provide to these patients.

REFERENCES

- i. See APMA/SVS guidelines for “The Management of Diabetic Foot” at <https://vascular.org/news-advocacy/svs-apma-and-svm-publish-first-ever-guidelines-treating-diabetic-foot>