

ASC-13 Normothermia

Step 1: Identify surgical patients with general or neuraxial (epidural or spinal) anesthesia equal to or greater than 60 minutes in duration (**Denominator**)

- Did the patient have a general or neuraxial anesthetic?
 - Cases with strictly sedation or local anesthesia would not be included
- What was the Start time of anesthesia?
 - If there is no Start time, do **not** include patient in the Denominator
 - If both Start time and Induction time are documented, use Start time
 - If there is no Start time but there is an Induction time, do **not** include patient in the Denominator
- What is the End time of anesthesia?
 - If there is no End time, do **NOT** include patient in the Denominator
 - If there is no End time documented, do **NOT** include patient in the Denominator

If the duration between Start time and End time is equal to or greater than 60 minutes, the patient can be included in the Denominator.

Step 2: Determine how many patients in the Denominator population had the required body temperature within 15 minutes of arriving in the PACU (**Numerator**)

If the patient had a body temperature greater than or equal to **96.8° F or 36° C** 15 minutes after arrival in the PACU, then the patient can be included in the Numerator.

Step 3: Determine if the number of cases meet the Sampling Specifications

If the population is 0-900, a sample of 63 may be used: If the population is greater than or equal to 901, a sample of at least 96 should be used. If the population is fewer than 63 cases, the total population of cases is required.

Example: An ASC performed **903** surgical procedures. The number of procedures exceeds 901 and can be sampled using at least 96 cases.

Scenario 1

Medicare patient has surgical procedure using **general** anesthesia

Start time of anesthesia was **0615**

End time of anesthesia was documented on the operating room (OR) form at **0720**

Patient's arrival to PACU was documented at **0725**

Body temperature was **36° C** at **0730**

Denominator criteria met? Yes

Numerator criteria met? Yes

- ✓ The patient received **general** anesthesia for the duration of **65** minutes and had a documented body temperature of **36°** within **15** minutes of arrival in the PACU. This patient should be included in this measure.

Scenario 2

Patient started **neuraxial** anesthetic (spinal) for a surgical procedure at **1000**

End time of anesthesia was documented at **1100**

Patient arrived into the PACU at **1105**

At **1110** patient's temperature was documented as **96.5°**

Patient's temperature was rechecked at **1115** and documented as **97°**

Denominator criteria met? Yes

Numerator criteria met? Yes

The patient received **neuraxial** anesthesia for 60 minutes and had a documented body temperature of **97° F** within 15 minutes of arrival in the PACU. This patient meets the criteria for both the numerator and denominator.

Scenario 3

Private pay patient received **general** anesthesia

Anesthetist documented the start time as **0730**

The anesthetist documented the end time as **0825**

Patient's arrival time into PACU was documented as **0832**

Patient's body temperature at **0837** was **97.8° F**

Denominator criteria met? No

The anesthesia duration time is not equal to or greater than **60** minutes; therefore, this patient should **not** be included in the measure.

Scenario 4

Medicare patient started epidural in pre-op holding at **0800**

Patient entered the operating suite at **0810**

Documented End time of anesthesia was **0905**

Patient's body temperature recorded at **0920** was **96.5° F**

Nurse Practitioner documented intentional hypothermia for the procedure

Denominator criteria met? No

The documentation of intentional hypothermia is a Denominator Exclusion and excludes this case from the population; therefore, this patient should **not** be included in the measure.

Scenario 5

Patient received **general** anesthesia for surgical procedure

Anesthetist documented Start time at **1010**

No documented End time

Patient's arrival in the PACU is recorded at **1115**

Patient's body temperature was recorded at **1125** at **97° F**

Denominator criteria met? No

Arrival time at PACU is only used to determine if patient's body temperature meets the duration and required temperature for inclusion in the Numerator. Anesthesia End time cannot be substituted with Arrival at PACU time; therefore, this patient should **not** be included in the measure.