Medicare Health Outcomes Survey (HOS) – Improving Bladder Control

Who: Adults aged 65 or older who had a problem with urine leakage in the past six months, who discussed it with their doctor and got treatment during the year.

Why: 51% of women and 14% of men in the U.S. experience urinary incontinence. Adults who experience urinary incontinence report worse physical health, mental health and quality of life. For older adults, it can potentially reduce independence and the ability to socialize. Discussing urinary incontinence with patients can help address and reduce symptoms with evidence-based treatment.

What: Percentage of patients 65-years-old or older with a urine leakage problem in the past 6 months who discussed treatment options with a provider.

How: This is a patient-reported measure using a random sample of Medicare beneficiaries drawn and surveyed. The survey is administered annually to a random sample of plan members. The same member cohort is surveyed again two years later to account for baseline and follow-up results. Health Outcomes Survey measures include two functional health measures and three HEDIS Effectiveness of Care measures used in the annual Medicare Part C Star Ratings.

Improving Bladder Control is based on two questions:

1) In the past six months, have you experienced leaking of urine?
2) Have you discussed treatment options with a doctor or other health care provider?