

Tonsillectomy Episode

Executive Summary

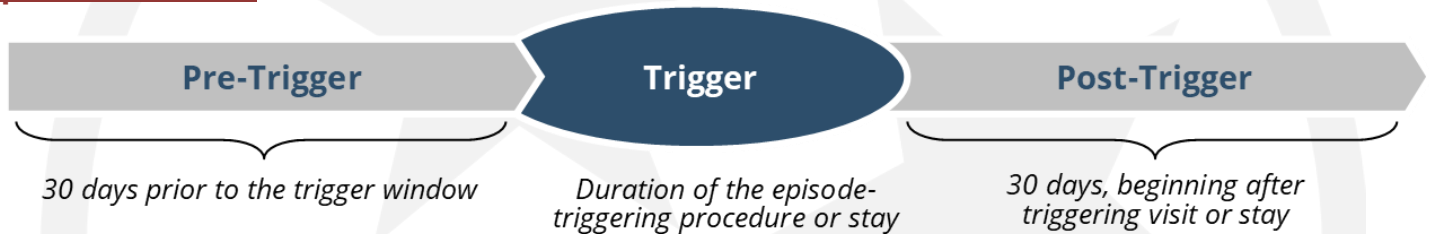
Episode Design

- **Trigger:** tonsillectomy and/or adenoidectomy procedure
- **Quarterback type:** professional (provider who performs the procedure)
- **Care included:** all related care, including anesthesia, imaging and testing, evaluation and management, and medications

Sources of Value

- Appropriate workup of indications for procedure (e.g., sleep study)
- Appropriate choice of anesthesia
- Appropriate procedural approach
- Appropriate site of care
- Appropriate use of pathology testing
- Appropriate follow-up care
- Appropriate use of medications
- Reduction in complications

Episode Duration



Quality Metrics

Tied to Gain-Sharing

- Bleeding up to two days following the procedure (lower rate is better)

Informational Only

- Dexamethasone administration rate
- Rate of indicated concurrent tympanostomy
- Rate of absence of antibiotics
- Post-operative encounter rate
- Bleeding rate between the 3rd and 14th day
- Difference in average morphine equivalent dose (MED) per day

Making Fair Comparisons

Exclusions

- Business exclusions: inconsistent enrollment, third-party liability, dual eligibility, FQHC/RHC, no PAP ID, incomplete episodes, overlapping episodes
- Clinical exclusions: different care pathway (e.g., COVID-19, history of organ transplant, muscular dystrophy, aspiration pneumonitis, CNS infection, coma, compression of brain, congestive heart failure, cystic fibrosis, Down syndrome, embolism, end stage renal disease, hypertension with complication, innominate artery compression, meningitis, paralysis, tuberculosis, active cancer management)
- Patient exclusions: age (less than 6 months or greater than 20 years old), death, left against medical advice
- High-cost outlier: episodes with risk-adjusted spend greater than three standard deviations above the average risk-adjusted episode spend for valid episodes are excluded.

Risk adjustment is used to ensure appropriate comparisons between patients.

To learn more about the episode's design, please reference the Detailed Business Requirements (DBR) and Configuration File on our website at <https://www.tn.gov/tenncare/health-care-innovation/episodes-of-care/searchable-episodes-table.html>.