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REPORT

RAND/UCLA Quality-of-Care Measures for Carpal Tunnel Syndrome

Appendix VI, Part A: Materials for Scoring Intraoperative Measures (Scoring Instructions)

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Supported by the California Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation and by the Zenith Insurance Company



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This research was jointly supported by the California Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation and by the Zenith Insurance Company, and was undertaken within the RAND Center for Health and Safety in the Workplace.

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Published 2011 by the RAND Corporation
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**Appendix VI: Quality Measures: Materials for Scoring Intraoperative Measures (Scoring
Instructions, Guidance Document, and Data Forms)**

Intraoperative Quality Measures: Scoring Instructions

These measures should be scored by a physician who operates on the hand. The purpose of the Scoring Instructions is to provide basic information that can be used to determine how to score the quality measures and related variables. Because the Scoring Instructions are long, recording data for individual patients on it would use a lot of paper. Instead, data for individual patients can be recorded on the separate and much shorter Data Form. Thus, if the Scoring Instructions are analogous to a test you might take in school, the Data Form is analogous to the sheet on which you record your answers to test questions. The Guidance Document contains detailed definitions and instructions; abstractors should refer to that document before scoring the measures and variables the first time, if they encounter unusual situations, or if they have any detailed questions.

In these documents, questions are numbered as follows:

- Questions pertaining to section or subsection eligibility are indicated by an “E” after the question.
- Questions pertaining to individual measures are indicated by “M” after the question number.
 - “ME” means that the question pertains to eligibility for the measure.
 - “MC” means that the question addresses components of an individual measure.
 - “MA” means that the question addresses whether or not care adhered to the requirements of the measure.
- Additional variables that are not directly related to an individual measure are indicated by “V” after the question number.

Answer the following questions as directed for patients who underwent carpal tunnel surgery on the study hand for the first time during the study period.

IOC.01.E Surgical approach(es) used

Select the surgical approach used.

- ☐ **Only endoscopic:** Only an endoscopic approach was attempted → Score measures applicable to BOTH approaches (IOC.02.M and IOC.03.M) AND to the endoscopic approach (IOC.04.M and IOC.05.M)
- ☐ **Only open:** Only an open approach was attempted → Score measures applicable to BOTH approaches (IOC.02.M and IOC.03.M) AND to the open approach (IOC.06.M through IOC.09.M)
- ☐ **Converted:** An endoscopic approach was converted to an open approach → Score ALL measures in this section (IOC.02.M through IOC.09.M) except where noted
- ☐ **Unclear/Missing:** The approach cannot be determined, or part or all of the operative report is missing → Not eligible, END ABSTRACTION

Measures That Apply to Both Endoscopic and Open Approaches

IOC.02.M Documentation of TCL release

IOC.02.MA Did the operative report **explicitly state** that the transverse carpal ligament in this wrist was transected?

- ☐ YES → Pass, go to next measure
- ☐ NO → No Pass, go to next measure

IOC.03.M Indications for primary open rather than endoscopic release

IOC.03.MC Did the patient have the following documented in the medical record **during the preceding 18 months?** Select all that apply.

- ☐ A mass lesion within the carpal tunnel that was suspected clinically
- ☐ A mass lesion within the carpal tunnel that was documented on imaging
- ☐ Severe rheumatoid arthritis (RA)
- ☐ Severe tenosynovitis of the wrist

IOC.03.ME Summarize eligibility for indications for primary open rather than endoscopic release.

- ☐ ONE or MORE → Eligible for this measure, continue
- ☐ NONE or UNCLEAR → Not eligible, go to next measure

IOC.03.MA Was carpal tunnel surgery performed as a primary open approach rather than attempted or performed endoscopically?

- ☐ YES → Pass, go to measures that apply to open approach
- ☐ NO → No Pass, go to next measure

Measures that Apply to Endoscopic Approach

IOC.04.M Documentation of proximal transverse incision location in endoscopic release

IOC.04.MC Did the operative report explicitly document either of the following? **Select the one that applies.**

- ☐ The proximal transverse incision was ulnar to the palmaris longus tendon
- ☐ The palmaris longus tendon was absent AND the proximal transverse incision did not extend radial to the radial aspect of ring finger

IOC.04.MA Summarize adherence for documentation of proximal transverse incision location in endoscopic release.

- ☐ ONE → Pass, go to next measure
- ☐ NONE → No Pass, go to next measure

IOC.05.M Identification of deep surface of TCL in endoscopic release

IOC.05.ME Did the patient have an endoscopic release that was converted to open (IOC.01.ME = 3)?

- ☐ Yes → Not Eligible, go to next measure
- ☐ NO → Eligible, continue

IOC.05.MA Did the operative report explicitly document that the deep surface of the transverse carpal ligament was identified prior to transection?

- ☐ YES → Pass, go to next measure
- ☐ NO → No Pass, go to next measure

Measures that Apply to Open Approach

IOC.06.M Limit superficial epineurotomy to specific indications

Part 1 **IOC.06.MA.01** Was a superficial epineurotomy performed?

- ☐ YES → Continue
- ☐ NO → Pass, skip to next measure

Part 2 **IOC.06.MA.02** Was injury or scarring of the median nerve documented in the operative report or in the medical record during the six months before surgery?

- ☐ YES → Pass, go to next measure
- ☐ NO → No Pass, go to next measure

IOC.07.M Limit internal neurolysis to specific indications

Part 1 **IOC.07.MA.01** Was an internal neurolysis performed?

- ☐ YES → Continue
- ☐ NO → Pass, skip to next measure

Part 2 **IOC.07.MA.02** Was injury or scarring of the median nerve documented in the operative report or in the medical record during the six months before surgery?

- ☐ YES → Pass, go to next measure
- ☐ NO → No Pass, go to next measure

IOC.08.M Limit flexor tenosynovectomy to specific indications

Part 1 **IOC.08.MA.01** Was a tenosynovectomy performed on this wrist during surgery?

- ☐ YES → Continue
- ☐ NO → Pass, skip to next measure

Part 2 **IOC.08.MA.02** Was severe proliferative tenosynovitis or a condition associated with severe proliferative tenosynovitis documented in the operative report or in the medical record during the six months before surgery?

- ☐ YES → Pass, go to next measure
- ☐ NO → No Pass, go to next measure

IOC.09.M Avoidance of TCL repair

IOC.09.MA Was the transverse carpal ligament repaired?

☐ YES → **No Pass** [note reverse response options, here yes is NO PASS]

☐ NO → **Pass**

END ABSTRACTION