

Practice Assessment Tool (PAT) Frequently Asked Questions

General:

1. Q: I have two separate practice locations, should I complete a PAT for each location?

A: This depends on whether or not these practice locations have separate Tax Identification Numbers (TIN). If the practices are under the same TIN, then you should only complete one PAT, if the locations have separate TINs, you should complete one PAT for each location.

2. Q: I have been asked to complete the PAT, but I am concerned about making our doctors look bad. Will they get in trouble if we have too many low scores?

A: The PAT should really be seen as a tool to identify opportunities for improvement, not as a means of making your practice look poorly. We actually encourage you to err on the side of scoring low to reduce the risk of not identifying an improvement opportunity.

Demographics

3. Q: What NPI should I list in the demographics section if I have multiple providers in my practice?

A: List the practice NPI, not the individual provider's NPI.

4. Q: When completing the demographics section, does total patients only include Medicare patients?

A: This number should include all patients, not just Medicare patients.

5. Q: For patient demographics, how should we count total patients in our practice? Is it referring to active patients seen in the past 1 year, or during the past 2 or 3 years?

A: There are two ways to determine the total number of patients in your practice, and you can choose the one that makes most sense for your practice. The first option is to define an active panel of patients. The second option is to enter the number of unique patients seen at your practice over the past year. The unique number of patients refers to the number of patients, not the number of visits (if the same patient was seen 3 times, you would count this as 1 patient).

6. Q: When capturing the "Number of Clinicians within Practice" field, should I include physicians who work part-time at my practice?

A: Yes, all providers in your practice should be included on your participation agreement, and they should also be included in this field in the demographics tab.

7. Q: How should I proceed if my practice's EHR is not able to generate reports on demographic data?

A: If your practice is not able to pull exact numbers for patient demographics you have two options. The first option is to provide estimates on your patient demographic information. If you do not feel confident providing estimates, the second option is to leave these fields blank and proceed with completing your practice's PAT. You should expect, however, that CMS will likely expect reporting on patient demographics in the future. Perhaps this is a good opportunity to talk to your EHR vendor about why they are not able to capture this data.

8. Q: When capturing total Medicare patients, does this include patients with commercial Medicare Advantage and Managed Care Medicaid programs?

A: No, these patients should not be included in this total, only patients with Medicare Part B should be included.

9. Q: If my practice has demographic data on some patients, but not all, how should I proceed in entering this data?

A: Only include patients in the race and ethnicity fields that you have data for. Do not worry if the race and ethnicity fields do not add up to the total patients listed for your practice.

10. Q: What is a dual eligible patient?

A: A dual eligible patient is a patient who is insured through both Medicare AND Medicaid.

Milestones 1-22

11. Q: How should I score my practice's performance against a milestone if we feel it doesn't apply to our practice?

A: You should score a zero for the milestone if you believe it doesn't apply.

12. Q: How do I rate my practice's performance on a milestone if I believe we fall between scores (ex. between 1 and 2)?

A: We ask that you default to the lower number, in this case a 1.

13. Q: What timeframe do I rate my practice's performance on?

A: Practice performance should be rated as of today.

**For questions on specific milestones we ask that you reference
the [tutorials on our website](#).**

If you have additional questions about the PAT we encourage you to [email them](#).