

Tonsillectomy

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Care Pattern

CP-I

9000001 Patient(s) less than 21 years of age that had a tonsillectomy and met clinical criteria for this procedure.

This document addresses tonsillectomy procedures in patients less than 21 years of age at the end of the report period. The earliest claim for a tonsillectomy procedure was identified during the time period 365 days prior to the common report period end date.

Clinical indicators for tonsillectomy have been developed by the American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS) (1). These clinical indicators include the following: 1) three or more infections of the tonsils and/or adenoids per year, 2) hypertrophy causing dental malocclusion or adversely affecting orofacial growth, 3) hypertrophy causing upper airway obstruction, severe dysphagia, sleep disorders, or cardiopulmonary complications, 4) peritonsillar abscess unresponsive to management, 5) persistent foul taste or breath due to chronic tonsillitis, 6) chronic or recurrent tonsillitis associated with the streptococcal carrier state and not responding to treatment, and 7) unilateral tonsil hypertrophy presumed malignant.

Based on these AAO-HNS clinical indicators and the consensus opinion of experts, a patient was adherent to this measure if one of the following clinical criteria was met: 1) three or more face-to-face encounters at least 7 days apart during the time period 365 days prior to the tonsillectomy where the diagnosis was acute/chronic pharyngitis, acute/chronic tonsillitis, or acute/chronic adenoiditis or 2) at least one face-to-face encounter during the time period 365 days prior to the tonsillectomy where the diagnosis was hypertrophy of tonsils and adenoids, obstructive or unspecified sleep apnea, dysphagia, or peritonsillar abscess.

A limitation of claims data is the inability to identify all clinical indicators and medical situations where a tonsillectomy may be appropriate.

1. *American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS). Clinical Indicators Myringotomy and Tympanostomy Tubes. Accessed September 30, 2009. URL: <http://www.entlink.net/Practice/indicators/tonsillectomy.html>*