

## Use of Hydroxyurea among Children and Adolescents with Sickle Cell Anemia

### Description

The percentage of children ages 1 to 18 years with sickle cell anemia (SCA; hemoglobin [Hb] SS or HbS $\beta^0$ -thalassemia) who were dispensed hydroxyurea for at least 300 days within the measurement year. A higher proportion indicates better performance as reflected by appropriate treatment.

### Calculation

This measure requires administrative claims data and is calculated as the numerator divided by the denominator.

### Specification

**Denominator** The number of children ages 1 to 18 years with SCA within the measurement year.

**Numerator** The number of children ages 1 to 18 years with SCA who were dispensed hydroxyurea for at least 300 days within the measurement year.

### Definitions

**Intake period** January 1 of the measurement year through December 31 of the measurement year.

**Hydroxyurea** Hydroxyurea dispensed for 300 days, which is the summed total of the number of days' supply of hydroxyurea dispensed within the measurement year (see Table 1 containing National Drug Codes [NDC]).

### Eligible Population

**Ages** Children 1 year or older on January 1 of the measurement year but younger than 18 years on December 31 of the measurement year.

**Enrollment** Continuous enrollment during the measurement year, with no other form of health insurance for the entire measurement year.

**Diagnosis** **ICD-9:** Children with sickle cell anemia are identified as those with sickle cell anemia-related ICD-9-CM diagnosis codes on three or more separate healthcare encounters within the measurement year (Table 2).

**ICD-10:** Children with sickle cell anemia are identified as those with at least one outpatient visit with a sickle cell anemia-related or D571 ICD-10-CM diagnosis code within the measurement year (Tables 3a and 3b).