Improving Population Health via a Quality Measurement Analysis: Diabetic Eye Exam

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INTRODUCTION
Diabetic retinopathy is one of the leading causes of blindness in many nations. Occular microvascular complications can lead to diabetic macular edema or proliferative diabetic retinopathy (PDR), which leads to loss of sight. PCPs, Optometrists, Ophthalmologists, or Retinal Specialists can diagnose diabetic retinopathy. Those providers can use the following diagnostic tools: dilated eye exam, 7 field stereoscopic fundus photograph, fluorescein angiography, or optical coherence tomography (OCT). As of January 2015, within Lehigh Valley Physicians Group, the data shows that out of the 24,861 patients diagnosed with diabetes in need of eye exams, only 5,482 patients have received one. Evidence shows that screening for diabetic retinopathy has reduced the rate of visual loss by greater than 25%. In order to improve the quality care of the diabetic patient population, how quality is measured needs to be further analyzed and addressed.

PLAN
• Analyze quality measurements implemented by the provider and payer within LVHN through program manuals
• Determine discrepancies within measurements
• Detect areas of opportunity to implement change
• Observe the influence of reimbursement and policy

RESULTS
• Determined that the measurements were not standardized among contracts. 85% of measurements were seen in 3 or less contracts and 15% of measurements were standardized between 4 or more contracts.
• Observed that 78% of the quality measurements were process based, and only 17% were outcome based. 5% were mixed.
• There was a quality measurement for performing a diabetic eye exam within the following contracts: LVPHO, CBC GIP, Highmark MA, Highmark Senior Bundle, Highmark PCMH, CMS ACO, and AmeriHealth PP. Out of these contracts, only three, LVPHO, CMS ACO and AmeriHealth PP, expect both the eye exam itself and the results of the exam to be documented. All other contracts only require documentation of a performed exam.
• Data is exchanged between provider and payer by claims through coding or data extraction from EMR’s.

LITERATURE CITED

FURTHER INFORMATION
• Implementation of guidelines for proper segmentation of providers who can perform diabetic eye exams is necessary for improvement of the system
• The use of Telemedicine can help more individuals gain access to diabetes management and other components of healthcare

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