

Population-based measures of ambulatory care quality: Potentially preventable admissions and emergency department visits

ISSUE: This paper begins to explore measuring Medicare preventable admissions and emergency department visits as indicators of population-level quality of care.

KEY POINTS: Potentially preventable admissions and emergency department visits are indicators intended to reflect access to and the value of the ambulatory care furnished in a region. It is important to understand the prevalence of preventable events and explore the factors that may influence their frequency. The Commission asked 3M Health Information Services to use its definition of potentially preventable admissions and emergency department visits to quantify rates nationally and explore variations across and within regions.

ACTION: We seek Commission discussion on the use of potentially preventable admissions and emergency department visits as population-based quality measures. Commissioners should provide feedback on the findings from the analysis.

STAFF CONTACT: Sara Sadownik and Nancy Ray.