



Minimum Volumes for Reporting

Different hospitals treat different types of patients based on the needs of their communities. Some hospitals care for a large number (volume) of patients with a given condition or procedure and some hospitals a smaller volume. In addition, most of the measures in CheckPoint require that each patient included in a measure meets defined criteria. These conditions may result in a low volume of patients reported (generally considered less than 25 patients) for a measure.

When this occurs, each patient's result can have a large impact on the hospital's rate. To better understand this effect, compare Hospital A and Hospital B. Hospital A has 100 patients that meet the criteria for a measure. If Hospital A provides the required care to all 100 patients, their rate is 100%. If Hospital A, for whatever reason, does not provide the required care to 1 patient, their rate is 99%. On the other hand, Hospital B has 4 patients that meet the criteria for a measure. If Hospital B provides the required care to all 4 patients, their rate is 100%. If Hospital B, for whatever reason, does not provide the required care to 1 patient, their rate is only 75%. All of these rates are accurate, but the low number of patients reported by Hospital B makes their reported rate much lower when they do not provide the required care to the same number of patients.

Low reporting volume also affects the ability to use the current rate to predict future performance. Be careful when drawing conclusions about hospitals that have a small reporting volume.

For most measures, low volume is considered 25 cases or less. For mortality measures the threshold is 30 cases. For volume indicators the threshold is 5 cases.