



Performance Precision.

Improving Door to Balloon Time Accuracy

The Challenge

A healthcare organization encountered an issue impacting the accuracy of its critical Door-to-Balloon (D2B) time assessment within its cardiac catheterization (cath lab) data. The Carta Healthcare abstraction team, during their routine work and quality checks, identified instances where the indications for cath lab visits were being incorrectly defined. This misidentification, while seemingly subtle, had a direct effect on the accurate calculation and reporting of D2B times – a key metric for timely intervention in acute myocardial infarction (AMI) patients and a critical factor in quality reporting and patient outcomes.



The Solution

Leveraging their deep clinical expertise and meticulous data analysis, the Carta Healthcare abstraction team proactively investigated the inconsistencies in the defined indications for cath lab visits. Their understanding of the specific nuances of cardiac procedures and the precise definitions required for accurate D2B time assessment allowed them to pinpoint the patterns of incorrect categorization. **The team then worked to establish clear and accurate definitions for the various indications for cath lab visits, aligning them with best practice guidelines and registry requirements.** This involved a detailed review of patient charts, procedural notes, and relevant clinical documentation to understand the true reason for each visit.



Refined Results.

The identification and correction of the incorrectly defined indications for cath lab visits by the Carta Healthcare abstraction team had a significant positive impact on the organization's D2B time assessment:

Accurate D2B Time Calculation: By ensuring the correct categorization of visit indications, the D2B time was calculated accurately, reflecting the true time elapsed from the patient's arrival to balloon inflation.

Improved Data Integrity: The correction enhanced the overall integrity and reliability of the organization's cath lab data, leading to more trustworthy reporting and analysis.

Enhanced Quality Reporting: Accurate D2B time data is crucial for quality reporting initiatives and demonstrating adherence to timely care standards for AMI patients.

Better Understanding of Performance: With accurate D2B times, the organization could gain a clearer understanding of its performance in delivering timely care and identify potential areas for process improvement within the cath lab.

Potential for Improved Patient Outcomes: Accurate data allows for informed decision-making and targeted interventions aimed at further optimizing D2B times and ultimately improving patient outcomes for AMI patients.



In Conclusion

This case study highlights the critical role of expert data abstraction in ensuring the accuracy of even seemingly straightforward metrics like Door-to-Balloon time. Carta Healthcare's proactive identification and correction of incorrectly defined indications for cath lab visits demonstrate their commitment to detail and their ability to identify and resolve subtle data issues that can have a significant impact on quality reporting and patient care. **Their expertise provides healthcare organizations with the assurance of reliable and accurate data, empowering them to drive meaningful improvements in their clinical processes and patient outcomes.**