**CAP QCDR Measure**
**Turnaround Time (TAT) - Biopsies**

**CMS Measure ID/CMS QCDR ID:** CAP 22  
**Measure Title:** Turnaround Time (TAT) – Biopsies

### Measure Specifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure Description</th>
<th>Percentage of final pathology reports for biopsies that meet the maximum 2 business day turnaround time (TAT) requirement (Report Date – Accession Date ≤ 2 business days).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Denominator Statement

- All final pathology reports for patients, regardless of age, who undergo a biopsy
- Any biopsy (i.e., CPT®: 88305, HCPCS: G0416, G0417, G0418, G0419),

The denominator must be met between 01/01/2022 and 12/26/2022. This is to provide sufficient time for the performance of the numerator to be met and documented within the performance period.

### Denominator Exclusions

1. Biopsy associated with any other specimen type (i.e., CPT®: 88304, 88307, 88309).
2. Cytopathology cases (i.e., Cell blocks) (CPT®: 88173, 88112, 88108).

### Denominator Exceptions

1. Cases requiring intra-departmental or extra-departmental consultation.
2. Wide excisions, re-excisions or skin excisions with margins coded as 88305 coded as 88305.

### Numerator Statement

Final pathology reports for biopsies in the laboratory/hospital information system with result verified and reported by the laboratory, available to the requesting physician(s) within 2 business days.

### Numerator Exclusions

None

### Guidance

This measure is to be reported each time a biopsy is received during the performance period. It is anticipated that eligible clinicians providing the pathology services for procedures will submit this measure.

**Numerator definitions:**

1. 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.
2. Accession Date: The date recorded in the laboratory/hospital information system that documents when a specimen was received by the laboratory.
3. Report Date: The date recorded in the laboratory/hospital information system that documents when a result is verified (i.e. released with a final diagnosis) by the pathologist, reported by the laboratory information system and available to the requesting physician(s).

### Measure Information

**NQS Domain**

Communication and Care Coordination
**Turnaround Time (TAT) - Biopsies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meaningful Measures Area(s)</th>
<th>Transfer of Health Information and Interoperability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Meaningful Measure Rationale</strong></td>
<td>Turnaround time (TAT) is an indicator of efficiency in anatomic pathology and may affect coordination of patient care. Measuring report timeliness, or TAT, is an indicator of efficiency in the completion of many complex and interdependent laboratory, technical, clerical, and human interpretive processes that each result in the pathology diagnostic report. Timely pathology reports are one of the most important tools physicians use to adequately manage the quality and safety of patient care. The implication of surgical pathology report delay, as shown in research evidence, is that prolonged turnaround time can play a major role in disease complications, including raising morbidity and mortality rates. Therefore, verifying pathology reports in an appropriate timeframe helps healthcare practitioners with timely diagnosis and more effective treatment planning. The accuracy of diagnosis and providing timely complete reports is one of the main quality indicators in surgical pathology. Turnaround time is considered a key daily quality performance evaluation element since it can easily be assessed with laboratory information systems (1-6).</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure Type</th>
<th>Process</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Data Source</strong></td>
<td>Laboratory Information Systems; pathology reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summary of Performance</strong></td>
<td>For January-December 2020, 12 reporting entities submitted data on CAP 22. The average performance rate was 84.42 with a standard deviation of 11.36. Performance rates ranged from 58.96% to 100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Gap Evidence
For January-1 July 2021, 13 practices have entered data (1 does not meet the 20 case minimum). The average performance rate to date is 90.63.

Few reports quantify turnaround time for all biopsies across practice settings. Smaller studies have examined turnaround times at specific institutions and/or for certain specimen types. For instance, the Henry Ford Core Surgical Pathology lab reported in 2018 that breast biopsy specimens had a "goal of final pathology report in 48 hours of specimen receipt" (1). However, "(d)ue to multiple root causes our breast biopsy turn-around-time (TAT) was in excess of goal" (1). Similarly, the University of Wisconsin Health notes that in-lab turnaround time for surgical pathology biopsy specimens is "2-5 days", in excess of recommendations.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure Owner</th>
<th>College of American Pathologists</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NQF ID</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Performance Rates</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Performance Rate</td>
<td>1st Performance Rate</td>
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<tr>
<td>High-priority</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improvement Notation</td>
<td>Inverse Measure: No</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Continuous Variable Measure: No</td>
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<td>Risk-adjusted: No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Care Setting and Specialty</td>
<td>Care Setting: Other—Laboratories; Telehealth not applicable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current Clinical Guideline the Measure is Derived From</td>
<td>None</td>
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Measure Flow

**Denominator**
- Start: 100 cases
- Procedure as listed in denominator (CPT 88305, HCPCS G0416-0419): 100 cases
- Procedure occurs between January 1 and December 26 of performance year: 100 cases
- Not in Eligible Population/Denominator
- Biopsy associated with other specimen OR Cytopathology OR Cases requiring decalcification: 10 cases (a)
- Eligible Population/Denominator: 90 cases (x)

**Numerator**
- Pathology report verified and available to requesting physician within 2 business days
- Yes
- Pathology report not available within 2 business days, reason not given
- No
- Data Completeness Not Met: 10 cases (e)
- Yes
- Denominator Exception: 10 cases (c)
- No
- Numerator/Performance Met: 60 cases (b)
- Yes
- Performance Not Met: 10 cases (d)
- No

**Data Completeness**
- Denominator Exceptions (c)+Met (b)+ Not Met (d) = 10+60+10
- Eligible Population (x) = 90

**Performance Rate**
- Met (b) = 60
- Data Completeness Numerator – Denominator Exceptions (c) = 70

Last Updated: 11/16/2021
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