Cancer Quality Dashboard Methodology

Interest in cancer quality reporting has significantly increased over the past five years, yet quality leaders still struggle to come to consensus on a core set of quality metrics. As a result, cancer program leaders are left to evaluate the ever-expanding metric list to identify those measures most appropriate for their organization’s strategic priorities.

To aid in this process, the Oncology Roundtable designed six clinical quality dashboards: a palliative care dashboard, a general cancer center dashboard, and a dashboard specific to each of the major tumor sites – breast, non-small cell lung, colorectal and prostate. For each quality indicator, the tables provide a definition, benchmark, and indicate whether the measure is endorsed by any national quality organization. The selected indicators are supported by clinical literature, are of interest to one or more national organizations, or frequently appear on clinical quality dashboards of hospitals interviewed during the course of research. Quality indicators were evaluated on the basis of meaningfulness to program goals and feasibility of data capture. For that reason, measures with no available benchmark data were omitted.

Metric benchmarks were identified through an exhaustive search of the clinical literature and national benchmarking efforts. Depending on the data available, benchmarks are presented as national averages, best observed practices, or ideal levels of care. These dashboards are by no means meant to serve as an exhaustive list of quality indicators, nor should the provided benchmarks be interpreted as universally applicable to all programs. Every hospital is encouraged to tailor its list of quality metrics based on overall quality goals, which can be initiated through the use of the Oncology Roundtable’s Metric Selection Playbook, and online Cancer Quality Dashboard Metric Selection Tool.