



1. **CMS Measure ID/CMS QCDR ID:** CAP1
2. **Measure Title:** Turnaround Time (TAT) - Standard biopsies
3. **Measure Description:** Measurement of the TAT for surgical pathology biopsy reports that meet a minimum two (2) business day requirement, an indicator of a laboratory's efficiency, and also impacts coordination of patient care.
4. **Denominator:** Total number of standard biopsies completed.
5. **Numerator:** Number of standard biopsies meeting a 2-day (48 business hours or 2 business days) TAT.
6. **Definitions:**
 - a. Standard biopsies - any biopsy (e.g. CPT 88305¹) received on a patient in which special handling is not required.
 - b. Special handling - cases requiring further fixation, decalcification, ancillary testing (such as special stains, immunohistochemistry, and molecular studies), or deeper sections.
 - c. Turnaround time (TAT) - The day the specimen is accessioned in the lab to the day the final report is signed out. Business days counted only.
 - d. Signed Out - The pathology report with a final diagnosis is released.
7. **Denominator Exclusions:**
 - a. Cases requiring special handling (these cases could be excluded when codes other than 88305 are associated with a case).
 - b. Biopsy associated with another specimen type (i.e. 88307, 88309).
8. **Denominator Exceptions:**
 - a. Cases requiring intra-departmental or extra-departmental consultation.
 - b. Skin excisions with margins coded as 88305.
9. **Numerator Exclusions:** None.
10. **Rationale:** The average TAT for surgical pathology biopsy reports is an indicator of a laboratory's efficiency and can also effect coordination of patient care. Prior studies have shown that the average time to verification for small hospitals is 2 days.
11. **NQF Number:** N/A
12. **eCQM Number:** N/A
13. **NQS Domain:** Communication and Care Coordination

¹ Note – That this is meant as a guide and not sufficient for inclusion in the denominator; not all 88305s are included in the measure. CPT® contained in the Measures specifications is copyright 2004-2017 American Medical Association.



14. **Outcome or High Priority?:** High Priority
15. **High Priority Type:** Care Coordination
16. **Measure Type:** Process
17. **Inverse Measure:** No
18. **Proportional Measure:** Yes
19. **Continuous Variable Measure:** No
20. **Ratio Measure:** No
21. **If Continuous Variable and/or Ratio is chosen, what would be the range of the score(s)?:** N/A
22. **Number of performance rates to be submitted:** 1
23. **Overall Performance Rate if more than 1 performance rate is to be submitted:** N/A
24. **Is the Measure Risk-Adjusted?:** No
25. **Data Source:** Laboratory Information System
26. **Reference:** Novis DA1, Zarbo RJ, Saladino AJ. [Interinstitutional comparison of surgical biopsy diagnosis turnaround time: a College of American Pathologists Q-Probes study of 5384 surgical biopsies in 157 small hospitals](#). Arch Pathol Lab Med. 1998 Nov;122(11):951-6.