

Identifying Dental Sealant Universe Where Codes and Caries Risk Level Are Unavailable

Performance Measure: The performance measure is “Percentage of children, aged 6 through 9, at moderate to high risk for caries who received a sealant on a first permanent molar during the reporting period.”

Health centers which serve children age 6 through 9 for dental services (either directly or by paid referral) are required to report on the Dental Sealant measure. Some health centers may not have used the ADA Dental Risk Assessment codes which were initiated in 2014 or may not have begun tracking caries risk until after January 1 of 2015. Under these situations, an alternate method must be used to determine/estimate the size of the universe. Steps are outlined below:

1. Identify all children age 6 through 9 who had at least one oral assessment or comprehensive or periodic oral evaluation visit during the measurement year.
2. Review these records to find 70 records where the dental records or other documentation demonstrate the level of caries risk. You may need to have providers retrospectively review the records to determine caries risk based on available diagnostic information at that time if the caries risk level is not currently documented in the patient record.
3. Continue to review charts until 70 charts meet the universe criteria (dental patients aged 6 through 9 who had an oral assessment or comprehensive or periodic oral evaluation visit during the reporting year with moderate to high risk for caries).
4. Estimate the size of the universe by:
 - a. Dividing the 70 charts that were identified to have met the universe criteria by the number of records you had to review in order to get to the 70.
 - b. Multiply this result by the total number of children age 6 through 9 who had an oral health visit (the value from step 1). The resulting value will be your estimated universe.
5. Enter the estimated universe in Column A; 70 in Column B; and the number of the 70 who met the performance standard (received a sealant on a permanent first molar tooth in the measurement year).

Note that caries risk assessment must be based on patient-level factors and not population-based factors such as low socio-economic status.