Medicare Health Outcomes Survey (HOS) – Improving Bladder Control

Who: Adults aged 65 or older as of December 31 of the measurement year who had a problem with urine leakage in the past six months, who discussed the issue and treatment options with their doctor 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 which surveys a random sample of Medicare beneficiaries. The Health Outcomes Survey is administered annually; the same member cohort is surveyed again two years later to account for baseline and follow-up results. Health Outcomes Survey quality 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 survey 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?