

# **Achievable Benchmarks of Care and the Appropriate Care Measure**

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## **Achievable Benchmarks of Care™**

- Developed at the University of Alabama at Birmingham under an initiative of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

<http://main.uab.edu/show.asp?durki=14527>

## **Achievable Benchmarks of Care™**

- Objective, data-driven benchmarks
- Performance targets that have already been achieved by “best practice” providers
- Focuses on excellent care
- Useful for feedback
- Based on sound theoretical approach

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## **Achievable Benchmarks of Care™**

- Represent a measurable level of excellence that always exceeds average performance
- Ensure that all superior providers contribute to the benchmark
- Ensure that providers with high performance but very low numbers of cases do not unduly influence benchmark levels

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## Achievable Benchmarks of Care™ *Methods*

- The adjusted performance fraction (essentially the adjusted measure rate) is calculated for each hospital
  - This reduces the impact of hospitals with very small numbers of patients

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## Adjusted Performance Fraction *Examples*

Adjusted Performance Fraction (APF) =

$$(x + 1) / (d + 2)$$

**x = number of patients passing measure**

**d = total number of pts included in the denominator**

Hospital with 1 case; that case received indicated care (100%):

$$APF = (1 + 1) / (1 + 2) = 0.67$$

APF reduces the influence of small volume hospitals

Hospital with 50 cases, 35 (70%) receive indicated care:

$$APF = (35 + 1) / (50 + 2) = 0.69$$

APF has little impact on rates in higher-volume hospitals

## **Achievable Benchmarks of Care™**

### *Methods*

- Hospitals are ranked in descending order of the adjusted performance fraction for each measure
- Adding the patient denominators for hospitals at the top of the list (by measure), we count down the list until approximately 10% of the patient population is included

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## **Achievable Benchmarks of Care™**

### *Methods*

- Calculate the mean performance (the “pared mean”) for the top providers that care for approximately 10% of the patients by adding all of their numerators and denominators for the measure – i.e., calculate the mean performance measure rate for the top hospitals
  - The “pared mean” is the benchmark
  - Because this is a mean, some hospitals will have performance rates higher than the benchmark

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Hospital	Adjusted Performance Fraction N+1/D+2	Numerator	Denominator
A	.926	24	25
B	.894	109	121
C	.800	47	58
D	.750	32	42
E	.740	212	286
F	.667	1	1
G	.640	185	289
H	.637	312	489
I	.571	3	5
J	.504	251	498
K	.500	32	64
L	.490	298	612
M	.462	65	141
Total	--	1571	2631

Average performance of the 13 hospitals = 1571/2631 (59.7%)

Benchmark hospitals (Hospitals A, B, C, and D) cared for 246 patients (approximately 10% of the measure denominator)  $246/2631 = 9.4\%$

Benchmark rate equals the sum of the numerators for hospitals A, B, C, and D, divided by the sum of their denominators

Benchmark rate:  $212/246 = 86.2\%$