

Vermont Oxford Network
NQF Measure 0482
First NICU Temperature < 36 Degrees Centigrade

NQF Measure Number:

0482

Measure Description:

Proportion of infants 501 to 1500 grams with first temperature measured within one hour of admission to the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) below 36 degrees centigrade.

Population:

Infants born at the reporting hospital whose birth weight is between 501 and 1500 grams should be included if they are admitted to a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) in the hospital and their temperature is measured within one hour of NICU admission.

Outborn infants who are admitted to any location in the reporting hospital within 28 days of birth, without first having gone home, and whose birth weight is between 501 and 1500 grams should be included if they are admitted to a NICU in the hospital and their temperature is measured within one hour of NICU admission.

Exclusions:

1. Infants outside the birth weight range 501 to 1500 grams.
2. Outborn infants admitted more than 28 days after birth.
3. Outborn infants who have been home prior to admission.
4. Infants not admitted to the NICU.
5. Infants whose temperature is not measured within one hour of admission to the NICU.

Measure Stratification:

The measure should be separately determined by birth location of infants (inborn, outborn), as well as determined for all eligible infants. Stratification by 250-gram birth weight category may be useful.

Calculation Instructions

1. Identify the *population of eligible infants*: all infants born in the hospital or admitted within 28 days of birth without having been discharged home whose birth weight is between 501 and 1500 grams, who are admitted to a NICU in the hospital and whose temperature is measured within one hour of NICU admission.
2. Count the number of inborn infants with a body temperature measured within 1 hour of admission to the NICU. This number is the denominator for eligible inborn infants: *DENOM INBORN*.

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3. Count the number of outborn infants with a body temperature measured within 1 hour of admission to the NICU. This number is the denominator for eligible outborn infants: *DENOM OUTBORN*.
4. Count the total number of eligible infants with a body temperature measured within 1 hour of admission to the NICU. This number is the denominator for all eligible infants: *DENOM ALL*.
5. Count the number of inborn infants whose body temperature measured within one hour of NICU admission is less than 36 degrees centigrade. This number is the numerator for eligible inborn infants: *NUM INBORN*.
6. Count the number of outborn infants whose body temperature measured within one hour of NICU admission is less than 36 degrees centigrade. This number is the numerator for eligible outborn infants: *NUM OUTBORN*.
7. Count the total number of eligible infants whose body temperature measured within one hour of NICU admission is less than 36 degrees centigrade. This number is the numerator for all eligible infants: *NUM ALL*
8. Calculate the measure for eligible inborn infants:

NUM INBORN/ DENOM INBORN

This measure represents the proportion of eligible inborn infants whose birth weight is between 501 and 1500 grams and whose body temperature is less than 36 degrees centigrade on NICU admission.

9. Calculate the measure for eligible outborn infants:

NUM OUTBORN/ DENOM OUTBORN

This measure represents the proportion of eligible outborn infants whose birth weight is between 501 and 1500 grams and whose body temperature is less than 36 degrees centigrade on NICU admission.

10. Calculate the measure for all eligible infants:

NUM ALL/ DENOM ALL

This measure represents the proportion of all eligible infants whose birth weight is between 501 and 1500 grams and whose body temperature is less than 36 degrees centigrade on NICU admission.

11. Definitions:

Data item definitions are from the Vermont Oxford Network Manual of Operations, available on-line at <http://www.vtoxford.org/tools/ManualofOperationsPart2.pdf>.

- a. Birth Weight:

Record the birth weight in grams. Since many weights may be obtained on an infant shortly after birth, enter the weight from the Labor and Delivery record if available and judged to be accurate. If unavailable or judged to be inaccurate, use the weight on admission to the neonatal unit or lastly, the weight obtained on autopsy (if the infant expired within 24 hours of birth).

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b. Location of Birth:

Check “**Inborn**” if the infant was delivered at your center.

Check “**Outborn**” if the infant was delivered outside your center. Any infant requiring ambulance transfer will be considered outborn. When completing Network data forms for outborn infants, use all information available from the hospital that transferred the infant to your center as well as from your own hospital.

c. Temperature Measured within the First Hour after Admission to Your NICU:

Check “**Yes**” if the infant’s core body temperature was measured and recorded within the first hour after admission to your NICU. Core body temperature may be measured by taking a rectal, esophageal, tympanic or axillary temperature.

Check “**No**” if the infant’s core body temperature was not measured and recorded within the first hour after admission to your NICU.

Check “**N/A**” if the infant is eligible but was never admitted to your NICU.

d. Temperature at Admission to Your NICU:

If the infant’s core body temperature was measured and recorded within the first hour after admission to your NICU, enter the infant’s temperature in degrees centigrade to the nearest tenth of a degree. If the infant’s temperature is measured multiple times within the first hour after admission to your NICU, enter the value of the first temperature measurement. For centers that measure temperature in degrees Fahrenheit, a Fahrenheit to centigrade Conversion Table is provided in Appendix I. Use rectal temperature or, if not available, esophageal temperature, tympanic temperature or axillary temperature, in that order.

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